

**SUNY New Paltz, Counselor Education Department  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
2026 Practicum Summary**

The one-semester practicum placement corresponds with the required practicum course that a student is enrolled in during the spring or summer.

**Dates for the Spring 2026 practicum placement and corresponding course: 1/21/26 - 5/5/26**

The total number of required hours for the spring 2026 placement is 100, with 40 of those being direct contact hours. Weekly attendance is a requirement for the course and corresponding placement. In consultation with their site supervisor, students arrange and maintain a regular practicum schedule that supports timely completion of these required hours. It's helpful to divide the total number of required hours for the semester (above) by the number of weeks in the semester. Then, add some additional weekly hours to ensure there's sufficient time to address any potential schedule changes.

Faculty in the Counselor Education Department acknowledge that the ability to accrue direct hours may be limited during the first weeks of a student's practicum, as they build a caseload. Therefore, it's important to provide timely learning opportunities that enable students to accrue these direct contact hours. Students are required to have at least one hour of individual or triadic supervision with their primary site supervisor each week of the semester. Supervisors are required to view sessions live or listen to recordings. At a minimum, this needs to occur before completing the student's midterm and final evaluations.

Students are required to complete all their spring practicum hours by 5/5 (i.e, the last day of classes). The final exam period runs from 5/11-5/15. If necessary, there may be some flexibility for the student to continue at the practicum site during final exams, with the approval of the practicum professor and site supervisor. However, no extension can be granted beyond 5/15, when the spring semester at SUNY New Paltz officially ends. Students need to consult with their practicum professor during the spring semester if they have any questions.

**Dates for the Summer 2026 practicum placement and corresponding course: 6/1/26 - 8/7/26**

The total number of required hours for the summer 2026 placement is 100, with 40 of those being direct contact hours. Weekly attendance is a requirement for the course and corresponding placement. In consultation with their site supervisor, students arrange and maintain a regular practicum schedule that supports timely completion of these required hours. It's helpful to divide the total number of required hours for the semester (above) by the number of weeks in the semester. Then, add some additional weekly hours to ensure there's sufficient time to address any potential schedule changes.

Faculty in the Counselor Education Department acknowledge that the ability to accrue direct hours may be limited during the first weeks of a student's practicum, as they build a caseload. Given the shorter length of the summer semester, it's particularly important to provide timely learning opportunities that enable students to accrue these direct contact hours. Students are required to have at least one hour of individual or triadic supervision with their primary site supervisor each week of the semester. Supervisors are required to view sessions live or listen to recordings. At a minimum, this needs to occur before completing the student's midterm and final evaluations.

Students are required to complete all their summer practicum hours by 8/17 (i.e, the last day of the semester). The summer practicum cannot be extended beyond this date, even if a student is placed at the same site for their upcoming internship. Students need to consult with their practicum professor during the summer semester if they have any questions.

**Completing site-specific onboarding tasks prior to spring or summer semesters**

Students are asked to consult with their site supervisor about any onboarding tasks that need to be completed prior to starting their practicum. Taking care of all site-specific onboarding tasks early will enable students to begin their practicum during the first week of the semester and to stay on track in meeting course requirements. In some cases, site supervisors may need to refer students to other personnel at the host agency who are involved with onboarding (e.g., administrators, Human Resources professionals). Until the semester begins, students are not permitted to work with clients at the site.

**More information will be shared closer to the start of this practicum**

At the start of the student's practicum semester (i.e., spring or summer), more information will be shared with supervisors and students such as instructions for completing a practicum site agreement, recording and verifying hours, and completing evaluations at the midterm and final points of the semester.