

School Psychology Graduate Program Disposition Policy

Students who are admitted to the School Psychology Graduate Program are expected to display behaviors that demonstrate appropriate dispositions across all university and field based settings. The following dispositions are expected of all developing professionals in the Western Carolina University College of Education and Allied Professions including the School Psychology Graduate program:

- 1. Students will project a positive demeanor.**
 - a. Agreeable, friendly, cheerful, optimistic, enthusiastic
 - b. Uses positive language
- 2. Students will behave responsibly.**
 - a. Serves as a positive role-model
 - b. Accountable, prepared
 - c. Timely, punctual, poised, presentable
- 3. Students will exhibit trustworthiness.**
 - a. Honest, sincere
 - b. Dependable, reliable, predictable, consistent
 - c. Confidential, ethical, of strong integrity
- 4. Students will build positive interpersonal relationships.**
 - a. Approachable, inviting
 - b. Caring, understanding, compassionate, warm affectionate, thoughtful
 - c. Empowering, supportive, encouraging, nurturing, helpful, generous, altruistic
- 5. Students will demonstrate cultural responsiveness.**
 - a. Socially just, socially responsible, fair, equitable
 - b. Open, accepting, unprejudiced, unbiased, sensitive to others
 - c. Embraces diversity, appreciates differences, inclusive, advocates, globally aware
- 6. Students will be engaged learners.**
 - a. Attentive, contributes, shows initiative, productive, participatory
 - b. Creative, imaginative, willing to take risks, original
- 7. Students will demonstrate emotional and social self-control.**
 - a. Self-directing, self-managing, self-evaluating, self-motivated
 - b. Independent
- 8. Students will collaborate effectively.**
 - a. Creates positive work conditions, builds social harmony, teams, builds rapport, democratic
 - b. Collegial, considerate, cooperative, flexible, adaptable, receptive to feedback, willing to compromise
- 9. Students will use effective communication.**
 - a. Perceptive listener, articulates clearly, takes turns
- 10. Students will engage in appropriate decision-making.**
 - a. Uses sound judgment / reasoning, seeks and applies wisdom, uses critical thinking, effective problem solver, effective decision maker
 - b. Is reflective, is questioning, considers consequences, prudent

These dispositions will be evaluated on an informal and formal basis throughout each student's engagement in the program:

1. Informally, professional behaviors will be reviewed and discussed with the Program Director during Advising meetings each semester and at other times as needed.
2. Formally, professional behaviors will be assessed within three different contexts:
 - a. At the end of the first year in the program each student will complete a self-evaluation on the 10 dispositions listed above and aggregated ratings from faculty on the same dispositions will be obtained. This will be shared with the students at individual feedback sessions held at the end of the 1st year spring semester.
 - b. Assessment Case Professional Evaluations will be collected following the completion of the Pre-Practicum Clinic Assessment, one Practicum Clinic Assessment, and one Field-Based Practicum Assessment. For each of these Assessment Cases the students will submit a self-evaluation and evaluations will be obtained from the practicum supervisor, the parent of the child/adolescent being assessed, and a teacher of the child/adolescent.
 - c. During both Practicum experiences, school psychology supervisors will complete evaluations that include items related to professional behaviors similar to the dispositions listed above.

Should a concern regarding one or more dispositions be raised by a university or field setting supervisor, the Program Director will meet with the student to discuss informal actions that are needed to address the issue. If concerns continue to be raised regarding one or more dispositions, an action plan for remediation will be developed and shared with the Chair of the Psychology Department. Failure to meet the expectations of the action plan can result in removal from the school psychology graduate program.

I understand that if I fail to adequately and consistently demonstrate these professional dispositions, my admission to the School Psychology Graduate Program at WCU can be revoked.

Respond with one of the following options:

____ Yes, I understand and will follow the School Psychology Disposition Policy

____ I would like to talk further with the Program Director about this Policy

[you will indicate your response in Tk20]