

Practicum Opportunities

PSY 3970, 3780

Undergraduate Psychology Advising

Updated February 2026

Table of Contents

Enrollment Process 2

Autism/Developmental Disability Practica 3-4

Counseling/Clinical Practica 5-6

School/Education Practica 7

Applied Animal Behavior Practicum 8

Behavioral Neuroscience Practicum 9

General Psychology Major: Students following this major are required to complete at least 3 credits of practicum experience, TA experience, *or* lab experience.

Behavioral Science Major: Students following this major are required to complete at least 6 credits of practicum experience, TA experience, research experience, lab experience, *or* an honors thesis/project.

Psychology Major (starting Fall 2021): Students following this major can use up to 9 credit hours of total practicum/TA/lab experience, with a limit of 6 credits of TA or lab experience, toward their major requirements.

Enrolling In Departmental Practica: PSY 3970, 3780

1. Go through the **Practicum Opportunities** and select practicum(s) based on **pre-requisites and interest**
2. See the **Undergraduate Psychology Advisor** if you have general practica questions
3. **Contact the faculty member or graduate student** listed in the “Contact” line of the practica list
4. **Contact the practicum site** given to you by the **faculty member** (if applicable)
5. Print off and **fill out Permission to Elect Form** which can be found on the Psychology Website: <http://www.wmich.edu/psychology/advising/undergraduate/practicum>
6. **Attend interview** for practicum site if required
7. Complete any required **background checks**: *see specific practicum pre-reqs requiring background checks*
8. Email **On-Site Supervisor** at the practicum site the Permission to Elect Form to **sign and return to you**
9. Email **faculty member** the Permission to Elect Form to **sign**
10. The **faculty member** will email the completed Permission to Elect Form to the **Psychology Department administrative assistant**
11. You will receive an email with instructions on how to register for PSY 3970, 3780, 1403, or 5991. Follow the instructions closely and check your schedule to make sure you have **registered for the correct number of credits**
12. A minimum of **135 hours or approximately 10 hours per week** is required to complete a practicum.

AUTISM/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRACTICA

PSY 3970: Summit Pointe Behavior Consultation Team (BCT)

Description: The Summit Pointe BTC practicum focuses on the use of evidence-based practices, grounded in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), to assess and develop effective interventions for adults with developmental disabilities, individuals with mental health diagnoses, and multi-system needs (e.g., legal system). Clients receiving BTC support in general are based on level of intensity of presenting behavior(s). This practicum focuses on supports for clients necessitating the most intense level of assessment, intervention, transition planning, and monitoring. Students partaking in the practicum will receive opportunities to develop and refine case management activities from a behavior analysis perspective. Activities will focus on comprehensive assessment, design/implementation of behavioral interventions, staff training, and progress monitoring.

Location: Battle Creek and surrounding areas

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer (completion of two semesters allows for advanced training opportunities)

Prerequisites: PSY 1400 with “B” or better; Background check and training will be done by practicum site, but must be completed at least one month prior to the start of the semester; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered.

This practicum includes the opportunity to acquire BCaBA supervision

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

PSY 3970: ROI Great Lakes Center Early Intensive Behavior Practicum *(basic and intermediate practicum options)*

Description for Basic Practicum: This practicum is focused on providing students Registered Behavior Technician training and other preliminary training to be able to enter the Michigan workforce as a Registered Behavior Technicians or to be ready for an intermediate or advanced practicum through the WMU psychology program. Students will complete the 40 hours of required registered behavior technician training and a competency assessment through the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research- Outpatient Services program. Students must be available from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm every Monday during the semester and for an additional 4 hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm at the Galesburg, MI location. Other practicum activities will include additional required training through the Michigan Medicaid system, reading assignments, and observations of Outpatient ABA sessions in Galesburg, MI.

Location: 1800 S 35th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer

Prerequisites: PSY 1400 with “B” or better; Background check and training will be done by practicum site, but must be completed at least one month prior to the start of the semester; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered.

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

Description for Intermediate Practicum: This practicum will focus on students learning how to implement discrete trial training (DTT) and natural environment training (NET) in an Outpatient environment for youth with autism at the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research in

Galesburg, MI. Students will work directly with youth aged 2-21 for 6-8 hours a week and must be available two days a week from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at the Galesburg location. These hours are eligible for paid compensation. Completion of the Basic Practicum or like experience (as approved by faculty supervisor) are required before enrollment in this opportunity. Other practicum activities may include other required training through the Michigan Medicaid system, reading assignments, observations of Outpatient ABA assessments.

