

Practice Advisory #15

Registrants Offering Practice Training and Supervision to Non-Registrants

DRAFT FOR REGISTRANT FEEDBACK

Practice Issue

This practice advisory addresses practicum and internship opportunities for students and other non-registrants to ensure that registrants offer training opportunities, experiences and supervision consistent with the *Code of Conduct*.

Non-registrants may be students seeking formal practica and internships to satisfy graduate program requirements, or individuals seeking informal practica, internships, training or experience (e.g., a graduate student clinician seeking to gain experience with a particular client group, or another professional seeking training or experience in a competency shared by various disciplines).

Relevant Sections of the Code of Conduct

This advisory must be considered in the context of the *Code of Conduct* in its entirety with special reference to the following specific sections:

5.21 Appropriate training/supervision

A registrant must provide appropriate training to his or her employees and supervisees and must take steps to see that such persons perform psychological services responsibly, competently, and ethically.

5.22 Supervision to ensure standards

A registrant who supervises others in the provision of psychological services must ensure that the services provided meet professional standards and requirements of this Code.

5.23 Delegation of responsibilities

A registrant may delegate to his or her employees, supervisees, research assistants or any other person only those responsibilities that such persons are able to perform competently on the basis of their education, training, or experience, while unsupervised or with the level of supervision being provided.

8.6 Accountability for supervisees

A registrant is responsible and accountable for the actions of any non-registrant who is providing psychological services under the registrant's supervision.

8.7 Obligation to advise of responsibility

Where a registrant supervises non-registrants in the provision of psychological services, the registrant must advise the client that the registrant has the professional responsibility and legal accountability for the supervised services.

11.13 Unqualified persons

A registrant must not promote the use of psychological assessment techniques by unqualified persons.

15.8 Prohibitions on training

A registrant must not teach the use of techniques or procedures that require licensure, including, but not limited to, hypnosis, biofeedback, and projective techniques, to individuals who lack the prerequisite training, legal scope of practice, or expertise to employ such techniques or procedures.

Definitions

“Formal Practica and Internships” means the 400-hour practica and 1600-hour internships that are standard requirements in recognized graduate programs and which meet CPA and/or APA accreditation standards.

“Designated Representative” means the person designated as coordinator or director of a practicum or internship. The Designated Representative will be a registrant, or an individual who is licensed, certified or registered to practice psychology in his or her jurisdiction. In some programs, the Designated Representative may be the Director of Clinical Training, whereas in other programs, the Designated Representative may be a faculty member who has been assigned to this role.

“Recognized Program” means a program in Professional Psychology (e.g. Clinical, Counselling, School or other applied practice area) that meets CPA and/or APA accreditation standards.

“Significant Concerns” means substantial issues relating to a student’s, applicant’s or intern’s fitness to practice psychology.

Advisory

Training for students in Recognized Programs

Registrants who offer Formal Practica and Internships to applicants are responsible for confirming in writing with the Designated Representative of each applicant’s Recognized Program that the applicant is eligible for specific practicum or internship training.

Registrants who are Designated Representatives are responsible for ensuring that a student is prepared and eligible for a community-based experience before confirming the student’s eligibility for a particular practicum or internship program.

Registrants who supervise students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the applicant is specifically prepared for the psychological practice areas reflected in a particular practicum or internship.

Registrants providing supervision are responsible for the clients seen by students under their supervision, and for the quality and quantity of appropriate clinical supervision.

If a registrant should develop a Significant Concern about a student whom the registrant is or may be supervising, the registrant should raise and document these concerns with the student and the Designated Representative of the Recognized Program in which that student is enrolled.

Registrants may provide informal practice training experiences to students of Recognized Programs, e.g., to allow them to gain supervised experience in working with a particular client group in a community setting. In such cases, the above-noted guidelines apply.

Registrants may not delegate the ultimate responsibility for a practicum or internship student to a non-registrant.

Training not related to Recognized Programs

Registrants should generally refrain from providing formal or informal practica or internships to non-registrants who are not enrolled in Recognized Programs.

In exceptional circumstances, registrants may offer formal or informal practica or internships to non-registrants who are not enrolled in Recognized Programs, but only after ensuring both

- training requisite to the practica or internship being sought, and
- exceptional and valid reasons for such individuals seeking formal or informal practica or internships outside of a Recognized Program.

In gathering background information about such situations, registrants should request and obtain information about any individual's previous graduate training in psychology directly from a Designated Representative of the individual's graduate training program, if applicable.

Accordingly, registrants should refuse inappropriate requests for training, where for example a registrant is asked to teach and supervise a graduate of an experimental psychology program to administer intelligence tests, or is asked to offer supervised practice experience in psychological assessment to a nursing student, occupational therapy student, or other professional who has not completed graduate-level training in psychometrics, psychological assessment, and other key courses and experiences typically included in recognized psychology programs.

If an individual without graduate training in psychology seeks training and practice experience in mental health service competencies shared by various disciplines (e.g., individual counselling), a registrant should carefully review of the individual's background training and experience to determine if provision of a narrowly-focused training experience would be ethical and feasible.