



## How To Be Successful In Your School Counseling Practicum And Internships!

Congratulations on getting to this point! Now is the time to trust your training and apply your knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies. It isn't possible to control every detail so instead of worrying about the unknown, focus on that which is in your control. Finish strong and trust the process! **You're almost there, future school counselor!**♥

### **BEFORE** you start your placement...

- Research and meet all of your program's requirements and deadlines to **secure your placements**.
- Review your program's dates, deadlines, and requirements. Be sure to carefully review course descriptions, practicum/internship, testing, graduation, and [state](#)/country requirements, etc.
- Consider whether your placement will be **in-person, virtual, or blended** and plan accordingly:
  - In person? Arrive on time, wear professional clothing/shoes, and carry a padfolio with a pen. Smile, be genuine, greet everyone, and act as a professional and competent colleague!
  - Virtual? Ensure that you have consistent Internet, a professional background, and a confidential space. Be on time, dress and speak professionally, smile, be genuine, and minimize distractions.
- Join [ASCA](#), your [state](#) school counseling association, and local school counseling association at a reduced graduate student rate. Attend, participate, and meet your future colleagues!
- Join my [School Counseling Grad Student Support Group](#) and listen to my new [Future School Counselor Academy Podcast](#) to learn and be encouraged!
- Enroll in [How to Land a School Counseling Position](#)! Learn as much as possible about applying, interviewing, and excelling professionally while at your site and in preparation for the job search!
- Consider a [1:1 Career Coaching Session](#) to become more motivated, prepared, confident, and excited. I will point out your strengths and provide specific recommendations for you to excel!

### **DURING** your placement...

- **Meet** with your site supervisor! Review requirements and direct/indirect hours, schedule supervision in advance, maintain communication, and ask who to consult if/when they are unavailable.
- Act, think, dress, and communicate professionally as a colleague! Be genuine and friendly yet remember that your supervisor is not your friend or counselor—they are your supervisor/evaluator!
- Be assertive, collaborative, and creative! **Consult** with your site supervisor about collaborating with K-12 school counselors, administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents/guardians, community, etc.
- **Seek opportunities** to demonstrate your knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies. Step out of your comfort zone and be creative. Your site supervisor will evaluate you and your competencies.
- **Attend** national, state, and/or local school counseling conferences! Request grad student rate! Want to be more awesome? Collaborate and co-present with your professor and/or site supervisor!
- Join my [School Counseling Grad Student Support Group](#) and listen to my [Future School Counselor Academy Podcast](#) to learn and be encouraged!
- Take [How to Land a School Counseling Position](#) and invest in a [Resume Review](#)!
- Consider a [1:1 Career Coaching Session](#) to excel at your site and prepare for interviews!
- Start or continue **applying** to school counseling positions!

### **AFTER** completing your placement...

- Send a handwritten **thank you** note to your site supervisor, administrators, etc.
- Continue **membership** and participation in ASCA, state, and local school counseling associations.
- Purchase a [Resume Review](#) and take my [How to Land a School Counseling Position](#) course!
- Continue **applying** to school counseling positions!
- Consider a [1:1 Career Coaching Session](#) for individualized support. The investment is well worth it!

I wish you the best!

*Dr. Ebersole*