

Practicum and Internship Placement Handbook

SchoolCounseling@Denver, Master of Arts in School Counseling

University of Denver

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Words from the Faculty	3
Practicum and Internship Course Objectives	4
Practicum Overview.....	4
Experiential Course Workshop	4
The Practicum Experience (Autumn & Winter Quarters)	4
Initiating Placement	5
Place of Employment Referrals	6
Referral Process	7
Completing Practicum Hours at One Site.....	7
Completion of Practicum Hours Outside of the Term	8
Internship Overview.....	8
Completing Internship Hours at One Site.....	8
The Internship Experience (Autumn, Winter, & Spring Quarters).....	8
Completion of Internship Hours Outside of the Term	10
Practicum & Internship Policies, Procedures, & Documentation.....	10
Initiating Change in Placement Site.....	10
Basic Roles Within the Placement Process.....	11
Escalation Process.....	11
Insurance	12
Documents & Forms	12
Important Placement Policies	13

Note: This document will frequently reference “**School Counselor in Training.**” This will be abbreviated as **SCiT** as appropriate throughout the document.

Introduction

This Handbook will provide you with foundational information necessary for successful completion of the Practicum and Internship portions of the SchoolCounseling@Denver curriculum. Any questions related to the contents of this document should be directed to the SchoolCounseling@Denver Practicum & Internship Coordinator.

Words from the Faculty

Congratulations, you're ready to embark on the experiential portion of your degree requirements! This includes one quarter of practicum and two quarters of internship. Your practicum and internships experiences promise to be some of the most exciting and challenging experiences of your time in this program, if not your life! These opportunities to begin applying what you've been studying to real-life situations will prove invaluable as you transition from student to professional.

Our goal for this course sequence is to provide you with the experiences and education recommended in the fourth edition of the *ASCA National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs*. We hope you keep in mind the ASCA themes of leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and systemic change in the work you do, and we look forward to reflecting on how you are interweaving these themes into your work as a school counselor in training (SCiT).

There is a community of support here at the University Denver to help you in this experience. In addition to receiving one hour of individual supervision by a certified/licensed school counselor at your placement site, you will also receive 100 minutes of group supervision from a faculty member at the University of Denver per week. Although getting the 700 hours of experience in the schools is important, the meaning that you are able to attach to these experiences is equally valuable. Therefore, we encourage you to push yourself. Ask your site supervisor questions, bring "ah ha" moments to share with the class, step out of your comfort zone, share your ideas with your peers. Remember that, while you may be the only SCiT at your site, you are a member of the SchoolCounseling@Denver community, and are joined by your peers and faculty in this experience. Support each other in your successes; support each other in your struggles; reach out when you need support.

The SchoolCounseling@Denver program's mission is to develop the next generation of school counselors to become agents of change, embracing a holistic approach to meeting the academic, career, and social/emotional needs of students from diverse backgrounds within the P-12 school system(s) and across the communities in which they serve. We hope that the P-12 schools see this mission shine in the amazing work you will be doing during the experiential component of your program. We look forward to supporting you throughout this experience and feel privileged by the opportunity to witness the incredible impact you will have on the P-12 students and community served by the schools.

Sincerely,

The SchoolCounseling@Denver Faculty

Practicum and Internship Course Objectives

Upon completion of each experiential course, students can expect to meet a set of objectives outlined in the respective course syllabus. These objectives were developed to adhere to the most recent guidelines outlined in the *ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies*, *ASCA National Model*, and *CACREP Standards* to ensure School Counselors-in-Training are proficient in the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary for competent school counseling.

Practicum Overview

The Practicum experience for the SchoolCounseling@Denver program at the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education provides a supervised transition from an academic setting to the professional field of counseling and school counseling. The Practicum is scheduled in either the Autumn or Winter Quarters and must be completed before moving on to internship. The SchoolCounseling@Denver Placement Team will work with SCiTs to coordinate the practicum experience. Components of the practicum experience include:

1. enrollment in the 4-credit hour practicum course;
2. supervised field experience alongside a practicing, appropriately licensed/certified and experienced school counselor;
3. additional individual and group supervision sessions with a SchoolCounseling@Denver Practicum instructor via your synchronous class meetings.
- 4.

