

Field Work in Psychology

PSYC 243

Fall 2026 Section 80 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/20/2026

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Thursday, 4:30 AM to 6:30 AM, DMH 323

Course Information

This is the course attached to your fieldwork placement (pre-degree internship) in the MS CMHC Program. You are required to enroll in 3 units of Fieldwork for both Fall and Spring semesters in your second year. You may not accrue clinical hours unless you enroll in PSYC 243 (this course) units (you are covered over Winter break). Satisfactory completion of the course (credit) is received if clinical hours have been achieved and documented, attendance has been consistent, and all contracts and feedback forms (both supervisor and student) have been completed. This is the first part of your year-long graduate course intended to directly complement your required clinical fieldwork placement as part of your training in the MS CMHC program here at SJSU. The course serves multiple functions including addressing and developing professional skills, addressing challenges in fieldwork placements, and providing general consultation of ongoing clinical cases. Note that neither this course nor the instructors at SJSU will ever provide direct supervision of cases in lieu of that required by fieldwork placement supervisors. However, we will use the opportunity of meeting to discuss broader issues as they apply to the clinical training of qualified psychotherapists and provide case consultation as needed.

We will attempt to use the fieldwork course across both semesters to address and ameliorate any deficits in training that become apparent to the student clinician, the instructor of this course, or the program director. This may include creating assignments during the semester to develop or strengthen these identified skills areas. Any assignments that are created for the course will be mandatory. Course credit will

be assigned based on attendance and participation in the course and at your fieldwork placement, satisfactory review of your performance on placement, completion of required clinical hours, AND completion of assignments that occur during the semester. Discussion topics we will engage may include:

- Professional Issues such as
 - Consulting with MDs/Psychiatrists
 - Working with chronically suicidal clients
 - Handling a client's suicide
 - Accountability and data management
- Interpersonal Development Issues such as
 - Therapist disclosure
 - Issues of "counter transference" and therapist feelings in-session
 - Dealing with boundaries and "dual relationship" issues

These focused discussions are intended to stimulate both intellectual engagement and the personal challenges and concerns inherent in each topic. I am asking that each student be willing to "show up" to the discussions ready to talk both about the academic issues and personal struggles he or she may have in each area. This course is not a designed to be process group, and you are not required to disclose more than you would in any other professional arena. However, in order to get the most out of these discussions, I am asking that you be willing to come at the discussion thoughtfully and non-defensively.

Course Description and Requisites

Supervised field work experience in outside agency settings. Open through consultation only to students in MS programs.

CR/NC/I Graduate

* Classroom Protocols

The Role of your Faculty Consultant

Each semester, you should be sure that your supervisor(s) understand that you will be engaged in dialog about some cases with a Faculty Consultant in your graduate program at SJSU. You can help clarify with your supervisor that this is consultation and not supervision and that you understand that your supervisor's direction on cases is paramount in your clinical work. The Faculty Consultant is there to advise and evaluate your second-year comprehensive exam and to provide input on cases that is complementary to your education at SJSU.

Your Faculty Consultant each semester will make contact with your fieldwork supervisors to inform the fieldwork agency director and/or supervisor about the expectations of SJSU students and the role of consultation groups and the second year comprehensive exams. Your Faculty Consultant will inform fieldwork supervisors about the importance of data collection (given constraints or policies of agency) and the faculty member's role as a consultant on cases for the student. The Faculty Consultant will include a clarification of the roles of the supervisor of record (agency, not faculty member) and create opportunities to problem solve in the event of conflicting information given in supervision at the agency and consultation in teams at SJSU. Our goal in the Fall semester is to provide guidance and promote independence in decision making. In the Spring we will continue to encourage your own empowerment and autonomy to problem-solve on placement. In the event that there are difficult to solve or egregiously problematic issues at the placement, the SJSU Faculty Consultant, and possibly the SJSU Directors of Clinical Training, may become directly involved with the supervisor or agency.

Professional Communication

The best method of contacting me is via email. Please allow up to 3 business days for a response. I do not typically respond to email on weekends. Email me using the address given above.

As a University student, you are encouraged to engage in professional communication with faculty, staff, and your fellow students. This is especially important in electronic mail notes that you might send.

