

FOUNDATION PRACTICUM & SEMINAR I, II
SOWK 615/Spring
SOWK 625/Summer
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Department of Social Work

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

SOWK 615 Foundation Practicum & Seminar I will allow students the opportunity to integrate social work theory and practice knowledge, skills, ethics and values through advanced generalist social work direct practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and or communities. In addition, students will apply the social work theory and practice knowledge, skills, ethics and values learned at a foundation level to engage in culturally competent direct social work practice with people representing diversity of age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Each student will work with the field coordinator to locate agencies with opportunities for master's level practice and supervision commensurate with their learning goals.

Foundation Practicum & Seminar I are required for all students admitted with traditional standing to the MSW program. Students will be placed in agencies, for a total of 460 hours during the spring and summer semesters, that can provide appropriate practice experiences and supervision. Some students may seek a field placement in their place of employment and that is permissible, with approval of both the field coordinator and field supervisor and/or the agency administrator, for either the foundation OR the advanced practicum, although significant opportunity must exist for new assignments that support the educational objectives of the student. Students are expected to apply the advanced generalist practice perspective to their experiences with individual clients, families, groups, agencies, and or communities while in their practicum setting. Seminar will provide an additional 27 hours for student opportunities to share with their student colleagues their experiences and challenges for problem-solving, consultation, feedback, and support. Specific foundation objectives appear in this document but are more fully discussed in the *MSW Field Education Manual*. Student will be expected to actively engage with their field supervisor for at least one hour per week.

SOWK 625 Foundation Practicum & Seminar II is required for all students admitted with traditional standing to the MSW program. Students will be placed in agencies, for a total of 460 hours during spring and summer semesters, that can provide appropriate practice experiences and supervision. Some students may seek a field placement in their place of employment and that is permissible, with approval of both the field coordinator and the practicum supervisor and or agency administrator, for either the foundation OR the advanced practicum, although significant opportunity must exist for new assignments that support the educational objectives of the student. Students are expected to apply the generalist social work practice perspective

to their experiences with individual clients, families, groups, agencies, and or communities while in their practicum setting. Seminar will provide an additional 27 hours for student opportunities to share with their student colleagues their experiences and challenges for problem-solving, consultation, feedback, and support. Specific foundation objectives appear in this document but will be more fully discussed in the MSW Field Practicum Manual. Students will be expected to actively engage with their field supervisor for at least one hour per week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Given regular attendance, appropriate participation, and successful completion of assigned tasks and activities, students will:

1. Practice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels, including with populations-at-risk, using theories of human behavior in the social environment (MSW 1.2, 2.2).
2. Apply knowledge and research about diversity, including diversity of age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, and to use practice methodology that celebrates differences and affirm social and economic justice (MSW 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 3.1).
3. Understand the needs of clients and client systems, knowledge of community resources and service delivery systems, and the ability to obtain services for clients and client systems within agency policy (MSW 1.6).
4. Practice according to the NASW Code of Ethics (MSW 2.3).
5. Differentially apply skills related to interviewing, building relationship, assessing, intervening, and evaluating micro, mezzo, and macro systems (MSW 1.5).
6. Understand and analyze service delivery systems from a social and economic justice and ethical perspective in order to begin to learn to apply the equitable distribution of services, resources, and supports for all micro, mezzo, and macro systems (MSW 3.1, 3.2).
7. Evaluate through supervision and self-reflection one's practice in relation to personal values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors (MSW 1.7, 4.3).
8. Use knowledge from policy, research, and human behavior and the social environment to engage in generalist and improve generalist practice (MSW 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1).
9. Understand the use of inter-professional collaborative approaches to obtain and provide services that are integrated, coordinated, and identified as helpful by micro, mezzo, and macro systems (MSW 3.2).

10. Understand unique opportunities and barriers that are present in rural and small community social work practice settings (MSW 1.1, 3.1, 3.2).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Field Hour Log

A regular schedule negotiated with the field instructor should be maintained. The field hours are to be spread over the weeks allotted for field and seminar, with the student typically in field approximately 20 hours per week during the spring semester and 16 hours per week during the summer semester. Students will log the number of hours in field and a summary of weekly activities. The log will be submitted by email bi-weekly in the D2L dropbox. The log can be written in paragraph form or as a bulleted list of activities. This document should include reactions, thoughts, and questions related to the activities. This is the only official documentation of hours required. Your agency may have additional requirements to which you will need to adhere. Accuracy and integrity count.