Information concerning the College's compliance with NC-SARA regulations may be obtained from the program's Practicum and Internship Coordinator.

Experiential Course Workshop

Prior to enrolling in Practicum, students are required to attend a workshop on the experiential course sequence lead by the Practicum & Internship Coordinator. This workshop experience will help the SCiT develop the basic knowledge needed in order to function on site and successfully complete requisite documentation related to the course. In certain cases where significant improvement is needed, the SCiT will be asked to complete additional training or course work before proceeding with practicum. Note that in these cases, students may need to adjust their plan of study should a delay in practicum be needed.

School Counselors in Training are expected to collaborate with the Placement Team approximately 120-100 days prior to the quarter in which they are scheduled to begin practicum in order to secure a qualified, faculty-approved placement site.

The Practicum Experience (Autumn & Winter Quarters)

Practicum provides SchoolCounseling@Denver SCiTs with supervised field experience in professional school counseling and with direct experience in P-12 schools.

Students are required to:

1. Complete a minimum of 100 hours of Practicum at **an approved site** within a 10-week quarter. The 100 hours must include at least 40 hours of **direct client/student contact** with a minimum of 10 hours seeing clients/students individually.
 - a. **Direct client/student contact** includes individual and group counseling, academic planning/advising, career counseling, crisis intervention, assessment, phone consultation with family members/legal guardians/other stakeholders, workshop/presentation by the SCiT when there are students present, and classroom developmental guidance lessons.
 - b. The SCiT **must** be working one-on-one with students for it to count toward the 10 hours of direct client/student contact.
 - c. Direct contact hours **DO NOT** include any indirect work with clients (e.g., observation; writing notes; staff meetings).
 - d. Prior to approving the site, the Placement Team, in collaboration with the Practicum & Internship Coordinator, will ensure direct contact opportunities are available at the placement site and appropriate for a practicum student.
2. Record (audio or video) and transcribe **one** individual counseling session.
3. Receive an average of **one** hour of face-to-face individual on-site **supervision** per week with your on-site supervisor.
 - a. **Supervision** must be provided a qualified supervisor. This individual must be a Master's-level school counselor who holds current relevant licensure/certification for the state in which they practice, at least two years of experience related to school counseling, and relevant training in counseling supervision.
 - b. The supervisor is responsible for familiarity with and understanding of SchoolCounseling@Denver program expectations, requirements, and evaluation procedures, as presented within this and other relevant documents.
 - c. Prior to approving the site, the Placement Team, in collaboration with the Practicum and Internship Coordinator, will ensure these supervision opportunities are available at the placement site and appropriate for a practicum student.
4. Complete **one** case report with corresponding case presentation.
5. Observe at least one group session at your site.
6. Attend and participate in weekly group supervision with a counselor education faculty member via attendance of your live class session through Zoom.

Initiating Placement

The SchoolCounseling@Denver Placement Team works collaboratively with SCiTs to ensure a quality and timely Field Placement experience. Students can expect to hear from their Placement Specialist approximately 100-120 days prior to the quarter in which students are scheduled to start placement. At this time, students will be prompted to schedule a "Placement Welcome Call" with their Placement Specialist, in which the placement process and important policies will be discussed in detail. A Welcome Call is a **required** first step toward beginning the placement search process. Please note that the Placement Team cannot begin working on field placement more than 100-120 days prior to a student's placement start date, as the team is hard at work on other cohorts of placement. Students wanting to begin their placement process sooner than the 100-120 day standard should engage in the Referral Process, described in greater detail below. If

at any time students have questions about their placement process, they can email the general placement inbox at placement@morgridgeonline.du.edu. *Please expect a 24-48 business hour response window.*

It is ideal for SCiTs to complete their practicum experience at schools with school counseling programs which are aligned with the ASCA Model. However, students should keep in mind that practicum sites are quite varied in nature and this may not always be the case. Furthermore, SCiTs are encouraged to work with a diverse variety of P-12 clients/students, and site supervisors are urged to give SCiTs these opportunities one possible. School Counselors in Training must be aware that some sites require one or more interviews with practicum candidates before agreeing to provide training experience. Therefore, advance planning is essential when preparing for placement (e.g. updating your resume, creating a statement of interest, and brushing up on your interviewing skills).