Location: 1800 S 35th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer

Prerequisites: PSY 1400 with “B” or better; Background check and training will be done by practicum site, but must be completed at least one month prior to the start of the semester; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered.

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

COUNSELING/CLINICAL PRACTICA

PSY 3970: Youth Shelter Practicum

Description: Students assist crisis workers at a shelter for runaway youth in creating a therapeutic environment that will motivate youth to resolve problems and effect positive changes in attitudes, values, and behavior. A minimum of 135 hours is required for 3 credit hours. Hours are flexible, and there is an informal training period. In order to complete all necessary paperwork, you must contact ARK at least 2 months before the beginning of the semester in which you plan to do your practicum.

Location: The ARK: Kalamazoo

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer

Prerequisites: GPA of 3.0 or higher; Background check required; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered. Recommended students to have taken either Psy 1600 Child Psychology and/or Psy 3240 Abnormal Child Psych.

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

PSY 3970: Domestic and Sexual Assault

Description: Students can complete their practicum at the YWCA sexual assault and domestic assault program. The duties will vary depending upon how long the student works there and the student's hours of availability. Typical duties revolve around assisting in domestic and sexual assault crisis services, which might involve: answering crisis calls, addressing shelter resident inquires, helping with personal care needs, observing trained Victim Advocate staff in the delivery of service, being on call to provide supportive listening and assistance to survivors of sexual assault at hospitals in Kalamazoo or the YWCA nurse examiner site, attending court proceedings to support survivors, learning how to complete a Personal Protection Order, conducting intakes and assessments for the survivors, assisting with development of marketing materials for crisis services, and providing clerical support for YWCA programming.

Location: YWCA: Kalamazoo

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer

Prerequisites: GPA of 3.0 or higher; PSY 5240 and PSY 2500 with "C" or better; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

PSY 3970: KPEP - Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program

Description: KPEP operates residential and non-residential programs for adult offenders as a community-based alternative to incarceration. They offer the opportunity and structure for men and women to take personal responsibility in their lives. KPEP began in the fall of 1980 to provide a live-in residence for those individuals who need more structure than regular probation provides, but where extended jail time is not judged necessary. The goal of KPEP is to show the residents that they can become independent, contributing members of the community.

Availability: Fall, Spring, Summer

Location: Kalamazoo, Berrien County, Calhoun County, or Muskegon County

- **4 Internships:** Kalamazoo

- **1 Internship:** Berrien County

- **1 Internship:** Calhoun County

- **1 Internship:** Muskegon County

Prerequisites: GPA of 3.0 or higher; PSY 5240 and PSY 3260 with “C” or better; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

PSY 3970: FIRE Place

Description: The FIRE Place is a service and resource center that addresses the issues of Sexual Assault and other bias incidents and supports students who are survivors, friends of survivors, and witnesses. Bias incidents are negative words or actions that may happen to us because of who we are (skin color, gender, sexual orientation etc.) In other words, a hateful or discriminating act or comment toward a particular identity group. The FIRE Place will provide peer support and education, serve as a resource center, as well as provide a number of art and/awareness projects that students may participate in. The center will work to create and maintain a linked network with other programs on Western Michigan’s campus and in the community. This will assist in seamless referral to the services, program offices, and registered student organizations (RSO) that may be most beneficial to a student’s needs. The center will also maintain a collection of resources and educational publications on the topics of sexual assault, bias incident, and other forms of violence. We will explore why and how these things occur and what we can do to change the culture to begin to prevent them. We are located in room 3130 of Sindecuse Health Center.

The FIRE! Sexual Assault Peer Educators is a peer education program whose primary goal is to educate the campus about sexual assault. Through education and programming we are fighting to end sexual assault on our campus and in our community. Students will be highly trained in presenting on the issue of sexual assault and in helping survivors, their families, and friends. This program is available as an internship or elective class credit opportunity for many academic majors and minors.