Attendance

Attendance is required of all supervisions, trainings, staff meetings and any other meeting time set by the agency for that student unless an unresolvable conflict occurs. Students are required to let their placement supervisor, director, or any other essential personnel know when they are not able to attend or will be late for any appointment. Consistent with the standards of professionalism required of all SJSU MS CMHC graduate students, it is the assumption of the MS CMHC Program that interns will miss no more than one type of meeting per semester at any agency. Failing to maintain professional standards of behavior on internship will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the graduate program.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours.

Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

SJSU Writing Center

The Writing Center now has two locations: Drop-in tutoring sessions are in Clark Hall, Suite 126. Regularly scheduled tutoring sessions are on the second floor in the MLK Library. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located at the Student Wellness Center, room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultation on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Program AI Policy

The SJSU MS Clinical program teaches future clinicians how to think clinically, how to develop case conceptualization skills, and how to develop self-reflection skills and professional judgment to apply to clients with real and complex problems and presentations. The coursework in the MS Clinical Psychology program requires students to independently develop clinical reasoning, reflection, ethical judgment, and professional writing skills. While new developments with AI will find their place in our

field and in our personal lives, in the realm of clinical education, this technology counteracts the type of learning that our program values. In the mental health field, errors that occur due to the use of AI have the potential to cause great harm to clients, first and foremost, and to the field of mental health more widely.

The MS Clinical Psychology program's AI policy is informed by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists' Code of Ethics. **The default program policy is that AI use is prohibited unless explicitly authorized by the instructor in writing or in the course syllabus.** When AI use is permitted, students must disclose the specific tool used, the purpose of use, and the extent to which AI contributed to the assignment. This is consistent with CAMFT Code 6.5 (Disclosures for Use of Telehealth, Technology, and AI) and 6.6 (Informed Consent for Use of Telehealth, Technology, and AI).

If there is no policy specified in a course syllabus, students do not have permission to use AI in any form. "AI" includes generative artificial intelligence tools and machine-learning systems that generate, rewrite, summarize, edit, paraphrase, or analyze content on behalf of the student. Examples include ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Grammarly generative rewrite functions, Microsoft Copilot, and similar tools. This policy applies to all course content, including academic milestones (Psyc 298; comprehensive exams), course exams, and course assignments. Unless explicitly allowed in the policies at a practicum site, students may not upload client information, practicum materials, case notes, recordings, assessment data, or any protected or identifying information into AI platforms under any circumstances.

Should an instructor suspect that AI has been utilized in an assignment where permission was not obtained, or AI use was not documented, this is an ethical violation and will come to the clinical committee for discussion of next steps. The committee may request that the student turn in an alternate composition, completed in class without the use of any technology. The committee also has the right to file an Academic Dishonesty report with the university. All of these actions will likely affect the grade that the student receives on the assignment and in the course. Students are encouraged to review the policy on Academic Disqualification and Dismissal, which details the grade requirements to progress in the program and the requirement that students adhere to professional standards. Because AI technologies are rapidly evolving, this policy may be revised as ethical standards, institutional guidance, and professional practices develop.

Program Information

Licensure Learning Outcomes (LLOs) indicate how each course meets the educational requirements as detailed by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. [The MS Clinical LLOs are detailed on our program website. \(https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php)

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the MS in Clinical Psychology degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the degree are:

1. Interventions and evidence-based applications

- 1.1 Students will be able to apply, compare, and contrast a variety of psychotherapy theories and implement at least one chosen theory or intervention with clinical case material
- 1.2 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement empirically supported clinical interventions for clinical case material and clients
2. Communication and Case presentation
 - 2.1 Students will be able to integrate and communicate clinical case material
 - 2.2 Students will be able to synthesize contextual and cultural variables into their understanding of and presentation of client materials
 - 2.3 Students will effectively respond to queries about clinical material and engage in discussions about their clients with supervisors and peers
 - 2.4 Students will be able to analyze cases other than those they are treating, applying theories, principles, and relevant empirical findings to those cases
3. Competent Assessment and Evaluation
 - 3.1 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement different assessment devices and strategies for assessing client outcomes and processes of change over the course of treatment including nomothetic and idiographic approaches
4. Professional clinical practice
 - 4.1 Students will demonstrate competency consistent with professional standards of practice in areas including, but not limited to, psychotherapy theory, service delivery, ethics, assessment, research methods, family/couples therapy, cultural diversity and humility, risk management and safety planning, psychopharmacology, and issues relevant to adult and child clinical populations.
5. Preparation and meeting professional licensing requirements
 - 5.1 Students will demonstrate fulfillment of coursework and other pre-degree licensing requirements outlined by the Board of Behavioral Sciences