School Counselors in Training will work closely with the Placement Team throughout the Placement Process. If SCiTs have identified site(s) they already have relationships with or school districts they would like to engage with, they must communicate that to the Placement Team as soon as possible so appropriate steps can be taken to evaluate the qualifications of the site and explore placement opportunities. Since SCiTs in the SchoolCounseling@Denver program come from different locations nationwide, the Placement Team offers an invaluable service to support all students in securing a qualified placement site. Additional information regarding the Referral Process can be found below.

CAUTION: Note that **SCiTs should not make a formal commitment to a site, or even formally apply, prior to engaging in the associated process with the Placement Team.**

Should students more preemptively commit or apply to a site prior to SchoolCounseling@Denver's approval of the site and legal affiliation, students must understand that they *may not be able to complete placement at that site*. A timeline is provided later in this document to illustrate the formal process.

Please note each placement site will likely interview prior to agreeing to host the SCiTs. When interviewing with a P-12 school, SCiTs should take with them a copy of their own updated vita/resume and should be prepared to discuss their training, experience, and goals for their practicum experience. These interviews should be treated with as much care as a job interview. Sites agree to interview/host SCiTs on a volunteer basis and it is critical that SCiTs demonstrate gratitude and professionalism in these interviews.

Place of Employment Referrals

In the interest of professional standards as well as for practical considerations, Place of Employment placements will be critically reviewed and only approved on a case-by-case basis. Placement experience in the SCiT's places of employment may produce a conflict of obligations for the employer. Experiences in other settings will provide the SCiT with a broader exposure to the school counseling field, which is important in a training program. Again, exceptions will be granted only on the recommendation and approval of the Faculty Advisor and with the approval of the SchoolCounseling@Denver faculty. The SCiT must demonstrate that they will obtain new

and relevant training at the current place of employment as well as appropriate supervision from someone other than their current professional supervisor. Please note, applying for this exception does not guarantee it will be granted.

School Counselors in Training interested in pursuing a Place of Employment (“POE”) placement must work with their Placement Specialist to learn about the process, complete necessary paperwork, and initiate conversations with their Faculty Advisor. All students pursuing a POE placement must ALSO complete the below steps of the Referral Process.

Referral Process

As a graduate student and professional, you may already have a network within your community. This can serve as a valuable lead for Placement. SchoolCounseling@Denver provides students with the opportunity to submit referrals to the Placement Team, allowing you to submit potential sites in your area with whom you have connected.

The Placement Team will, separate from referrals, work to identify **one** qualified, faculty-approved, and educationally robust placement experience for each student. **Should you have a specific interest, travel restriction, or schedule preference**, you are *strongly encouraged* to network in your community and submit qualified referrals that can accommodate these desires. Again, SCiTs with specific preferences (e.g., schedule, distance, grade level/population/school district) are highly encouraged to submit referrals.

A qualified referral is a site that either has agreed to host you for your Field Placement or has expressed interest in hosting you. Referrals are **not** lists of sites or contacts in your area. Referrals are subject to the approval from SchoolCounseling@Denver Faculty.

All referrals **must** have the following qualities:

- A qualified supervisor
- Robust educational experiences and opportunities for students to engage directly with, students, school employees, etc.

Please contact the Placement Team to receive a copy of the Referral Form which will be completed by the SCiT. Upon receipt of the completed Referral Form, your Placement Specialist will contact the Referral Site to obtain supervisor credentials, paperwork, legal affiliation, and to ensure the site is qualified to host a SchoolCounseling@Denver student.

Completing Practicum Hours at One Site

School Counselors in Training are required to accumulate the required 100 practicum hours at **one site**. Changes in Practicum sites will only be approved on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances and with the involvement of the Faculty Advisor and SchoolCounseling@Denver faculty. If a SCiT wants to change Practicum sites based on specific circumstances, they must refer to the **Initiating Change in Placement Site** section found later in this document, under **Practicum & Internship Policies, Procedures, & Documentation**. It is important to note that it can take anywhere from 4 – 8 weeks (or more) for a new placement site to be identified.

