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HUMAN SERVICES CONCENTRATION OVERVIEW

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PURPOSE OF THE HUMAN SERVICES CONCENTRATION

The Human Services Concentration for psychology majors is for students who plan to work directly with people in need. The concentration offers students theoretical and applied preparation for careers in the helping professions. In addition to coursework centered on professional development, understanding individuals in context, and contemporary issues in clinical psychology and related fields, the concentration offers an integral internship component. For the internship year, students earn course credit for fieldwork conducted outside the classroom and gain practical experience in the helping professions.

The Human Services Concentration aims to guide students' decisions regarding their graduate school and/or career paths. Upon graduation, psychology majors will generally enter a highly competitive job market or apply to graduate school. This concentration is one way of promoting students' competitiveness by offering training in specific skills by way of coursework in Applied Psychology I and II (PSY-357 & PSY-358) and a year of part-time internship (PSY-395). Our graduates obtain a variety of entry-level jobs in social services, and some are offered full-time jobs at their internship sites. Many graduates are admitted to graduate programs in clinical psychology, social work, counseling, and occupational therapy. In addition, some graduates pursue careers in fields such as nursing, law, and education.

CONCENTRATION GOALS

The goals of this concentration are to:

- Promote students' ability to understand individuals in their ecological context with particular attention to diversity.
- Provide foundational knowledge and applied experience with ethical and legal issues relevant to the helping professions.
- Add an experiential dimension to the academic program by providing an opportunity to apply concepts and ideas learned in the classroom to a work setting.
- Provide supervision to students to promote their problem-solving skills in a professional environment.
- Assist students in developing self-reflection and self-care skills.
- Strengthen students' confidence in their ability to function effectively in a professional setting.
- Provide information on careers and academic programs in the helping professions.
- Provide students with an opportunity to explore career possibilities in the mental health field on a first-hand basis.
- Enhance students' employability in their chosen human services field by providing them with work experience in that field.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in the Human Services Concentration, **students must apply by November 1 of their junior year** (see Application Process below).

Students should expect to complete the following courses by the **end** of their junior year:

PSY-105 – Introductory Psychology I
PSY-106 – Introductory Psychology II
PSY-240 – Introductory Statistics I
PSY-241 – Research Methods I
PSY-242 – Research Methods II
PSY-333 – Child Psychology
PSY-347 – Social Psychology
PSY-353 – Abnormal Psychology

In order to satisfy the Human Services Concentration requirements, students must also complete five courses in sequence:

PSY-357 – Applied Psychology I winter quarter of junior year
PSY-358 – Applied Psychology II spring quarter of junior year
PSY-395 – Internship/Fieldwork fall, winter, and spring quarters of senior year

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students apply to the Human Services Concentration fall quarter of their junior year. The application deadline is **November 1st**.

Applications are reviewed if all of the following materials are submitted by the deadline:

- 1) A complete application submitted online, and
- 2) One Recommendation Form submitted online by a professional reference. Recommendations completed by DePaul University instructors or research supervisors are strongly encouraged, but those from employers or supervisors of volunteer activities are also accepted. Applicants are responsible for providing the link to the Recommendation Form to their recommenders in advance of the application deadline.

Please visit this page to access the links to the application and the recommendation form:
<https://csh.depaul.edu/academics/psychology/undergraduate/psychology-ba/concentration-requirements/Pages/human-services.aspx>

COURSE REGISTRATION

Students will receive a letter of acceptance or denial via email no later than November 20. If accepted into the concentration, the letter will provide instructions for registration in PSY-357. Students must receive a grade of C- or better in each class within the concentration (i.e., PSY-357, PSY-358, and PSY-395) in order to register for the subsequent courses and remain in the concentration. Students must register in PSY-395 all three quarters of their senior year (12 credits of PSY-395 total). When scheduling senior classes and other activities during senior year, it is important to keep in mind that an appropriate block of time is reserved for internship.

COURSEWORK DESCRIPTION

A desirable aspect of the Human Services Concentration is that students share their coursework and fieldwork experience with the same group of peers for five quarters. Students develop relationships with others who have similar career interests and have the opportunity to develop their professional goals with the support of this group.

Applied Psychology I and II (PSY-357 and PSY-358) prepare students for their internship during senior year. PSY-357 explores careers in the helping professions and pathways into these careers, ethical and legal issues relevant to the helping professions, ecological perspectives on human development, and community issues that need to be considered when working with individuals in human services settings.

PSY-358 explores the helping process and theoretical and practical bases of providing assistance in human service settings. The course provides a survey of clinical skills that will prepare students to build rapport and strong working relationships with the people they will serve at their internships. The course also offers support for professional development, assisting students in preparing their internship application materials.

During senior year, students engage in a minimum of six hours per week (i.e., 66 hours per quarter) at their internship sites and take PSY-395. This course promotes students' abilities to self-reflect, to apply theoretical concepts to real-world experience, and to problem-solve professional challenges that commonly occur in human services settings. Students receive supervision with the course instructor and engage with other student about their fieldwork experiences. Grading in PSY-395 is based on graded course assignments and performance evaluations submitted by internship supervisors.

INTERNSHIP SITE SELECTION

Students select their internship agency during their junior year and the summer before their senior year. Most undergraduate internships are unpaid positions. There are three primary requirements for internship sites: 1) the internship must be in the human services field, broadly defined (e.g., sites serving individuals with health-related needs, underserved populations, etc.), 2) the internship must allow the student to work a minimum of six hours per week throughout the academic quarter, and 3) the site must provide adequate supervision to interns.

Students in the Human Services Concentration generally have a wide range of academic and career plans. Therefore, students are provided significant flexibility in selecting an internship in the human services field that will best suit their individual learning goals. A wide range of human services settings are available for work with persons of different age groups and culturally diverse backgrounds, including schools, rehabilitation centers, community-based organizations, jails/prisons, hospitals, residential mental health facilities, and criminal justice systems. Students interested in research-oriented graduate programs may also wish to intern with a research lab addressing health, mental health, or community-level issues.

Students are provided an extensive list of potential internship sites during their junior year. However, it is important to note that there is no a guarantee that every site on the list will be accepting interns. Students are more than welcome to seek an internship with an organization that is not on the list with approval from Dr. Brown and Dr. Tran.

Students are fully independent when selecting and applying for internship sites. Specifically, it is the student's responsibility to contact sites to inquire about internship possibilities and to submit their application materials. However, Dr. Brown and Dr. Tran are happy to meet with students to provide guidance and narrow down options.

INTERNSHIP CONTRACTS

There are two contracts required for the internship. First, all students must submit an Internship Contract outlining the expectations of the intern and supervisor and signed by both parties. The Internship Contract is due in the fall quarter section of PSY-395. Second, students interning at sites that are not affiliated with DePaul University must ask their site to complete a University Internship Agreement.

QUESTIONS?

Questions about the Human Services Concentration and whether it is the right fit for you can be directed to your advisor, Dr. Brown at molly.brown@depaul.edu, or Dr. Tran at susan.tran@depaul.edu.