Availability: Fall, Spring, May be available summer

Location: Sindecuse Health Center

Prerequisites: GPA of 3.0 or higher; PSY 5240 with “C” or better; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

SCHOOL/EDUCATION PRACTICA

PSY 3970: KRESA Classroom Consultants

Description: The purpose of this practicum is to collaborate with the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA) to provide consultation and support to preschools in Kalamazoo county. Many preschool teachers have students in their preschool classrooms that present behavioral challenges. These challenges can sometimes prevent students from fully participating in preschool activities. KCC provides training and education to preschool teachers on direct instruction methodologies which promotes active student engagement during group instruction. Furthermore, for students that need additional supports, KCC conducts functional behavior assessments and train teachers on an individualized behavior plan. KRESA Classroom Consultations (KCC) is a practicum experience where you can use the technologies of applied behavior analysis (ABA) in the school setting. KCC primary provides direct training to teachers, implements classroom management strategies, and conduct functional behavior assessments. If you join us, you will:

1. Work in classrooms under the supervision of a Behavior Analyst graduate student, and Dr. Stephanie Peterson.
2. Work directly with preschool and kindergarten teachers implementing universal classroom strategies.
3. Collaborate with existing school teams to implement treatments that are evidence-based, and effective for the students.
4. Supervision hours for BCaBA (Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst) hours and RBT (Registered Behavior Technician) certification are also offered. PSY 1000 and 1400 are preferred but not required. All students are encouraged to apply!

Location: Kalamazoo

Prerequisites: PSY 1400 with “B” or better; Availability for a two-semester commitment fall and spring; Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required

Availability: Fall, Spring

Contact: Angelique Koerner angelique.koerner@wmich.edu and Dr. Stephanie Peterson stephanie.peterson@wmich.edu

PSY 3970: Sexual Health Peer Education Project

Description: Students provide information regarding prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and responsible sexual behavior to other students using many different methods of outreach and education.

Location: Sindecuse Health Center

Availability: Fall, Spring

Prerequisites: Students are selected by interview and/or audition
GPA of 3.0 or higher. Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered

Contact: For information about becoming a Peer Educator, use this link:

<https://wmich.edu/healthpromotion/sexual-health/sexual-health-peer>

Contact: Dr. Jon Baker jonathan.c.baker@wmich.edu

***Applications are due March 15- April 15 for Fall Semester and Nov 1 – Dec 1 for Spring Semester**

APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR PRACTICUM

PSY 3970: Applied Animal Behavior Practicum

Description: Students in the AABP train the homeless dogs and cats available for adoption at local area shelters using behavior analysis. Students learn how to merge standard operant conditioning principles and animal training techniques according to ethical guidelines, and hopefully help the animals find their forever homes in the process. Behaviors include basic obedience and tricks, as well as decreasing any impolite behaviors that may affect adoptability, safety, and/or are welfare concerns.

Interested students should be aware that the shelters are NOT no-kill facilities. This means that you will be working in environments where animals may be euthanized. This is especially true of animals who become too sick or aggressive to be treated in a timely and/or cost-effective manner, or are injured/in pain. This makes our work that much more important, but please be aware of the possibility.

Weekly requirements: Complete 8 hours of hands-on work, read elearning content and pass quizzes, and attend our Friday classes from 10am-12pm.

How to get started: email the graduate instructor, complete an application, attend an interview, and attend a site visit. Should you be accepted, we will supply you with a pre-filled out Permission to Elect form and will explain what to do with it.

Locations: Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement, SPCA of Southwest Michigan, and/or Kalamazoo Animal Rescue

Availability: Fall, Spring, sometimes Summer

Prerequisites: Read How Dogs Learn by Burch and Bailey. Preferred: Experience handling animals of all strengths and sizes. Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered.

Contact: Kathryn Sweeney: kathryn.a.sweeney@wmich.edu or Dr. Alan Poling: alan.poling@wmich.edu

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE PRACTICUM

PSY 3780: Behavioral Neuroscience Research Practicum

Description: This is an intermediate laboratory and companion to PSY 3720 emphasizing the acquisition of laboratory techniques, surgical skills and research methodology in physiological psychology and brain behavior interactions. Laboratory procedures, research methodology, data analysis and professional writing are stressed. Prerequisite: PSY 3720 with a grade of “C” or better (or may be taken concurrently).

Course Objectives and Activities: The primary objective of this laboratory-based research practicum is to provide students hands-on experience with some of the research tools and techniques implemented in behavioral neuroscience. In this research practicum, students will:

- engage in intensive study and demonstrate mastery of brain anatomy through hands-on dissections and computer aided tutorials.
- observe demonstrations of selected neuroscience research techniques including electrophysiology and psychophysiology recording techniques.
- conduct literature searches and read research articles to inform the development of research projects.
- design, plan, and implement research projects utilizing behavioral pharmacology methods.
- gain experience with research data analysis and APA style research report writing.

Location: Main Campus

Availability: Spring

Prerequisite or co-requisite: PSY 3720 (*concurrent enrollment preferred*); Application required for consideration. Completed Permission to Elect Form submitted to Psychology department required to be registered.

Contact: Dr. Lisa Baker: lisa.baker@wmich.edu