Completion of Practicum Hours Outside of the Term

In rare cases, students may need to complete Practicum hours beyond the parameters of the quarter in which they are enrolled in the School Counseling Practicum course. Generally, this will not be permitted. Please discuss this with your Faculty Advisor as needed.

Internship Overview

Following successful completion of the 10-week Practicum, SCiTs will move into their Internship I and II experiences. The Internship components for the SchoolCounseling@Denver program in the Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver, is a fieldwork experience combined with two 4-credit courses that provides a supervised transition from an academic setting to the professional field of school counseling. The internship is typically completed across two quarters, Autumn, Winter, and/or Spring (internship cannot be completed during the Summer quarter) and is coordinated by the SchoolCounseling@Denver Placement Team, Practicum & Internship Coordinator, and an instructor from the SchoolCounseling@Denver program in collaboration with your On-Site Supervisor.

Components of the internship include:

1. enrollment in the 4-credit hour Internship I or Internship II course, as appropriate;
2. supervised experience in the field alongside a practicing, appropriately licensed/certified and experienced school counselor;
3. additional individual and group supervision sessions with a SchoolCounseling@Denver Internship instructor via your synchronous class meetings.

Completing Internship Hours at One Site

School Counselors in Training are encouraged to accumulate the required 600 internship hours at **one site**. If a SCiT wants to change sites for any reason at any time they must refer to the **Initiating Change in Placement Site** section found later in this document, under **Practicum & Internship Policies, Procedures, & Documentation**. It is important to note that it can take anywhere from 4 – 8 weeks (or more) for a new placement site to be identified.

The Internship Experience (Autumn, Winter, & Spring Quarters)

Internship provides SchoolCounseling@Denver SCiTs with supervised field experience in professional school counseling and with direct experience in the P-12 schools. The Internship Experience, carrying significantly greater service hours, provides a more intensive, hands-on experience for the SCiT, in preparation for the transition from student to professional school counselor. The Practicum is scheduled in the Autumn or Winter Quarters and must be completed before moving on to internship.

The SchoolCounseling@Denver internship requires a minimum of approximately 30 hours per week for SCiTs. They must complete at least 600 hours of direct and indirect services hours related to their site (generally 300 hours per quarter, over 2 quarters). This includes a minimum

of 240 clock hours of direct service. Of these, a minimum of 50 hours must be spent providing individual counseling, one-on-one, with one client/student.

Note that if SCiTs do not complete a minimum of 275 hours of service, including 110 direct hours, during Internship I, faculty will vote on eligibility to advance to Internship II. If it is decided that the SCiT is not eligible to advance, an incomplete will be awarded for Internship I until the 275/110 threshold is met.

Students are required to:

1. Complete a minimum of 600 hours of Internship at **an approved site** within two 10-week quarters. It is recommended that SCiTs complete 300 hours each quarter, or about 30 hours per week. The 600 hours must include at least 240 hours of **direct client/student contact** with a minimum of 50 hours seeing clients/students individually.
 - a. **Direct client/student contact** includes individual and group counseling, academic planning/advising, career counseling, crisis intervention, assessment, phone consultation with family members/legal guardians/other stakeholders, workshop/presentation by the SCiT when there are students present, and classroom developmental guidance lessons.
 - b. The SCiT **must** be working one-on-one with students for it to count toward the 50 hours of direct client/student contact.
 - c. Direct contact hours **DO NOT** include any indirect work with clients (e.g., observation; writing notes; staff meetings).
 - d. Prior to approving the site, the Placement Team, in collaboration with the Practicum and Internship Coordinator, will ensure direct contact opportunities are available at the placement site and appropriate for a practicum student.
2. Record (audio or video) and transcribe **one** individual counseling session each quarter.
3. Receive an average of **one** hour of face-to-face individual on-site **supervision** per week with your on-site supervisor.
 - a. **Supervision** must be provided a qualified supervisor. This individual must be a Master's-level school counselor who holds current relevant licensure/certification for the state in which they practice, at least two years of experience related to school counseling, and relevant training in counseling supervision.
 - b. The supervisor is responsible for familiarity with and understanding of SchoolCounseling@Denver program expectations, requirements, and evaluation procedures, as presented within this and other relevant documents.
 - c. Prior to approving the site, the Placement Team, in collaboration with the Practicum & Internship Coordinator, will ensure these supervision opportunities are available at the placement site and appropriate for a practicum student.
4. Complete **one** case report with corresponding case presentation per quarter.
5. Observe at least one group session at your site per quarter.
6. Attend and participate in weekly group supervision with a counselor education faculty member via attendance of your live class session through Zoom.

