

School Counseling Courses Descriptions

SCP 500: Pre-practicum in School Counseling

The purpose of this course is to provide a field-based observation experience for students in the School Counseling Program. The school based pre-practicum requires 100 clock hours in a school setting observing a School Guidance Counselor and/or a School Social Worker/Adjustment Counselor. Completing the pre-practicum in School Counseling will provide students with the opportunity to fully understand the role of the counselor in the school and will assist them in making an informed career choice about the level of student they wish to work with as well as whether they wish to pursue the School Guidance Counselor or School Social Worker/Adjustment Counselor track in the program. The pre-practicum requires students to observe all facets of the School Counselor's role. The pre-practicum is an opportunity for students to appreciate the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to be an effective school counselor. *1 credit*

SCP 505 Fundamentals of School Counseling

This course provides school counselors with a combination of theory and practice for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program that is consistent with national and state developmental models in order to advance academic, personal/social, and career opportunities for all children in a pluralistic society. The history of school counseling, development of school counseling, and contemporary roles and functions of school counselors are emphasized. The primary roles of the school counselor are presented in relationship to elementary through high school settings. Curriculum development and instruction, educational planning, and consultation and collaboration skills are introduced. Practical strategies for planning, managing, and evaluating a comprehensive school program are present utilizing national and state models. A review of Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and their relationship to educational planning and advising are included. Professional issues including confidentiality, legal and ethical standards, and the future of the profession are reviewed. Coursework is integrated with lab experiences. *3 credits*

SCP 510 Professional Orientation to Counseling

This foundational course is an introduction to all aspects of the counseling profession. History, roles, organizational structures, and credentialing are covered along with public policy processes that focus on the role of the professional counselor including advocacy for the profession and clients. The importance of professional development, participation in counseling professional organizations, and exploration of the role of the counselor as a member of a multidisciplinary team are emphasized. This course covers the foundational culturally responsive counseling microskills and will provide students with opportunities to practice these critical skills. *3 credits*

SCP 515 Counseling Theories, Principles, and Practices

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the major theories of counseling including behavioral, humanistic, social learning, psychoanalytic, and cognitive. Approaches, principles, and procedures of counseling and consultation will be introduced including individual and systems perspectives consistent with relevant research. Skills essential to counselors such as interviewing, active listening, communication, problem analysis, and motivation are introduced in this course. Topics include: issues of confidentiality, relationship building, evaluation of outcomes, and referral strategies. Skills are practiced in laboratory

exercises. *Prerequisite: SCP 510; 3 credits*

SCP 520 Psychology of Learning and Motivation

This course focuses on major theories of learning and motivation and relevant research with an emphasis on behavioral and cognitive learning theories. Consideration is given to neurophysiological foundations as well. How learning theory informs teaching practices to promote effective lesson planning and curriculum development is emphasized. Motivational strategies with a focus on student outcomes of intentional teaching are explored using case study and lab formats. Application of learning and motivational theory to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks is stressed. *3 credits*

SCP 535 Group Counseling and Leadership

The aim of this course is to provide students with an introduction to group processes and group leadership skills. This course provides the theoretical foundation and strategies in the design and implementation of groups in the school setting at various grade levels that are consistent with national and state models of comprehensive developmental school counseling within a multicultural context. Ethical issues and professional standards for groups are examined. The use of technology to manage and enhance group counseling effectiveness and resources for school counseling groups are explored. *Prerequisites: SCP 510, SCP 515; 3 credits*

SCP 540 Introduction to Research and Program Evaluation

This course is designed to enable students to become critical readers of research in counseling. It introduces them to design and conducts research in an applied setting. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies are addressed. Students are expected to analyze research reports and to design potential research projects. Principles, practices, and applications of needs assessment and program evaluation, as well as use of computers for data management and analysis and ethical considerations in conducting research are a focus of this course. *3 credits*

SCP 545 Human Growth and Development through the Life Span

This course provides in-depth study of human growth and development in the physical, cognitive, language, and social and emotional domains with an emphasis on both typical and atypical development. The positive contributions and limitations of various developmental theories and conceptual frameworks are examined. Throughout the course, students consider the relationship between development and the selection of appropriate educational services and interventions for children and adolescents with special needs. *3 credits*

SCP 560 Psychological and Educational Assessment

This course emphasizes the use of specific diagnostic psychological tests in a variety of domains. Specific psychological and educational tests used by counselors in educational settings are examined and students have the opportunity to use assessments. Individual and group achievement, curriculum based assessment, and vocational assessments, including the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) are a focus. Other tests administered by psychologists are reviewed so that school counselors may understand and interpret results to parents, teachers, and students to information educational interventions, advising, and placement decisions. *Prerequisite: SCP 540; 3 credits*

