Mid-Term Student Feedback  
SPSY 610 Clinical Supervision

At the beginning of Week 6, I solicited feedback from students using the survey feature in Blackboard. The survey consisted of five questions. Completion was voluntary, and the student responses were reported to me anonymously. The questions and a brief summary of student feedback is provided below.

What aspects of the course are working well and contribute positively to your learning? 
In response to this question, nearly all students referred to the discussions of course readings and personal reflections. Students noted that the organizing questions provided with the weekly readings helped to stimulate personal reflection and make linkages across the readings and to other professional experiences. Students also noted that they liked having each discussion focused on 1-2 topics directly related to the readings, there were clear expectations for postings, and due dates were provided well in advance.

What aspects of the course are not working for you? What suggestions do you have for improvement of the course? 
Here, students raised a number of issues related to time. A few students felt it was difficult to manage participation in class discussion on three different days per week, and suggested only two postings (instead of three) per week. A few other students noted they had found it difficult to manage their time at the beginning of the term but it was becoming more manageable after getting used to the weekly routines. Two students suggested that course “weeks” should run from Monday-Sunday (instead of Sunday-Saturday) so that they could have the full weekend to finish assignments and discussion postings.

How much time would you estimate you are spending each week on this course? If you are spending more than 8 hours per week, please estimate how much time you spend on the following: readings, discussion board, application items/assignments, other (describe).
I had anticipated that students were spending more time on the course than intended, so I also asked students how much time they were spending on the course per week. As a 2-credit course, I had estimated that course activities would total 6-8 hours per week. In response to this question, students reported spending between 5-12 hours on the course per week, with three students spending 9 or more hours per week. Of those three students, each needed additional time for a different type of course activity: one reported spending more time on readings, one reported more time on assignments, and one reported more time on discussion board participation.

Please comment on the interactions with the instructor in this course. Is there anything that would improve the interactions, communication, or feedback you receive in this course?
Responses to this question were positive, with nearly all students mentioning that they like the personalized feedback they receive in the gradebook after discussions and assignments. Students noted that they liked the frequency of feedback (which had been
weekly for the first 4 weeks), and that it was immediate (I completed grading and feedback on the Monday following each week). Two students commented that the individual feedback helped them to improve their performance on the discussion boards. One student suggested more active instructor participation on the discussion board, and another suggested providing instructor feedback on drafts of assignments prior to submission for grading.

Is there anything else you'd like me to know at this point?
One student voiced frustration that his/her initial discussion posts were not generating much response from others, whereas some students regularly received a lot of comments or questions to their initial posts. The student recognized that this may be a reflection on the way the posts are written, but also suggested it may be better to assign people to write responses to specific individuals so that there was more equitable distribution of comments across discussion threads. Additional comments include the following quotes:

“I'm surprised at how much I feel that I'm learning in this course, given its online format. I think that the discussion and points that peers bring up are largely contributing to this--I was a little skeptical of whether an online course would be able to provide me with a foundation to practice as a supervisor in the future, but I have to admit that the course thus far has given me a lot of perspective and new knowledge around supervision.”

“I appriciate that the readings are not excessive and directly tied to the discussion questions. It's obvious that the course has been well planned out and I am enjoying it.”

“I really enjoy the content and feedback from the course. I think that the course requires more work than is warranted for 2-credits (I spend more time on this class then any other of my 4 credit hour courses).”