Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS5027						
Subject Title	Practicum II						
Credit Value	2						
Level	5						
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	APSS 5018 Practicum I						
Minimum Pass Grade	D						
Assessmen							
t Methods	100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment				
	Field work evaluation	60%	0%				
	Personal professional development statement	15%	0%				
	Self-evaluation report	25%	0%				
Objectives	Supervised practicum is an essential integral part of the Master of Educational and Child Psychology program (MECP), which provides practice opportunities for students, who are also known as "Educational Psychologists-in-Training (EPiTs)", to apply and integrate theories learnt from the coursework into professional practice, whenever appropriate. All EPiTs are required to complete supervised practicum of not less than 1,200 hours in three different practicum settings, of which at least 600 hours must be in school contexts. The SECOND practicum aims at providing the Educational Psychologists-in-Training with:						
	1. Exposures to a broad spectrum of work of an educational psychologist working in a particular setting;						
	 Essential hands-on experiences at different professional levels (such as individual casework, group work, consultations to parents and teachers, in-service training for teachers, etc.) in the development of the necessary practical knowledge and skills; Adequate knowledge of general and specific types of provisions and systems accessible to students in mainstream schools/ special schools, and referral procedures and opportunities for collaborative work with other professionals. 						

Intended Learning Outcomes

(*Note 1*)

The overall aim of this subject, as the **SECOND** supervised practicum, is to prepare Educational Psychologists-in-Training (EPiTs) for future professional practice by encouraging their integration of a broad range of theories and professional skills commonly used in local cultures, and considering how these can be utilized within a real-life multi-professional context. During and upon successful completion of the second practicum, the EPiTs should benefit from the following learning outcomes through individual consultation/ group supervision, written products, informed discussions and work assigned during the practicum, and be able to:

- 1. Extend professional awareness and knowledge of different school settings, with particular reference to school organization and structure, roles, policy and practice;
- Gain more direct practice experience in the application of models and methods of practice in educational and child psychology, including the practice of consultation and the development of skills in methods of specific assessment and intervention, with particular reference to the use of framework for problem solving;
- 3. Link practice with various theoretical perspectives and polish practical skills taught in the middle part of the MECP program; and
- 4. Develop confidence in the professional role as an educational psychologist and the abilities to work in differing contexts and with a wider range of students.

Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus

(Note 2)

According to the professional standards of Division of Educational Psychology (DEP) of The Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited (HKPS), the supervised practicum should enable students (Educational Psychologists-in-Training, EPiTs) to become reflective practitioners with strong systems perspectives and problem-solving abilities. The practicums should provide adequate hands-on experience in relation to individual work, group work, and systems work, encompassing a wide range of student/school needs. This should include experiences of working with students, parents, teachers, and improving the school system, during which the following skills/qualities are developed up to the required professional standards (DEP, HKPS, 2008):

- 1. Personal qualities and conduct in professional practice
- 2. Assessment skills
- 3. Interview skills
- 4. Intervention skills
- 5. Consultation and collaboration skills
- 6. Report writing and record keeping
- 7. Research and evaluation skills

The nature and amount of work carried out on the **SECOND** practicum depends, to a certain extent, on the style and work available in the individual setting/ organization rendering educational psychology services. All EPiTs are required to complete supervised practicum of not less than 1,200 hours, and the average duration of each practicum is at least 400 hours (normally within 60 days). Adjustment of the length will be made according to the specific requirements of the settings. Each EPiT should work with students, teachers, and parents experiencing complex psycho-educational problems, issues and challenges by drawing on the theoretical and advanced practical skills gained from the coursework. Individual cases assigned should diverse in terms

of age, family composition, socio-economic statues, gender, religion, culture, etc. He/she should also have the opportunity to work at different stages of professional involvement of an Educational Psychologist; to attend formal and informal meetings; to carry out a number of interviews; and to engage in consultations with teachers, parents, and associated professionals/ stakeholders.

Teaching/Learning Methodology

(*Note 3*)

The MECP program is based on problem-based learning model as the main pedagogical approach for coursework, and has also adopted the reciprocal-reflection approach for the practicum. Through engaging into numerous reciprocal-reflection cycles (Schon, 1983 & 1987), each Educational Psychologist-in-Training (EPiT) should acquire the qualities as a reflective educational psychologist.