Completion of Internship Hours Outside of the Term

In some cases, students may wish to complete Internship hours beyond the parameters of the quarter in which they are enrolled in the School Counseling Internship I or II course. Generally, this will not be permitted due to the need for consistent group supervision, provided via the live session meetings for the courses within the Experiential Sequence (i.e., Practicum, Internship I, Internship II). However, students do have the option to enroll in COUN-4901: School Counseling Field Supervision (see program handbook for course description). Offered only during the Winter Interterm, which is the academic period between the Fall and Winter quarters each year, this 1-credit supervision-based course will allow for accrual of Internship hours outside of the academic quarter. Eligibility for enrollment in this course includes: (1) successful completion of all required practicum hours and a passing grade in COUN-4900; (2) plans to complete hours at a site in which you have already completed at least one quarter of Practicum/Internship; (3) written confirmation from your previously approved site supervisor that you are able to continue accruing hours at that site under their supervision during the Winter Interterm; (4) approval from your Faculty Advisor, indicated by an updated Coursework Plan.

Practicum & Internship Policies, Procedures, & Documentation

While the Practicum and Internship courses and experiences are distinct from one another, many policies, procedures, forms, and other documents are similar in nature. This section will provide information that will be important for you to successfully navigate the breadth of your experiential courses and experiences.

Initiating Change in Placement Site

Changes in placement sites may occur for different reasons. The primary reasons and associated processes are listed below.

1. Changes based on extenuating circumstances. This type of change can be initiated at any time and will only be approved on a case-by-case basis with the involvement of Course Instructor, Faculty Advisor, and SchoolCounseling@Denver faculty. If a SCiT wants to change sites based on specific circumstances, they must follow the procedure outlined below:
 - a. Discuss the situation with the Course Instructor and Faculty Advisor as soon as possible.
 - b. Write a letter of petition to the faculty explaining the situation and requesting a change.
 - c. Wait for a faculty decision before any new site is contacted. It is very important that these steps be followed to ensure that both students and sites have the best experience possible.
 - d. SchoolCounseling@Denver Faculty will communicate with the SCiT and the Placement Team about the status of the requested change.
2. Intentional site change (for Internship I & II ONLY). This type of change is not based on extenuating circumstances. Again, students are encouraged to stay in the same site for their entire placement experience. However, if a SCiT would like to change placement

sites between quarters for academic purposes, they must follow the procedure outlined below:

- a. The change must be initiated no later than week 3 of the quarter prior to the quarter in which the change will become effective.
- b. To initiate the change, the student must email the Practicum & Internship Coordinator, copying the Faculty Advisor, articulating the intent to change sites.

Note that it can take anywhere from 4 – 8 weeks (or more) for a new placement site to be identified.

Changes in sites will only be approved on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances and with the involvement of the Faculty Advisor and SchoolCounseling@Denver faculty.

Basic Roles Within the Placement Process

Practicum & Internship Coordinator: The Practicum & Internship Coordinator will be in communication with all instructors teaching Practicum, Internship I, and Internship II for updated information regarding sites. You can reach out to the Placement Team (see below) for assistance in searching for a site and for all inquiries about the Placement Process. The Practicum & Internship Coordinator will provide tertiary support to students throughout the initial stages of the placement process, but will be the primary contact for both students and instructors after student placement assignments have been finalized.

