

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 Edit



College of Health Sciences | MA in Clinical Counseling

PSY6095: Supervised Practicum I

2 Units

Course Information:

Fall 2025 | Full Semester

Course Dates: September 2 to December 21, 2025

Location: Mission Valley Campus

Day/Time: Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Section: TP

Instructor Information:

Instructor title and name: Prof. Gina Smith

Email: ginarobertsonsmith@yahoo.com (<mailto:ginarobertsonsmith@yahoo.com>) or groberts@pointloma.edu

Cell: 858.337.7502

PLNU Mission



To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Supervised therapy experience in applied psychotherapeutic techniques at an external agency. This course provides support, supervision, and consultation for students' training at their practicum site. A total of 700 hours, 300 of which are face-to-face direct service, must be accrued throughout the practicum course sequence. Students must be training at an approved site to be enrolled in this course.

Credit/No Credit. Prerequisite(s): [PSY 6011 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38003\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38003), [PSY 6021 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38004\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38004), [PSY 6025 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38005\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38005), [PSY 6029 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38008\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38008), [PSY 6045 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38011\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38011), [PSY 6094 \(https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38142\)](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=48&coid=38142).

GROUND RULES OF THE COURSE

Together we will create a dynamic learning environment where:

1. Learning is challenging but safe
2. Learning is experiential and active
3. Communication is open . . . opposing viewpoints are welcomed
4. All are learners and all are teachers . . . we will learn from each other
5. Mistakes are okay . . . this is a no-guilt, no-blame zone
6. The point is to learn and grow ... grades are a by-product and not the goal
7. Integrity and honesty are expected

Please jot down some of your expectations for this course.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

The educational goals of Point Loma Nazarene University's ***Masters of Arts in Clinical Counseling (MACC)*** are to develop graduate students and clinicians who are:

- competent clinicians and professionals that practice from a wide-range of clinically valuable and research-based approaches, particularly depending on attachment-based models of human functioning (minds);



- able to evaluate and apply personal and professional values and ethics to the practice of psychotherapy (character); and,
- providing services that are respectful of individuals and families as well as the cultural contexts that shape them, particularly focusing on those who are underserved (service).

The program's student learning outcomes (PLOs) are to:

PLO 1: Demonstrate competent application of theoretical models and research based clinical interventions to therapeutic work with individuals, couples, groups and/or families (minds).

PLO 2: Demonstrate competent application of personal and professional values into an ethical practice of psychotherapy (character).

PLO 3: Demonstrate competence in working with clients from diverse backgrounds, particularly in settings where sociocultural factors influence treatment and there is limited access to care (service).

COURSE COMPETENCIES DEMONSTRATED BY STUDENTS:

1. Competently demonstrate basic attending skills. (PLO 1)
2. Describe qualities related to an effective therapeutic relationship. (PLO 1)
3. Write an ethically and legally appropriate *Informed Consent Form*, identifying yourself professionally. (PLO 2)
4. Identify several self of the therapist issues as they emerge in clinical work. (PLO 2)
5. Identify key domains of diversity in the clinical populations where you are serving (e.g. socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, spirituality, sexual orientation). (PLO 3)

You will be required to maintain a pace of required experience to complete 300 Direct Counseling (700 total) hours in order to graduate.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2 unit class delivered over 16 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

This course meets PLNU and WASC credit hour policy requirements for contact hours as evidenced by the table below (2 credit units):

Credit Hour Distribution

Assignments	Course Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions Attendance	30



Participation and Assignments	70
TOTAL HOURS	100

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Ivey et al. *Basic attending skills* (5th or 6th edition).

Patterson, Williams, Edwards, Chamow & Grauf-Grounds. (2018). *Essential skills in family therapy*.

Aponte, H. J., & Kissil, K. (2014). "If I can grapple with this I can truly be of use in the therapy room": using the therapist's own emotional struggles to facilitate effective therapy. *Journal of marital and family therapy*, 40(2), 152–164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12011> 
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12011>

ADDITIONAL READINGS

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

APA Papers

All papers written in the Graduate Counseling program should be in APA style. Here are some helpful websites to help you write and format your paper:

- [APA 7th Edition Help File \(https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/pages/apa-7th-edition-help-file\)](https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/pages/apa-7th-edition-help-file)
- [The OWL at Purdue: APA Style !\[\]\(0f13e74bece43321be4542883500ac30_img.jpg\) \(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/\)](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/)

All papers should include the following sections unless indicated otherwise:

1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Main body with headings
4. Reference page

Please check the *APA Manual* or the websites for further formatting helps.

NOTE: Students are responsible to have the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.



