

The Capstone Course

In the Spring semester of students' second year in the program, all students will be enrolled in a section of PSY 882 that has been designated as a Capstone Course. The purpose of the Capstone Course is for students to demonstrate that they have developed the skills and competencies in assessment, treatment planning, and treatment needed to advance to the first doctoral level practicum (PSY 882 in the Fall of the 3rd year). It also serves as the equivalent of the Comprehensive Exam required by the university for masters students. The course will involve doing clinical therapy and assessment work under supervision at an assigned site. It will also involve selecting one therapy case and one assessment case on which to do concentrated work. At the end of the course, students will be required to present their selected cases to a panel of faculty members. Students will only be allowed to advance to doctoral practicum in the Fall of their 3rd year if the panel determines that the student has demonstrated a level of clinical skill that is appropriate for second year practicum students. If either of the cases is deemed unacceptable, a specific remediation plan will be developed by the faculty. For students entering the program without a master's degree in psychology, the Capstone Course will take the place of the more traditional master's level comprehensive examination.