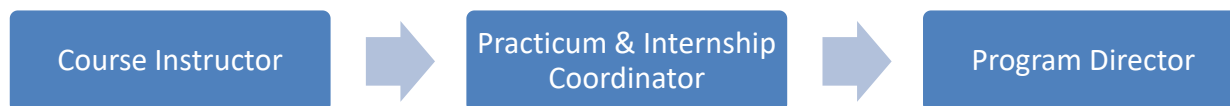
Course Instructor: The Course Instructor will be the contact for students and site supervisors for any specific course related questions regarding the Practicum and Internship courses.

Placement Team: The Placement Team works to support SCiTs throughout the Placement Process, identifies one qualified site for SCiTs, and/or partners with students who are submitting referrals. SCiTs will work with the Placement Team from the beginning of the Placement Process until a student is “confirmed” in a Placement.

On-Site Supervisor: The On-Site Supervisor works for the school in which the SCiT is completing placement and is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the SCiT. They are responsible for supervising and supporting the SCiT during the practicum and internship experience. On-Site Supervisors also provide evaluations of the SCiT’s practicum and internship growth, learning, and overall performance.

Escalation Process

In the case that an issue arises at the site or between the SCiT and On-site Supervisor, refer to the process below. Note that, prior to escalating the issue, both the SCiT and On-Site Supervisor are encouraged to address the issue directly with one another. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the following hierarchy should be engaged to escalate the issue.



Insurance

School Counselors in Training are required to obtain their own malpractice insurance during the supervised practicum experience through membership with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). School Counselors in Training are required to maintain current malpractice insurance throughout the entirety of the experiential component of this program. School Counselors in Training must submit proof of malpractice insurance to the Practicum & Internship Coordinator **prior** to beginning their practicum experience. If extenuating circumstances result in your experiential courses spanning a time frame in excess of one year, you will be required to resubmit proof of liability insurance.

During the course of an unpaid internship, SCiTs may be covered under the University's Workers' Compensation program if injured while performing the essential duties of the practicum or internship. The University's Enterprise Risk Management Office manages the University's Workers' Compensation Program. Please contact the Practicum & Internship Coordinator should an event occur.

Documents & Forms

A variety of documents and forms support the practicum and internship processes. Details of each document and form are articulated below. Note that all documents and forms listed in this section can be found at on the [SchoolCounseling@Denver Practicum & Internship](#) Portfolio website under the [Documents & Forms](#) section. Explicit completion instructions are included within each individual file, as needed.

- **On-Site Supervisor Memorandum:** The Memorandum is an introduction to the Practicum or Internship Experience. This **downloadable document** is intended for the On-Site Supervisor, from the Program Director. A slightly different Memorandum exists for each experience (i.e., practicum, internship).
 - On-Site Supervisor Memorandum – Practicum
 - On-Site Supervisor Memorandum – Internship
- **On-Site Supervision Expectations document:** The document is intended to assist the on-site supervisor, SCiT, and University in delineating responsibilities and accessing relevant documents and forms. This **downloadable document** will address issues of time commitment, specific duties and expectations of the SCiT, the functions of the On-Site Supervisor, the site itself, and the associated course instructor. Please note, the purpose of this document is to be clear with roles and responsibilities and is not a legally binding document. A slightly different document exists for each experience (i.e., practicum; internship).
 - On-Site Supervision Expectations document – Practicum
 - On-Site Supervision Expectations document – Internship