Assessment and Grading

Grading is on a CR/NC basis. To pass the class, you must attend and participate. Assignments will be evaluated based on competency level and must meet minimum standards to achieve a passing grade (CR). If the submitted assignment is deemed to be below minimum competency level, the student may resubmit the assignment. All assignments must meet minimum standards to receive a CR for the final course grade. You must be engaged, participate in discussion, complete any assigned readings, and be ready to give feedback and support to your classmates.

Several of the requirements from this class along with projects in Clinical Practicum 2 and 3 will be integrated into a ***Clinical Portfolio project*** which will be presented at the end of the program.

1. **Attending Skills** -- Students will role-play and receive feedback from the group on basic attending skills (Ivey et al).
2. **Signature Theme Paper.** Students will write a reflection paper on their "Signature Theme," a dominant theme that significantly influences their emotional, relational, and spiritual lives. This paper will include an exploration of how this theme impacts their coping strategies, family history, and potential clinical work. Students will also complete the YSQ assessment, score it, and identify their top three schemas, which will serve as a tool for developing their Signature Theme. Then, note and discuss their top three schemas and how these relate/connect to their signature theme. The paper should be 5-7 pages long, formatted according to APA 7 student guidelines.
3. **Informed Consent.** Students will bring examples from their internship sites regarding their *Informed Consent Form* paperwork that clients fill out before receiving services. Students will write and develop their own *Informed Consent Form* and discuss it with their group during the last weeks of class, along with a self-evaluation of their attending skills, self of therapist awareness, and examples of diversity issues noted in their internship.
4. **Video and Case Presentations**
Students will be required to show one video recording of a session during the term. The video should include a demonstration of the attending skills learned in class. Instructors will pass around a sign up sheet and students will sign up for a day to show their video and talk through the case, typically in the second half of the semester.
5. **Participation**
Class participation is necessary to demonstrate familiarity with the assignments and the ability to transfer theory into practice, especially during your practicum. The following criteria will be used to evaluate participation.

Participation in discussions and Practicum



- Appropriateness of comments
- Comments useful for clarification or meaningful contribution to the class
- Willingness to participate in exercises and simulations
- Sensitivity to participation of others in the class; avoids dominating discussions

Class participation demonstrates understanding of concepts reviewed

6. Training Paperwork

Students will submit training paperwork, including the initial BBS Supervisor Agreement and Student Training Agreement (both at the beginning of the course) and Hours Logs and Supervisor Evaluation of Student (at the conclusion of the course). ***All paperwork must be completed and submitted to receive a CR. This is very important!***

Assignment Distribution by Points:

Assignments with Point Values

Assignment Category	Points
Attendance & Professionalism	40
Academic Honesty Statement	5
Introduction Discussion	5
Training Paperwork (5 points each)	50
Signature Theme Paper	50
Informed Consent	25
Video	25
Total	200

Students must achieve a minimum grade of B- (80% of total points) to pass this class.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to maintain your class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.); you have the responsibility to first contact the professor. Then if no accommodations can be made, you are responsible to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the University).



GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING

Please refer to the PLNU MACC Clinical Training Manual for guidance about specific issues in your external practicum training. This handbook provides information on policies and procedures to address any concerns that may be raised by an instructor or student. It can be accessed in the MACC Practicum Resource Portal.

Grading Scale:

Grading Scale

Grade Scale Based on Percentage of Points Earned				
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F ≤ 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Students must achieve a minimum grade of B- to pass this class.

PLNU Spiritual Care

Mission Valley: PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Mission Valley (MV) campus we have an onsite chaplain who is available during class break times across the week. If you have questions for or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with the onsite chaplain, you may email Dr. Sylvia Cortez Masyuk at scortezm@pointloma.edu (<mailto:scortezm@pointloma.edu>).

In addition, on the MV campus there is a prayer chapel on the third floor. It is open for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.



Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Graduate Academic and General Policies](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/grad-catalog/academic-general-policies/#text)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/grad-catalog/academic-general-policies/#text>) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Note: Additionally, include the below if this pertains to your course:

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: "In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignments in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/)  (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt)  (<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html)  (<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html>)

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu (<mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu>)) or 619-849-2486, 

a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the [Title IX Office \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors via our [Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy. \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix)

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via our [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy \(https://www.pointloma.edu/bias\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/bias).

PLNU Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.
 - Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.



3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

PLNU Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

PLNU Policy: If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent (equivalent to two (2) classes in the MACC program), the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Note: If a student incurs a third absence, they may petition the faculty to remain enrolled in class. The faculty will provide a make up assignment proportionate in length and difficulty to the class missed. This third absence may also result in a referral to the Student Development Committee.

