**UK Counseling Psychology Program Telesupervision Formal Policy (Revised 11/26/23)**

(Adapted with permission from University of Northern Colorado’s Policy)

As of 11/26/23, here are relevant excerpts from the APA Implementing Regulations pertinent to distance education, telehealth, and telesupervision:

**C-11 D. D. Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Doctoral Programs**

The CoA’s recognized scope of accreditation does not include distance education… The CoA recognizes that some accredited doctoral programs may elect to utilize distance and electronically mediated delivery formats in a **supplemental or adjunctive role** within their programs.

The following elements are specifically noted for all accredited and applicant doctoral programs: • The CoA recognizes that the **use of telehealth services in practicum settings** may provide a valuable adjunct training experience for students. Telehealth practicum training is governed by both Implementing Regulation **C-11 D** (Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Docctoral Programs) and Implementing Regulation **C-12 D.** • Telesupervision of students within practicum experiences is governed through Implementing Regulation **C-13 D**; • All programs are expected to follow generally accepted best practices and utilize evidence-based methods in distance education and electronically mediated delivery;

Distance education is defined as a formal educational process in which **the majority** of the

instruction occurs when student and instructor are not in the same place.

Although the Standards of Accreditation (SoA) do not set a pre-determined limit on the extent of distance education that is permitted, a doctoral program delivering education and training **substantially or completely by distance education is not compatible** with the SoA and could not be accredited.

**C-13 D. Telesupervision.**

The CoA recognizes that accredited programs may utilize telesupervision in their program curriculum. At the same time, the CoA recognizes there are unique benefits to in-person supervision…

The following applies only to the MINIMUM number of required hours of supervision. At the doctoral level, these are the **minimal supervision requirements** for each practicum site, as defined by the doctoral program. Supervision beyond the minimum number of required hours may utilize methods or modalities that are deemed appropriate by the accredited program…

Telesupervision is supervision of psychological services through a synchronous audio and video

format where the supervisor is not in the same physical facility as the trainee.

It is the doctoral program’s responsibility to **ensure that the student has had sufficient experience and in-person supervision in intervention and assessment at the doctoral level and possesses a level of competence to justify this modality** of supervision in their sequence of training.

Programs that utilize telesupervision are expected to address generally accepted best practices.

Programs utilizing ANY amount of telesupervision need to have a formal policy addressing their utilization of this supervision modality, including but not limited to (list of 9 bullet points).

**With that information in mind, what follows is our Telesupervision Formal Policy.**

When emergencies (e.g., COVID-19 Pandemic) require a largescale shift to telepractice/telehealth/telesupervision/distance education for classes, practica, etc., the program will temporarily permit this shift to maintain compliance with university, local, state, and/or federal guidance. When such emergencies are not occurring, largescale use of telepractice/telehealth/telesupervision is not permitted.

During such emergencies, the following apply to all clinical practicum activities. Telesupervion, telepractice/telehealth, and distance education delivery is permitted in accordance with following generally accepted best practices; university policy and procedures; local, state and federal laws; APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct; and organizational policies and procedures. Not complying will any of the aforementioned areas may result in failure of the course and/or dismissal from the program. Please inform the practicum instructor if your practicum site changes the modality of services (e.g., in-person to telehealth) so that we can ensure compliance is maintained.

Below in *italics and highlighted* are the telesupervision guidelines and expectations for practica in doctoral programs as outlined by APA (e.g., SoA, 2017; Standard II.B.3; IR C-13 D.). In regular font below the italics are the guidelines of our program and *formal policy*addressing our utilization of this supervision modality, including but not limited to:

* *An explicit rationale for using telesupervision;*
* Largescale telesupervision is utilized when in-person contact is restricted and/or not available for regular on-going opportunities based on the circumstances (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic) to ensure appropriate training/learning experiences that are needed to provide clinical services.
* Smallscale telesupervision (for an individual student at an individual practicum site) is permitted on a case by case basis provided the student receives approval from the doctoral practicum coordinator and the student has “had sufficient experience and in-person supervision in intervention and assessment at the doctoral level and possesses a level of competence to justify this modality of supervision in their sequence of training” and it is not possible for the agency on-site supervisor to provide in-person supervision.
* *How telesupervision is consistent with their overall aims and training outcomes;*
  + Provides opportunities related to training, monitoring, and evaluating clinical services provided by the trainee to develop expected profession wide competencies as a future counseling psychologist.
* *How and when telesupervision is utilized in clinical training;*
* Telesupervision is utilized when in-person contact is restricted or not available for regular on-going opportunities based on the circumstances (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic). The digital platforms used (e.g., Zoom) are HIPPA compliant and supported by the university information technology office.
* Regarding smallscale telesupervision, see “smallscale telesupervision” response to the “An explicit rationale for using telesupervision” for more detail on how and when.
* *How it is determined which trainees can participate in telesupervision;*
  + Trainees must meet the minimal level of achievement for each course and the prerequisites for each respective course that may employ telesupervision. All courses utilizing telesupervision must follow: generally accepted best practices; university policy and procedures; local, state and federal laws; APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct, 2002, 2010, 2017; and organizational policies and procedures.
  + Regarding smallscale telesupervision, see “smallscale telesupervision” response to the “An explicit rationale for using telesupervision” for more detail on how and when.
* *How the program ensures that relationships between supervisors and trainees are established at the onset of the supervisory experience;*
  + Training site agreements are established at the onset of the training experience. These agreements include signatures by the supervisor and trainee.
* *How an off-site supervisor maintains full professional responsibility for clinical cases;*
  + Memorandum of Understanding agreements are established between each student and supervisor to ensure off-site site-affiliated supervisor maintains professional responsibility for clinical services.
* *How non-scheduled consultation and crisis coverage are managed;*
  + Each practicum agency has a policy for handling consultation and crisis with practicum trainees. Agency supervisors and students agree to abide by Professional/Ethical/Legal standards set forth by APA and the Kentucky regulations pertinent to Psychology, and all are compliant with HIPAA standards.
* *How privacy and confidentiality of the client and trainees are assured;*
  + Only HIPAA compliant approved digital platforms are used. Supervisors and students agree to abide by Professional/Ethical/Legal standards set forth by APA and the Kentucky regulations pertinent to Psychology, and must comply with HIPAA standards, as well as university policies.
* *The technology and quality requirements and any education in the use of this technology that is required by either trainee or supervisor.*
  + Trainee and supervisor must agree to abide by Professional/Ethical/Legal standards set forth by APA and the Kentucky regulations pertinent to Psychology, and must comply with HIPAA standards. All university policies and procedures must be followed. Trainee and supervisor must follow best practice guidelines in utilizing technology related to providing clinical services. For example:
    - American Psychological Association (2013). Guidelines for the practice of telepsychology. *American Psychologist, 68,*791–800. doi: 10.1037/a0035001.
    - Cooper, S. E., Campbell, L. F., & Barnwell, S. S. (2019). Telepsychology: A primer for counseling psychologists. *The Counseling Psychologist*, *47*(8), 1074-1114.
    - Martin, J. N., Millán, F., & Campbell, L. F. (2020). Telepsychology practice: Primer and first steps. *Practice Innovations, 5(2),*114-127. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pri0000111](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdx.doi.org%2F10.1037%2Fpri0000111&data=04%7C01%7Cjoe.hammer%40uky.edu%7C1fafe14fbbcc4770d33608d9f30e5b0d%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637808065260331623%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=fQXHMYszdAzPKOWK93GPnUCK0tIWhyasBJYqYKinpYM%3D&reserved=0)