

Abstract

Impact of the Practicum Experience on Counseling Students Self-confidence and Professional Identity Development

The practicum experience has the potential to "make or break" the counseling student as it relates to his or her professional identity and self-confidence. Research related to the confidence levels and professional identity of how counseling students perceived themselves before and after taking a practicum course will be discussed. Survey data from 33 participants consisting of pre- and post-assessments were analyzed to determine the perceptions of the student's self-confidence and professional identity before and after their practicum experience. This study examined the perceptions of counseling students regarding their preparation for their practicum experience. Participants will review problematic areas within the practicum experience from a survey of graduate counseling students. Potential strategies to enhance the practicum experience will be discussed.