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Our course objectives are as follows:

CLO1 – to develop case presentation and conceptualization skills

CLO2 – Facilitate and trouble-shoot receiving adequate on-site supervision of therapy cases for fieldwork

CLO3 – Develop consultation skills for providing suggestions to other therapists

CLO4 – Develop professional skills for engaging various aspects of the mental health profession

CLO5 – Refine skills to engage in the highest level of professional and ethical mental health service provision

CLO6 – Provide illustrations of competent clinical practice including the use of clinical data

CLO7 – Continue to develop an understanding of strengths and challenges as a psychotherapist

CLO8 – Develop an understanding of professional burnout and the importance of self-care as a psychotherapist

Course Materials

This will be determined by the faculty consultant given the specifics of the therapist in training and the case being addressed.

Course Requirements and Assignments

In the first semester of PSYC 243, you will be required to do the following:

1. Provide your Faculty Consultant with the contact numbers and/or email for both your direct supervisor and the director of the agency that oversees your supervisor. This will be used by the consultation faculty member to reach out and establish contact with the agency, explaining the role of consultation group, and giving your supervisor a person to contact in the Clinical program.
2. Provide your supervisor the Supervisor Evaluation of Student form to evaluate your skills and professional behavior during the semester AND the Supervisee Evaluation of Placement form for your input about the fieldwork experience you have had during the year. You will then return these forms to the Faculty Consultant and go over the reports together.

Credit will be given for PSYC 243 when

(1) Satisfactory evaluations of the student's (intern's) performance are received from the agency's supervisor and/or other internship evaluator (e.g. program director).

(2) **[2nd semester of 243 only]** the minimum number of face-to-face client contact hours are earned for the MFT pre-degree requirements in addition to the minimum required CCA hours. If a student chooses the LPC route, that student will self-impose the minimum of 280 face to face contact hours; the MS CMHC program will not require those be completed, only the MFT hours. The LPC minimum hours must be completed if the student wishes to apply for the LPC license and file the paperwork from the program stating that those requirements were completed.

Credit cannot be given for the course if the student does not meet the minimum number of supervised hours and stipulations for those hours by the end of the second semester of this course as set by the BBS for the MFT.

In the event that a student fails to meet those requirements, the student will delay graduation and continue in the summer term (and longer if required) to complete this course and received credit toward graduation. This is arranged by the student with the help of the MS CMHC Program Director.

Delaying graduation can be requested if the student does not meet the minimum number of required hours for the LPC provided the student can arrange to meet those hours with an agency in the summer period. This will be arranged with the MS CMHC Program Director.

Credit will not be given for fieldwork if the student receives feedback indicating that clinical performance was not acceptable, that unprofessional conduct was observed and not sufficiently ameliorated, or unethical behavior was observed.

PSYC 243 cannot be repeated for credit. If a grade of no credit (NC) is given and will be grounds for dismissal from the program. As stated in the MS CMHC Mental Health Counseling Program Student Handbook: Internship, fieldwork, or practicum experiences as evaluated by faculty members and internship supervisors must also reflect the MS CMHC student's ability to meet program competencies. Professional and interpersonal skills are essential determinants of success in these settings. Any MS CMHC student who receives a grade of No Credit ("NC") in a required fieldwork or internship course will be dismissed from the MS CMHC Program following a review of the circumstances surrounding the No Credit grade by Program Director of the MS CMHC Program and/or members of the MS CMHC Program Committee.

Psychology fieldwork cannot be repeated for a changed grade. Requirements for earning credit are discussed in the syllabus of each course, including the fieldwork course. Professionalism while on internship is required to earn a credit for each semester. Failing to show up for client sessions, writing assessment reports and progress notes that are complete and submitted on time are required to earn credit for the fieldwork course. Failing to maintain this level of professionalism will result in receiving a grade of No Credit for the fieldwork course and will be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Definition of a Credit Hour

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

The credit hour is defined as the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.

The expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minuts of direct faculty instruction and six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

Consultation Protocol

This course is attached to your fieldwork experience. As graduate student you are expected to be attentive in meetings, participate in discussions, and limit other distractions.

You are expected you to attend every consultation meeting and required training session. If you have to miss one of these, you must let your consultant know as soon as you can. Professionalism is part of the evaluation criteria for successfully completing your fieldwork placement.



University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.