SCP 600 Family Counseling, Collaboration and Engagement

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge and understanding of individual development within a systemic context, specifically the family. This course will cover the changing nature of the family life cycle with consideration of the increasing ethnic, racial and cultural diversity in the United States. The definition of family system will be examined with a move toward diverse and inclusive definitions of family. The course will study the impact of individual and intersecting identities on family systems, composition and functioning (race, gender, economic status, disability status, etc.) with an emphasis on developing competencies that are culturally responsive. Current research, resources, best practices, and strategies for engaging and collaborating with families in educational settings will guide much of this course. Issues such as alcohol and drug use, violence, migration, poverty, chronic illness and disability, and physical and sexual abuse will be addressed in the context of family systems. The foundations and theories of Family Counseling and Therapy will be studied with techniques and interventions covered and practiced. The educational policies that include families and family engagement will be presented. Ethical and legal issues will also be covered. *Prerequisites: SCP 510, SCP 515; 3 Credits*

SCP 610 Cultural Responsiveness in Counseling

Theoretical concepts and practical strategies are used to implement effective multicultural counseling in the school setting as well as in the home and community. Specific strategies include: teaming, collaborative, preventive, and proactive practices for school counselors. Building partnerships with families, family involvement, and intervention with families to assist in academic and personal/social development of students in the role of school counselor is the aim of this course. A theoretical understanding of family systems, social systems, contemporary families, and multicultural issues is integrated with effective strategies of parent involvement and parent training. Effective interventions for facilitating positive transitions into school, from one school to another, school to work, and school to college are explored. The impact of children with disabilities upon the family system is also explored. Parenting programs are stressed in order to provide the school counselor with practical evidence based strategies for positive parenting. The areas of child management and effective partnering with schools to support academic, career, learning, and personal/social goals of all students is emphasized. *Prerequisite: SCP 510; 3 credits*

SCP 620 Vocational, Career, and College Counseling

This course presents an analysis of basic theories of career progression from a developmental perspective. Attention is given to understanding the educational, psychological, and social factors which influence educational and vocational decision making. The use of vocational and educational assessment to advise students and to facilitate school to work and college planning is included. Focus is placed on understanding the resources necessary to assist adolescents in making mature post high school plans. The use of technology and resources to facilitate vocational, career, and college counseling and advising are integrated within the course through demonstrations and opportunities for practice. *Prerequisites: SCP 510; SCP 515; 3 credits*

SCP 625 Neuropsychology of Learning and Behavior

Building upon foundation courses in learning theory and typical and atypical child and adolescent development, this advanced course introduces students to neuropsychological principles underlying learning and behavior disorders in children and adolescents. Students become acquainted with the neuropsychological basis of learning and behavior disorders

including reading, math, and language disorders as well as nonverbal learning disorders, disorders on the autistic spectrum, disorders of attention, and executive functions. With this foundation, students are more informed about various neurodevelopmental disorders, evidence based treatments, and accommodations for preschool through high school age children. A review of psychopharmacological interventions for the lay person is included. The interpretation of psychological and neuropsychological assessments and the presentation of these results to educators and parents is a focus in order to inform school interventions, and promote better learning and personal/social and career outcomes for all students. *Prerequisites: SCP 520; SCP 540; SCP 545; SCP 560; 3 credits*

SCP 630 Intervention Strategies: Social and Emotional

This course builds upon the introductory counseling and development courses and provides school counselors with empirically-based prevention and intervention strategies for problems which impact the learning and development of children and adolescents in PreK-12 school settings. Topics to be covered include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, violence, divorce, substance abuse, grief, war, and terror. Prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent disorders such as depression, anxiety, Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), behavioral disorders and suicide will be included. Practicum experiences and course work are integrated. *Concurrently with Clinical Practicum; 3 credits*

SCP 635 Intervention Strategies: Academic and Learning

Building on a foundation of counseling, development, learning, and teaching theories this course focuses on strategies for prevention of and intervention with academic problems that interfere with learning outcomes. Research based strategies that focus on school wide, large and small groups, and individual interventions are emphasized. Competency in providing effective interventions for group and independent work skills, organization and study strategies, learning strategies, mnemonic, reading, math and content area strategies, as well as test taking and homework is taught using case study and demonstration approaches. Data-based outcomes assessment and reporting is emphasized to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies in improving learning and academic outcomes for all students. Practicum experiences are integrated with course work. *Concurrently with Clinical Practicum; 3 credits*

