MSCP Supplemental Program Handbook

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Preface

Welcome to the CLU MSCP Program. The following is a guide to improve your chances for the successful completion of the degree. Please use this as a supplement to the official student handbook located on Blackboard. The supplemental handbook covers professional behavior as well as topics guiding your application towards doctoral programs.

Figure 1: Welcome to MSCP at CLU!

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.0.1 Goal of the Supplemental Handbook

The goal of this supplemental handbook is to provide students with advice regarding the most critical areas of professional development during a graduate program in clinical psychology. The supplemental handbook does not set any academic standards but more the professional standards that Dr. Bedics has identified as most critical to your sucess throughout the program.

1.0.2 Graduate School for the Millenial/Post-Millenial Generation

Graduate school is like no other time in your life and you can make of it what you will. The difference between students is often in how they structure their time and life to support and motivate academic learning.

There are a few things working against students. First, you have a large class size and so it's easy to fall into undergraduate mode and do the same thing you did in graduate school as you did in undergraduate. Graduate school requires active participation in class and engagement with all the material and your demonstration of that in the class to the instructor. Second, never before have there been more opporunities for distraction through entertainment. The management of your time and how you avoid/eliminate these distractions is a skill. Third, graduate school assumes success in the classroom and going well beyond with extra reading, making that paper for class better and taking it to the next level, and developing your own projects independent of classrooms. Again, it's how you structure your time and it's completely noticeable to someone like your program director and will make the difference between a four line letter of recommendation or a 4-paragraph letter of recommendation.

Chapter 2

Professionalism

Many of these points might seem like commonsense. If they do they that's great for you and it can only reinforce what you're already doing well. Many people, however, are not aware of such formalities that increase your likelihood of success in the program.

The rules follow for all staff and faculty at CLU. Dr. Bedics continually checks in on your professionalism throughout the program by talking to office staff like our program specialist in the Bell House and your instructors.

2.0.1 Classroom

1. Call your instructors by the proper title. If they are a PHD/PSYD then "Doctor" or "Professor" unless they tell you otherwise. Ask them if you're unsure or just avoid actually saying their name.

2. Avoid excessive computer time. If you look happy in class staring at your computer then your instructor knows you're likely splitting your attention in class. Involve yourself in class and throw yourself in regardless of any judgments that you might have about the material or instructor.

3. Be on time and leave on time. Let your instructor know if there's anything that can disrupt the class.

2.0.2 Email

1. Always start an email with "Hello Professor/Instructor". Instructor is appropriate for non-PHD/PSYD staff.

2. Always end an email with "Thank you" or "Best" or "Sincerely"

2.0.3 Overall

Everything in life is never perfect or exactly how we would like it. Dr. Bedics is more concerned about how you handle adversity/unexpected life events rather than whether or not you were lucky enough to have everything go smoothly during the program.

Avoid judgmental language of other people such as peers, staff, or the school. You can have a contagious effect on those around and it is something Dr. Bedics dislikes the most and will surely sink any letter of recommendation.

Chapter 3

Doctoral Work

3.1 Letters of Recommendation

1. Plan ahead: Ask for a letter in **October**.

2. Submit all applications and letter requests from the school to the recommender by **11/15** (at the latest) for programs that have a deadline of 12/1. Dr. Bedics will not provide letters for requests sent from schools after 11/15 regardless of the deadline.

3. If the doctoral schools requires letters to scanned or mailed then you should give your referees a month notice and you should provide all the materials need including a signed waiver of rights to read the letter.

4. Always waive your rights to read the letter.

5. Buy an actual "thank you card" to say **THANK YOU** to your recommenders and send it/give it to them.

3.1.1 Pro Tips for Letters of Recommendation

Here's what I'd like to say for letters of recommendation. The student:

1. was always professional in all interactions and polite.

2. was timely in all interactions.

3. showed improvement throughout my time knowing them and helped me understand how they improved.

4. acted independently and at the same time asked for help when appropriate.

5. went beyond classroom material to embrace assignments and readings in new ways.

6. actively participated in class every week.

7. clearly engaged the material by taking notes, bringing a textbook that was outlined and marked-up. You never get points for "renting" a book but you can make up for it by demonstrating how you take notes and engage in material. Dr. Bedics often has extra copies if you need a book.

8. demonstrated the ability to motivate themselves and create an environment that supports academic work (reading for fun) rather than leisure (watching netflix).

3.2   Finding a Program

1. Apply to range of schools based on overall competitiveness. Range can be decided by ratio of applied to admitted or GRE scores.
2. For PhD programs, you are applying to work for a faculty member.
3. For PsyD programs, you are applying because you appreciate the mission of the school and program.

3.3   Curriculum Vita

1. Follow the template provided by Dr. Bedics.
2. Aesthetics matter most

3.4   Personal Statement

The personal statement you wrote for the MSCP program is not adequate for a doctoral program. Please see Dr. Bedics for revisions and feedback.

3.5   Consultation

You should request to meet with Dr. Bedics to review your material in October.

Chapter 4

Conferences

Everyone loves to attend conferences. There are several things you can do to improve your success in attending a conference.

1. Always ask your faculty advisor if you can submit your work to a conference even after you graduate. The data is not yours and nothing you have done at CLU has been accomplished in isolation of others.

2. Ask your mentore at least a month in advance. Conference presentations require a lot of preparation.
3. You can only submit for conferences on projects where you have data and results! It is very rare that anyone is able to submit to a conference for the masters thesis in the Fall of their second because the majority have not even gone through IRB yet!
4. Always include your faculty mentor as an author on the poster.
5. Know the relevant conferences ahead of time to help you plan. The majority of students present at APA (December deadline for August), APS (January deadline for May), and WPA (November deadline for April)

Bibliography