In addition to the university policy, 10% of your course grade will reflect your attendance. Coming to class is mandatory and expected. As extenuating circumstances may happen that prevent you from attending class, a student may incur one absence without losing points. Each subsequent absence will drop this portion of the grade by 5% of the total course points (up to 10%). Note: absences are not categorized as excused or unexcused.

Attending class on time is essential to promote a respectful and professional learning environment. Arriving to class more than 15 minutes late is counted as a tardy. Two tardies count as one absence. Arriving 30 minutes or more late to a class will be considered an absence.

Refer to [Academic Policies](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/grad-catalog/academic-general-policies/)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/grad-catalog/academic-general-policies/>) for additional detail.

Professionalism

Student professionalism will be assessed in each course, constituting 10% of the total course grade. Professionalism indicators include class participation, interactions with peers and instructors, and self-awareness. The full rubric can be found here: [PLNU MACC Professionalism Rubric](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1113zcG8BAe_gb79ABwxlqk10QI8GJ1GUYI6TosQ5mxg/edit?tab=t.0)  (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1113zcG8BAe_gb79ABwxlqk10QI8GJ1GUYI6TosQ5mxg/edit?tab=t.0).

Late Policy

Assignments submitted up to 24 hours past the due date will be deducted 25% of the grade. Assignments submitted up to 48 hours past the due date will be deducted 50% of the grade. Any assignment turned in after 48 hours past the due date will receive no credit. Students are encouraged to alert the professor if an assignment is anticipated to be late. Professors can extend these late penalties if arrangements are made in advance.



Use of Technology

MACC is committed to a distraction-free learning environment. Students are welcome to bring devices to class, but they *must remain stored* throughout class time unless directed otherwise by the instructor. Phones, laptops, iPads/tablets, and other personal devices are not permitted to be passively used during lectures, discussions, or any other activity unless expressly communicated by the instructor.

GPS Academic Resources

PLNU offers the following free academic resources virtually for Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) Students. Visit myPLNU through the links below for more information.

- **The GPS Writing Center** (<https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/writing-center-gps>) offers:
 - **Zoom Writers Workshops** offered each quad on a variety of helpful topics
 - **One-to-one appointments** with the Writing Coach
 - **Microlearning YouTube Video Library** for helpful tips anytime
- **Research Help Guide** (<https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/research-help>) to help you start your research
 - The physical office is located on the third floor of the **Mission Valley Regional Center**  (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CRXui8PJUnSkvokC9>) off the student lounge
- **Academic Writing Resources Course** (<https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/64301>): Found on your Canvas Dashboard, this course is non-credit with 24/7 access, no time limits, and self-paced content. **Watch a quick video run-through**  (<https://youtu.be/JB8MmVPznFI>)



(<https://youtu.be/JB8MmVPznFI>)

and take time now to explore!

- **Grammarly**  (<https://www.grammarly.com/edu/point-loma-nazarene-university-graduate-professional-studies>): Students have unlimited FREE access to Grammarly for Education, a trusted tool designed to help enhance writing skills by providing real-time feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and providing suggestions. Grammarly's Generative AI is NOT available with our student accounts.
- **Tutoring** (<https://my.pointloma.edu/pages/tutoring-gps>): Students have access to 24/7 live or scheduled subject tutoring through Tutor.com, including a Paper Drop-Off Service with feedback within 12 hours.

We are here to support you! Contact us anytime: GPSWritingCenter@pointloma.edu
(<mailto:GPSWritingCenter@pointloma.edu>)

COURSE SCHEDULE



See the [Course Schedule \(https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/pages/course-schedule\)](https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/pages/course-schedule) page.

Assignments At-A-Glance

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Sep 2, 2025	 ★ Course Schedule	to do: 12:01am
Sun Sep 7, 2025	 WK1 Academic Honesty Verification Statement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225150)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 19, 2025	 WK3 BBS Supervision Agreement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225180)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK3 Student Training Agreement (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225184)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 24, 2025	 WK8 Mid-Course Feedback (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225219)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 31, 2025	 WK9 Practicum Hour Logs for Term 1 (Sept 2nd-October 25th) (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225187)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 1, 2025	 WK9 Mid-Course Survey (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225145)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 16, 2025	 WK11 Signature Theme Paper Assignment (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225169)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 30, 2025	 WK13 Informed Consent (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225170)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Fri Dec 12, 2025	 WK15 Practicum Hour Logs for Term 1 (October 26th-December 6th) (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225171)	due by 11:59pm
	 WK15 Supervisor Evaluation Form (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225173)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 21, 2025	 WK16 End-of-Course Evaluation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225176)	due by 11:59pm
	 Professionalism (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225200)	due by 11:59pm
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225206)	due by 11:59pm
	 Attending Skills Video Presentation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/82725/assignments/1225194)	