SCP 640 Developmental Psychopathology

A rapid growth in research in child development and clinical child psychology has led to the expanding field of developmental psychopathology. Developmental psychopathology combines research in child development and clinical child and adolescent psychology to better understand the conceptual frameworks, characteristics, developmental course, context and outcomes of psychopathology in children and adolescence. An ecological approach is emphasized in the development of child and adolescent psychopathology and the influence of contexts in the developmental of psychopathology and the effect on schools and families. Risk and protective factors as well as assessment and treatment of child and adolescent disorders is presented using current research to emphasize the role of developmental processes, contexts and the interactive nature of development that influences adaptive and maladaptive functioning. *Prerequisites: SCP 520; SCP 545; SCP 560; 3 credits*

SCP 645 Consultation and Collaboration: School/Family/Community

This course emphasizes the knowledge and skills needed to improve academic and behavioral

outcomes through comprehensive consultation, collaboration, and problem solving services in the school setting at the individual, group, family, and systems levels. It is designed to provide effective skills in problem solving that facilitate team building and collaborative relationships within the school, home, and community. Data-based decision making, evaluation, and accountability of interventions are addressed. Eligibility criteria for special education, development and implementation of 504 Plans, provisions for English Language Learners, crisis intervention, and referral to outside agencies, mandated reporting (51A), and transition planning are integrated within a case study and problem solving format. *Concurrently with Clinical Practicum; 3 credits*

SCP 660 Behavioral Assessment and Intervention for School Counselors

This course is designed to provide school counselors with principles for the effective use of behavioral assessment and interventions in regular, inclusive and special education classrooms. Students will acquire skills in utilizing cognitive-behavioral approaches within a developmental context to identify, analyze, implement, and evaluate interventions that equip youth with the behaviors and social skills needed for success in the classroom. A team approach with a focus on consultation and collaboration skills necessary for school counselors will be emphasized. Research-based strategies to enhance classroom management, organization, and the learning environment will be considered. *Prerequisites: SCP 520; SCP 560; 3 credits*

SCP 670 Introduction to the Principles and Practices of School Social Work/Adjustment Counseling

This course focuses on an overview of the principles and practices of school social work/adjustment counseling services in the complex and challenging school setting within a multi-cultural and strengths based framework. Legal and ethical issues that affect the role of school social work/adjustment counselors are stressed. School-based intervention strategies are discussed, including group work, behavior management, and social skills training. A variety of topics/stressors experienced by youth, such as violence, trauma, death, divorce, poverty, neglect and abuse, alcohol and substance abuse are explored. The critical role of the school social worker/adjustment counselor with respect to general educators, special educators, specialists, administrators, and parents will be examined. An introduction to the juvenile justice system will be provided. A systematic approach aimed at identifying effective strategies for partnering with families and community services will be emphasized. *Prerequisites: SCP 505; SCP 510; SCP 515; SCP 600; SCP 610; 3 credits*

SCP 675 Advanced Principles and Practices of School Social Work/Adjustment

This course examines education law concerning students and counselors in their daily interaction in American schools. Special emphasis will be placed on the responsibilities that exist under State and Federal law for confidentiality and mandated reporting by counselors in the school setting. Student's rights to free speech in the classroom and the limitations placed on those rights by schools and courts will be explored and the role of the counselors in facilitating the exercise of those rights will be discussed. The role of counselors as witnesses and advocates for students in the Juvenile Court system will be reviewed and proper record keeping consistent with the law and counseling practices will be covered. Finally the course will emphasize the positive role that counselors can play in using the Juvenile Court system to secure the best social and educational services for the students they serve. *Prerequisite: SCP 670; 3 credits*

SCP 705 Clinical Practicum: Guidance (PreK-8)

This clinical practicum is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts school guidance counselor PreK-8 licensure regulations for Initial License. Students will complete 300 hours under the direction of the college supervisor and the immediate supervision of a school counselor who is licensed in the field at the PreK-8 level of certification. Students are evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school counselors. Students must meet specified criteria for the practicum. The practicum and accompanying seminar focuses on issues and strategies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program incorporating technology for effective school counseling in grades PreK-8. Enrollment is limited to qualified matriculated graduate students. *Prerequisites: Students must achieve a passing score on the Massachusetts Test for Educational Licensure, Communication and Literacy Skills Test, and have permission of the Practicum Coordinator; 3 credits*

SCP 710 Clinical Practicum: Guidance (5-12)

This clinical practicum is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts school guidance counselor 5-12 licensure regulations for Initial License. Students will complete 300 hours under the direction of the college supervisor and the immediate supervision of a school counselor who is licensed in the field at the 5-12 level of certification. Students are evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school counselors. Students must meet specified criteria for the practicum. The practicum and accompanying seminar focuses on issues and strategies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program incorporating technology for effective school counseling in grades 5-12. Enrollment is limited to qualified matriculated graduate students. *Prerequisites: Students must achieve a passing score on the Massachusetts Test for Educational Licensure, Communication and Literacy Skills Test, and have permission of the Practicum Coordinator; 3 credits*