Required Direct Practice Experience

According to the professional standards of Division of Educational Psychology (DEP) of The Hong Kong Psychological Society Limited (HKPS), each EPiT must complete supervised practicum training of a minimum of 1,200 hours with at least 600 hours in school settings, and in at least three practicums. The **SECOND** practicum is normally conducted during Summer of Year I or Semester I of Year II. The EPiTs may attend classes at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for at least two days a week, and go for three full-day concurrent practicum weekly. As an alternative, they may complete a five full-day block practicum in a week, normally during Summer. The **emphasis in the SECOND** practicum is on the development and practice of a board range of core and specific skills and professional competencies of becoming an educational psychologist. It is hoped that each EPiT can experience a range of different client groups (age, type of difficulty, demographic backgrounds, etc.), and a range of working procedures. Experiences can vary with particular practicum settings and special nature of work of the practicing educational psychologists.

Each EPiT should be given opportunities to experience direct practice, case discussion, reflecting on team experiences, sharing professional insights, video analyses, etc. "Direct practice", is defined as face-to-face assessment and intervention/ consultation with individuals, groups, and systems. Activities such as telephone contact, case planning, observation of assessment and intervention, record keeping, travel, administrative activities, consultation with community members, or supervision, are *NOT* considered as direct practice.

Required Supervision

According to the professional standards (DEP, HKPS, 2008), the practicum supervisors should have at least three years' (FTE) relevant professional experience, and at least five years for the university-based senior practicum coordinators. Each Educational Psychologist-in-Training (EPiT) should receive at least 80 hours of weekly supervision with the practicum supervisors at the HKPolyU or practicum settings. The required supervision can be organised in a number of different ways, including individual and/or group consultation, direct observation, face-to-face and phone discussions, and videotape or audiotape. By means of weekly supervision, the EPiTs are coached by their supervisors to practice professional knowledge, skills and values in a designated service setting. During the SECOND practicum, The EPiTs should be enabled to apply a wide range of educational and child psychology theories into professional practice, and to make personal and contextual reflections through induction workshop, guided observations, reflection exercises, and individual and/or group supervision sessions.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

(Note 4)

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
		1	2	3	4	
Field work evaluation	60	√	√	√	√	
Personal professional development statement	15	V	√	√	√	
Self-evaluation report	25	√	√	√	√	
Total	100 %					

- Field work evaluation is based on the Practicum Supervisor Evaluation Report;
- The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;
- The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and
- Student must achieve a PASS grade (D or above) on the Practicum Supervisor Evaluation Report if he/she is to pass the subject.

Students of the programme will only be allowed to fail any of the three Practicum subjects <u>once</u> throughout the entire course of study, i.e. they can only retake once <u>among</u> the three subjects; and

Any student who fails more than once among the three Practicum subjects shall be de-registered from the programme.

The nature and amount of work carried out on the **SECOND** practicum depends, to a certain extent, on the style and work available in the individual setting/ organization rendering educational psychology services. The **SECOND** practicum should be focused on breadth and range, and therefore each Educational Psychologist-in-Training (EPiT) is required to undertake <u>3 to 5 pieces of work, at least 2 of which should involve individual casework for assessment / intervention</u>. The EPiTs should also have the opportunity to attend formal and informal meetings; to carry out few interviews; and to engage in consultations with teachers and associated professionals/ stakeholders.

Portfolio of the SECOND Practicum: Summary of Contents

In order to reflect on practical work experience and make connections between theory and practice, each EPiT is required to complete a portfolio, which is of formative function, and therefore should NOT become an end in itself. Guidance on completing the Portfolio of the SECOND practicum are summarized, as follows:

- Index to Portfolio*
- **Personal Profile/ Curriculum vitae/Biography** of each Educational Psychologist-in-Training (EPiT)

• Professional Profile

3.1 Summary of Work carried out.

This summary list should give the reader, normally the practicum supervisor and program leader/ tutor, an overview of the kind of work each EPiT carried out during the SECOND practicum. There are individual differences in the range and balance of professional activities for each EPiT whose own interests, current training needs and opportunities offered by the current and future practicums should be reflected in the summary. Therefore *a summary list /sheet(s)* should be provided at the beginning of the practicum section of each portfolio. *The summary of work* should include details of presenting problems, project work, professional activities, and/or intervention as deemed appropriate for the SECOND practicum. The required contents and quality, as follows:

- 3.1.1 Consultation record or report, according to service guidelines of the practicum setting. Each EPiT is required to write the consultation report/report for each piece of work engaged, and a copy of which should be included in the portfolio.
- 3.1.2 One Written Process Analysis of 2.500 words in length for self-selected pieces of work, accompanied by consultation records/ reports and copies of relevant assessment materials (with no identifying information about the clients). On the SECOND practicum, the process analysis should reflect learning of each EPiT in relation to application of the three subjects as prerequisites (APSS 5012, 5013 & 5014) in practice. The discussion should also focus on issues relating to mainstream schools in either preschool/ primary /secondary sectors or special education provision, depending on the nature and target clientele of the SECOND practicum setting. The Written Process Analysis should be submitted to the practicum supervisors and senior practicum co-ordinators two weeks prior to the final tripartite meeting.

