

## **UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX: Access to UOPX Counseling Skills Centers Change**

March 19, 2020

Dear Counseling Practicum Students and Interns,

As we closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, we wanted to provide you an update regarding access of the Counseling Skills Center (CSC). University of Phoenix CSCs will be closed starting Friday, March 20, due to the temporary campus closures.

COVID-19 has impacted some counseling and behavioral health agencies and providers across the country. We understand that closure of the local campus counseling skills centers impacts you and your clinical experience. In addition to working with students and faculty to determine flexible solutions for the accrual of hours, supervision, and course completion, we will also work with the CSCs to support clients by providing referrals and crisis line information to provide client continuum of care, as needed. In order to satisfy the requirement for clinical hours completion, our team within the college has determined some options, in order of preference:

1. Telehealth via an alternate approved site:
  - a. If the clinical site provides telehealth as an option, we will allow students to use this option and follow the guidelines provided by the site.
2. Alternative assignment examples (with faculty approval):
  - a. Virtual presentations
  - b. Work with faculty and site supervisor to schedule a virtual session for 1:1 professional development (could potentially be a phone call)
  - c. Review case studies and complete a report or deliverable that can be presented virtually
  - d. Research other virtual options. Are there employee resources programs that need help answering calls? Or guiding clients to resources? What does the community need?
  - e. Supervisor assigned mock-client case management assignment (could be over several weeks and be cumulative)
  - f. Other alternative assignments approved by faculty and college administration.
3. In-progress grade
  - a. Students could potentially qualify for an in-progress grade to complete remaining field experience hours after the completing of the course. Please work with your faculty to determine eligibility.
  - b. Students who need take an extended break between courses while completing their field experience hours may also need to submit for a Leave of Absence. Students in this scenario should consult with an Academic Counselor.

We are working diligently to do all that we can to help our students fulfill all programmatic requirements regarding clinical practicums and internships given the ever-changing circumstances. The University is staying very informed about the spread of the Coronavirus. We are working through

solutions to best support our practicum students and interns with completion of their clinical experiences.

To stay up to date on the latest news from the University regarding the Coronavirus, please visit our [microsite](#).

Stay Safe.

Sincerely,

Christina Neider, EdD, USAF Veteran  
Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences