



Master of Arts in Counseling

Practicum and Internship News

APRIL 2010

Attention Counseling Students

All graduate counseling students are required to complete at least one Practicum and one Internship as part of their coursework.* In order to ensure these field experiences go smoothly, there are several assignments you need to complete **BEFORE** enrolling in your Practicum/Internship course. In last month's newsletter (which can be found on our website), I gave an overview of these requirements. Two requirements I would like to highlight this month are:

- *Obtaining Clearances*
- *Moving to the Appropriate Phase*

CLEARANCES

In order to enroll in Practicum/Internship you will need at least three clearances. These clearances must be no more than one year old at any point during your Practicum/Internship. The clearances you need are:

- PA Child Abuse History Clearance
- PA Criminal Record Check
- FBI Background Check (select PDE for the School track and DPW for Mental Health and Marriage, Couple & Family tracks)
- Any additional clearances required by your site

For more information about how to obtain these clearances, check out our website:
www.messiah.edu/counseling

After selecting the "Resources and Forms" tab across the top, you will see a "Clearances" link on the left.

*This may vary for CAGS students

IMPORTANT NOTE: Clearances can take a while to be processed, so please **PLAN AHEAD**.

PHASES

The Counseling Program is divided into three Phases. It is essential that you move through the phases as you progress through the program. When you have 9-15 credits, it is time to move to Phase 2. You will not be permitted to take more than 15 credits during Phase 1. The requirements are similar for Phase 2, which requires you to move to Phase 3 when you have 24-30 credits.

To find our "Phase Checklist" which outlines the steps necessary to complete in order to move through the Phases, go to our website and select the "Resources and Forms" tab. After completing this step, choose the "Forms" option from the left side of your screen.



A Note to CAGS Students:

You are not required to advance from Phase to Phase as you move through the program. However, we do ask that you complete the MMPI and sessions as well as your course reflections. These should be completed before Practicum. For courses taken after Practicum, please send us your reflections as you complete each course.

For upcoming Practicum/Internship Deadlines, please go to the FORMS section of our website and select the track/level which applies to you. The Due-Date sheet link is at the top of each page.

Please contact the Practicum and Internship Coordinator, Skyla Miller, with any questions you may have.

Skyla can be reached at 717-796-1800 ext. 2771 or miller@messiah.edu