• Diary of Practicum Days

Each EPiT is asked to complete a *Practicum Diary Sheet(s)*, which records the activities of each day. This is used for monitoring the nature of practical work and issues of time management. It is hoped that all the psycho-educational services during the supervised practicum, in particular the SECOND one, should provide a graduated series of experiences and a consequent gradual increase in the amount of independent work carries out by the EPiTs.

• A Personal Professional Development Statement of 1,000 words in length.

Each EPiT is required to evaluate the practicum by completing a brief critique of the nature, structure, dynamics of the practicum setting, and identifying factors that may govern service delivery in particular services / professional practice of educational psychologists.

• A Professional Skills Checklist.

Each EPiT should keep records of professional skills acquired for practice during the SECOND practicum.

Both the *Personal Professional Development Statement* and *Professional Skills Checklist*, of the **SECOND** practicum should be compiled for submission in the Portfolio.

 Record of Meetings, whenever appropriate, including individual consultations, group supervision, informed discussions with the practicum supervisor/ consultant, and significant professional colleagues such as practicing educational psychologists at the practicum settings.

• ONE Self-evaluation Report for the SECOND practicum, and Objectives for Further Development (total 2.500 words in length).

The self-ealuation report in the portfolio should provide an opportunity for each EPiT to reflect on his/her work, to 'think aloud' and to question and evaluate his/her professional work in the context of the body of psycho-educational theories that you are developing through lectures, personal reading and professional consultation. The self-evaluation report aims at monitoring the progress of each EPiT through

- the scope and quality of work completed during the practicum;
- the opportunities provided through the practicum;
- quality assurance of achieving satisfactory level and producing quality of professional work.

The Written Process Analysis should be submitted with the Self-evaluation Report.

By the end of the **SECOND** practicum, each EPiT should be evaluated according to *four broad categories of criteria*, as follows:

1) Application of Psycho-educational Knowledge to Professional Practice:

- The ability to apply essential theoretical frameworks and psychoeducational paradigms to develop some interventions to effect positive change for school-age children, their families, teachers, inter-disciplinary professionals, and associated stakeholders;
- Demonstration of a broad range of professional skills through psychoeducational assessment approach, hypothesis development and testing, consultation approach, evidence-based research, and/or system work;

2) Time Management and Organization:

- The use of different strategies to effectively prioritize tasks and deliver services to clients.
- Consideration on what and how to conduct psycho-educational assessment and intervention for meeting with individual / service demands, including diary management skills, keeping to time limits, and completing organised administrative tasks:

3) Personal Communication and Professional Relationship:

- Sensitivity to the ethos of some psycho-educational services experienced and relationships developed/ observed within the boarder service contexts;
- Awareness of individual behaviour and how it impacts on others with the direct psycho-educational services;
- Developing professional relationships with students and parents, teachers and school staff, and/or inter-disciplinary professional colleagues;
- Application of appropriate confidentiality and codes of professional conduct;

4) Professional Awareness and Personal Reflection:

• The ability to reflect on the second practicum, and evaluate own contribution to both direct practice and supervision /consultation sessions.

		COND practicum (<i>no</i> ve) on the Practicum	
ent Study Direct		400 hours	
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Note 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

Intended learning outcomes should state what students should be able to do or attain upon completion of the subject. Subject outcomes are expected to contribute to the attainment of the overall programme outcomes.

Note 2: Subject Synopsis/Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus should adequately address the intended learning outcomes. At the same time over-crowding of the syllabus should be avoided.

Note 3: Teaching/Learning Methodology

This section should include a brief description of the teaching and learning methods to be employed to facilitate learning, and a justification of how the methods are aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the subject.

Note 4: Assessment Method

This section should include the assessment method(s) to be used and its relative weighting, and indicate which of the subject intended learning outcomes that each method purports to assess. It should also provide a brief explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes.