

Internship Reflection

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SCN605: School Counseling Internship I

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What was expected to be a long and grueling ten weeks of internship work went by much quicker than expected. While still a lot of work, it was found to be engaging and not busy work but was instead valuable and very informative. These ten weeks had me working with the same students and school where I did my practicum, and I found myself fostering stronger relationships with both students and staff. I was able to do more individual counseling and dabbled a bit in group counseling, which I would like to gain more experience in.

My site supervisor, Stacey Ramirez, was invaluable with insight and knowledge. She allowed me to take the lead, but was always ready to answer questions and give her opinion when I was in need. What I really appreciate about her is her willingness to step in and give her thoughts when they are needed, even if I do not (yet) realize that they are. While she treats me as a colleague and recognizes my experience in education as a strength, she is still ready to help me grow into a solid school counselor. We would meet weekly, usually on a Tuesday morning, where I would talk about what we had discussed the evening before in our Zoom classes, and she wanted to hear what other counselors were doing with different topics and issues. We would discuss how we saw them addressed at our own site, and then would discuss different events in the school since our last session. I look forward to working with her for the following internships this fall and early winter.

While I did not specifically follow the course of action in the calendar created at the beginning of the course, I do see that I met the different steps along the way. I have become more familiar with the McKinney-Vento staff at the school and also have a greater understanding as to the role they play as well as the resources they have available to support our students. While I still have much to learn regarding resources available outside of McKinney-Vento, I still have learned a lot more about what we do have at hand as well as referrals we can make.

The one thing I was not able to do from the calendar was do a small group counseling session with our KBBH (Klamath Basin Behavioral Health) staff, simply because I have come to find out it is not something they do. I was able to do a few on my own, but I do see this as an area I really need to improve on. I have already completed the group counseling course earlier in the grad program and feel that time this summer spent reviewing that text will be beneficial now that I have had the chance to really use it. This fall in the next internship, I will need to work more with my site supervisor and school staff to create group counseling sessions that our students are in need of.

One goal I had at the beginning of this internship was to create an SEL survey to do with the students. The good news is that this did happen and was used last week in the school with over ninety percent of the students participating. The bad news is that I have not yet had a chance to look at the data, so at this time I am unable to discuss findings for this reflection. Hopefully the very end of this week lends itself to looking into those results.

In the end, this course was not easy. That is a good thing. I have learned a lot, and the Zoom sessions really helped strengthen my resolve in becoming a school counselor. It is a challenging role, but it is a rewarding role. I hope that the following two internships are just as supportive as this course turned out to be.