

# Colorado College

## Department of Psychology

### Directed Field Study Option for PY451-Final Project

#### Overview

The Directed Field Study is a service project completed in the community under the direct supervision of a Colorado College (CC) faculty member and community site supervisor resulting in a Final Paper relating the practical context to the existing literature. The paper usually takes the form of a Literature Review, though other forms (e.g., Grant Application, etc.) are possible.

#### Initiating a Project

If you are interested in conducting a Directed Field Study, speak with your Psychology advisor and/or individual faculty members to find out what opportunities exist. Individual faculty members maintain relationships with various community organizations that might serve as Field Study sites. The CC Career Center and/or Collaborative for Community Engagement might also be able to facilitate community connections, with Psychology advisor approval.

#### Please Note:

- **Field Study Credit cannot be given retroactively for work already completed. You have to plan and formally propose a Field Study before engaging in the work.**

#### Workload and Credit

The Field Study involves practical "real-world" work in the community which culminates in a research paper. Below is a rough guideline of how the work translates into academic credit.

##### 1 Block Credit Field Study

Approximately **50 contact hours** on site + **70 hours** on Final Paper.  
(13 hr/wk for a block; or 3 hr/wk for a semester (4 blocks); or 2 hr/wk for a year)

##### 2 Block Credit Field Study

Approximately **75 contact hours** on site + **140 hours** on Final Paper.  
(20 hr/wk for a block; or 5 hr/wk for a semester (4 blocks); or 3 hr/wk for a year)

#### Roles

##### The Student

The Student is responsible for initiating discussions about the project with the faculty and for developing a project proposal or learning contract that meets the approval of the faculty and the site coordinator. The Student will be responsible for completing the site work in a responsible and professional manner

and for following the direction of the Site Supervisor. The Student is also responsible for relating the experiences gained on site to the learning goals of the project, reading articles and other background material that informs the project, and developing a Final Paper that integrates the practical experience with the background theory. The paper usually takes the form of a Literature Review, though other forms (e.g., a Grant Application, etc.) are possible.

### **Colorado College Faculty Advisor**

The Faculty Advisor will consult with the student initially on the Field Study Proposal and remain available for consultation throughout the project. They will also act as a liaison between the student and the Community Site Supervisor. The Advisor is also responsible for evaluation and grading of the student's work and project.

### **Community Site Supervisor**

The Community Site Supervisor will introduce the student to the community site and familiarize the student with the general and specific functions of the site. They will provide initial training and help structure specific work tasks for the student to complete. The Supervisor will hold regular conferences with the student to discuss the work and will meet with the student and Advisor at the end of the project to provide a summary evaluation of the project work.

## **Types of Sites**

Students and faculty have been able to identify placement sites in a range of organizations, such as....

- In-patient neuro-rehabilitation
- Vocational rehabilitation with the mentally ill
- Behavioral treatment for children with autism
- TESSA center for families experiencing domestic violence
- Inside Out Youth Services
- Special Kids, Special Families
- Advertising and marketing firms
- Community and public health organizations
- Non-profit advocacy organizations