- **Consent Form for Student/Client Recording at Practicum/Internship Site:** This **downloadable form** is to be used by students, also referred to as School Counselors in Training (SCiTs), in the SchoolCounseling@Denver program, to acquire consent for audio/video recording of interactions with students at their placement site. In the case that the placement site has their own consent form related to audio/video recording, that form should be used in lieu of this document. Note that the completed Consent Form is the property of the placement site and will not be removed from the site.
- **Practicum & Internship Evaluation of Student Performance:** Formal evaluation of student performance takes place at both the middle and end of each quarter. These **online forms** are completed using the appropriate Practicum & Internship Evaluation of Student Performance forms:
 - Midterm Evaluation Form
 - Final Evaluation Form
- **Site Evaluation:** The End of Term Evaluation will be used by the student to evaluate the site and site supervisor at the end of each term during which the SCiT's is enrolled in experiential courses. This **online form** will be completed by the SCiT and the data will be available to the program administration.
- **Practicum & Internship Hourly Log:** This **online form** will serve as an official record for students to track their hours for both practicum and internship every two weeks (e.g., week two, week four). The Site Supervisor will be required to approve, and review logs submitted by students on week four and week ten. This will take place via the online submission system. Note that a spreadsheet template will be available on the Portfolio site for students to use to track their hours on a daily basis. This is provided for convenience only and is not required by the program.

Important Placement Policies

As acknowledged in SCiT's Intent to Enroll (ITE) Form, there are a number of Placement-related policies that exist to ensure a productive, effective, timely, and quality placement experience.

- **Communication Expectations:** Throughout the placement process, SCiTs will have ongoing communications with the Placement Team. SCiT's professionalism and patience is requested while the Placement Team explores appropriate placement sites. Please allow at least two business days for the Placement Team to respond to your outreach. Please monitor your University of Denver email account and provide timely responses to the Placement Team in order to continue moving forward in the placement process. It is imperative that SCiTs check their University of Denver email frequently. SCiTs are expected to use their University of Denver email address, as opposed to a personal email address, when communicating with potential personnel at your placement site, and faculty and staff SC@Denver.
- **Travel Distance:** The University of Denver values clinical placements as an integral part of the program experience and will make every reasonable attempt to place SCiTs as close to their preferred placement address as possible. However, if there are insufficient

resources for sites in your area, SCiTs may need to travel (at the SCiT's expense) to complete required placement experience. All travel to and from placement locations, including but not limited to transportation and lodging, are at the SCiT's expense. SCiTs may not reject an approved placement within the established 75-mile radius, solely on the basis of site distance or required travel time. Rejecting a site based on distance will move the SCiT to a "Referrals-Based" Placement Process, in which the SCiT will be identifying referrals as placement options and will not receive another placement opportunity from the Placement Team. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a strict case-by-case basis.

- **Relocation Notification:** SchoolCounseling@Denver understands that SCiTs may need to relocate while they are in the program, for reasons unrelated to the program. If relocation occurs prior to or during placement terms and SCiTs have no additional coursework to complete, SCiTs may need to take a leave of absence from the program until the placement team is able to secure a placement in the new preferred placement area. **In an effort to minimize disruption to SCiTs' program of study, they must provide a minimum of 1 full term (10+ weeks) of written notice prior to relocation.** Placement is not guaranteed for SCiTs who do not adhere to the foregoing requirements.
- **Late Placement Expectations:** A variety of circumstances may impact the Placement Team's ability to place a student on time, including regional limitations, state regulations, student relocation, delayed or lack of communication with the Placement Team, student background check issues, and supervisor or site availability. If SCiTs are not placed by the date the placement begins, we may ask students to decelerate their plan of study. In some cases, SCiTs may need to travel additional distances (beyond the 75-mile radius) to fulfill placement requirements.
- **Scheduling:** The placement portion of the program is a full-time commitment and SCiTs should expect to spend 100 hours in one practicum and 600 hours in two internships. We are unable to arrange for placement schedules that are exclusively during evening/weekend hours. The SCiT is required to make personal scheduling adjustments as needed to be in accordance with your placement supervisor's schedule to ensure completion of placement hours, supervision, and other responsibilities. Absences from your responsibilities can disrupt this schedule and ultimately impact your ability to complete course and/or program requirements on time.
- **Background Checks and Other Clearances:** SCiTs are required to complete new student health requirements specifically related to local state law and University of Denver, field placement health clearances, and a background check. If you fail to complete or maintain all clearances, you will be unable to continue in the program until you are fully compliant. In some cases, SCiTs may be required to obtain multiple background checks and/or state specific clearances during their master's degree studies. Note that all background checks and clearance items are the SCiT's obligation to obtain and financial responsibility.