

## The Student Timeline

*Timeline . . . timeline . . .* I'm kind of struggling with the word *timeline* as I think about it in terms of being or having been a student in a marriage and family therapy program. That is, *timeline* usually brings to mind a linear representation of chronological and historic events. Struggle #1: We're not linear thinkers. Struggle #2: As we embark on our respective student journeys, we're not focusing historically (although we reflect on our personal experiences, of course)-we're looking forward and wondering *Which school should I attend or courses should I choose? Which practicum site will be a good fit for me? How will I know I've found a good supervisor? Will I pass the national exam the first time? Where is a good work fit for me for hours and supervision for licensure? Oral exam?!* Struggle #3: *Chronological . . . so consecutive events as in first this, then this?* Maybe better words than *timeline* are *development* or *progression* . . . ?

So, as students, if we think about student *development* or *progression*, let's challenge linear and unidimensional images of a timeline that might come to mind and consider something that's more layered and interwoven, where things are happening concurrently. See the grid below for several student/post-student activities and the periods during which you'll want to consider them.

Prior to school	School	Practicum	Post graduation / Pre-licensure	Licensure
Self care				
Work, family, friends, fun, etc.				
Network with peers, trainers, supervisors . . . everyone!				
Be an active consumer of therapy				
Choose school: Programs/courses, instructors, etc.				
Consider practicum sites: Preferred models, relational hours, on-site supervision, in-home/in-office, population served, etc.				
	Consider post graduate supervision: Desired experience, theoretical orientations, responsible consumerism, time to licensure plan, etc.			
	Develop your theory of change			
		Prep for and take the national exam ( <i>see Pre-Clinical Fellow rep Tamara's article for more</i> )		
			Prep for and take the oral exam	
	Attend training sessions ( <i>like SoS!</i> ) and conferences			
	Work with your school's career center for practicum & post-practicum experiences			
	Practice effective therapy			
	Present at a training session or conference			
	Be active in professional associations			
	Keep up on research			
	Supervision & consultation			

If you know of other considerations for student development and progression, please let me know!

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