SCP 805 Advanced Clinical Practicum: Guidance (PreK-8)

This advanced clinical practicum is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts school guidance counselor PreK-8 licensure regulations for the Initial License and is designed to further enhance and refine school counseling skills. Students complete a second semester of 300 hours under the direction of the college supervisor and the immediate supervision of a school counselor who is licensed in the field at the PreK-8 level of certification. Students are evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school counselors. Students must meet specified criteria for the practicum. The practicum and accompanying seminar focuses on issues and strategies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program incorporating technology for effective school counseling in grades PreK-8. Enrollment is limited to qualified matriculated graduate students. *Prerequisite: SCP 705; 3 credits*

SCP 810 Advanced Clinical Practicum: Guidance (5-12)

This advanced clinical practicum is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts school guidance counselor Initial licensure regulations and is designed to further enhance and refine school counseling skills. The student completes a second semester of 300 hours under the direction of a college supervisor and under the immediate supervision of a school counselor who is licensed in the field at the level of certification sought. Students are evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school counselors. Students must meet specified criteria for practicum. The practicum and accompanying seminar focuses on issues and strategies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program incorporating technology for

effective school counseling in grades 5-12. Enrollment is limited to qualified matriculated graduate students. *Prerequisite: SCP 710; 3 credits*

SCP 775 Clinical Practicum in School Social Work/Adjustment Counseling

This clinical counseling practicum is conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor (All Levels) Initial Licensure and is designed to enhance and further refine advanced counseling skills with children, adolescents and families in an education setting. Student will complete 450 hours under the direction of a college supervisor and under the immediate supervision of a licensed school social worker/adjustment counselor. Students will be evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school social worker/adjustment counselors. Students must meet specified criteria for the advanced clinical counseling practicum and seminar. The practicum and accompanying seminar focus on the school-age student, family, and school issues and clinical strategies for implementing social worker/adjustment counselor services in the schools. Class enrollment is consistent with DESE standards for a clinical practicum and seminar. *Prerequisites: Passing score on the Massachusetts Tests for Education Licensure and permission of the practicum coordinator; 3 credits*

SCP 875 Advanced Clinical Practicum in School Social Work/Adjustment Counseling

This advanced clinical counseling practicum is conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor (All Levels) Initial Licensure and is designed to enhance and further refine advanced counseling skills with children, adolescents and families in an education setting. The student completes an additional 450 hours under the direction of a college supervisor and under the immediate supervision of a licensed school social worker/adjustment counselor. Students are evaluated using professional and ethical standards for school social worker/adjustment counselors. The practicum and accompanying seminar focus on the school-age student, family, and school issues and clinical strategies for implementing social worker/adjustment counselor services in the schools. Class enrollment is consistent with DESE standards for advanced clinical practicum and seminar. *Prerequisite: SCP 775; 3 credits*

Electives

SCP 730 Special Topics in School Counseling: PreK-8, 5-12

This course is designed to address contemporary topics and issues in school counseling. Topics are chosen based on interest and relevance to school counseling practice. This course allows students the opportunity to examine current issues in greater detail than would be possible in other course offerings. *Prerequisite: Permission of the Director of the School Counseling Program; 3 credits*

SCP 750 Directed Study

The student, in conjunction with a faculty advisor, designs and conducts a critical study of a topic of interest, a curriculum based project, a research study, a field experience, a practicum or internship. *Prerequisite: Permission of the Director of the School Counseling Program; 3 credits*

SCP 755 Positive Psychology & School Counseling: A Strengths-Based Approach

In this course the basic tenets of positive psychology are presented as they relate to identifying, assessing, and building human strengths. A strengths-based focus is compared and contrasted to/traditional problem-focused strategies. Theoretical constructs of positive psychology and their application to the function of school counseling are explored in depth. Topics to be discussed include life satisfaction, optimism, self-efficacy, character, flow, gratitude, and creativity. Relevant research findings and empirical studies of interventions and techniques are covered. Students will also learn a framework for identifying their own strengths, developing and practicing such skills and exploring how these concepts are used with, and fostered in, school-based populations. *Prerequisites: Permission of the Director of the School Counseling Program; 3 credits*

SCP 760 Introduction to Addictions for School Counselors

This course will provide students with an overview of the nature of addiction and the wide range of psychological, social, familial, and developmental implications of such behaviors in the school setting. Topics such as the etiology, manifestation, assessment, and evidence-based treatment of addiction will be covered. In addition, psychological theories of addiction and the subsequent implications for intervention will be discussed. Special attention will be paid to the role of the school counselor in developing and providing substance abuse education, consultation, and prevention in schools. *3 credits*