2) Learning Contract (See Appendix 10 MSW Field Education Manual)

Develop and implement, a learning contract, in collaboration with field instructor and field director/coordinator that integrates experiences in the practicum setting with the seminar, and draws on generalist information, skills, and knowledge gleaned from the classroom. The learning plan must integrate the following categories and the course objectives (syllabus p.3). Seminar assignments can be used to partially meet learning contract goals.

- *Professional Learning* includes the development of professional identity, incorporation of the NASW Code of Ethics into practice, the ability to reflect on and critically analyze one's practice, taking active responsibility for one's learning and performing in a professional manner.
- *Direct Social Work Practice* includes the development of knowledge and skills to work effectively with individuals (micro), groups and families (mezzo) and to engage in culturally competent direct practice, utilizing theoretical knowledge to understand the client system, assessment of strengths the client system brings to the situation as well as barriers clients face in obtaining their goals.
- *Community and Organizational Social Work Practice* includes developing the knowledge and skills to understand the organization and the community both as the context for culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and small groups, as well as to understand community organizations as macro level client systems in and of themselves. This includes mezzo level practice with boards of directors, task groups and community collaborations.

- *Research and Policy* includes the development of knowledge and skills needed to utilize the research literature for effective, generalist social work practice and to analyze the impact of social welfare policies on client systems, workers and agencies.
- *Engagement in Seminar*: including the active engagement in discussion of direct and indirect practice, participation in all assignments, and evaluation of one's practice.

This assignment is due the third week of the spring semester. A second learning contract **if needed** for the summer semester will be due the third week of the semester.

3) Two Case Assessment and Intervention Plans

This is a two part assignment. Each student will choose one micro or mezzo case, *and* one macro case to post. Due dates for each part of this assignment appear on the class schedule.

It may be useful to think about this assignment as an 'on-line case consultation'. First, the student will post the answers to as many questions from the list below as they can (Case #1, posting #1) and state what feedback, assistance, or other contributions they want from their student/colleagues. All students must respond to two of the cases posted in the D2L discussion forum based on the feedback, assistance, or other contributions requested.

Second, the student will complete the remaining answers to the questions that could not be answered in the first posting (Case #1, posting #2) and state how feedback, assistance, or other contributions from their student/colleagues was used or considered. All students will again respond to two cases posted in the D2L discussion forum with feedback, assistance, or other contributions.

Each student will do the same for a second case (Case #2, posting #1) and (Case #2, posting #2).

The posting should include the following:

- List the presenting problem(s).
- Provide the problem(s) as defined by the client/family and/or organization.
- Describe human development, cultural, economic, social, gender, racial, and/or ethnic issues that must be considered in addressing the issue.
- Outline issues related to rural social work practice that must be considered.
- Describe agency, local, state and/or federal policies that could potentially impact this case.
- Note ethical issues could be present in this case and how you would address them.
- Describe in what ways your responses and choices might be influenced by personal factors including biases and prejudices and how you will address them.
- List interventions that you considered utilizing in this case.
- Note theory (theories) you utilize in developing the interventions.
- Outline the support you found from the literature/foundation course textbooks for your interventions.

- Provide a description of interventions the client chooses to utilize.
- Describe the role other community agencies played in the interventions.
- Define the role you played with each agency involved in the intervention plan.
- List any needs that could not be met with current resources that require further investigation or action.
- Share whether or not the outcomes thus far were as you anticipated or intended. Why or why not?
- List factors you think contributed to the outcomes.
- Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention.

4) Current Topics in Social Work

Each student will be asked to choose a current issue in the field of social work applicable to their field practicum setting and lead a discussion on the topic during face to face seminar. Students are asked to provide their classmates with a brief summary of the topic with references to at least 3 supporting articles, documents, books or news releases (written within the last two year). When applicable, the impact that rural social work has on the topic area should be addressed. The following are a list of suggested topic areas that students might consider choosing for this assignment.

Topic Suggestions:

- Ethics Of Direct Practice
- Ethics Of Indirect Practice
- Bio-Psycho-Social Assessment With Specific Populations
 - Elderly
 - Adults
 - Adolescence
 - Children
- Implication Of The Rural Context Of Direct Practice
- Implication Of The Rural Context Of Indirect Practice
- Use Of Evaluation Instruments For Direct Practice
- Use Of Evaluation Instruments For Indirect Practice
- Intervention Planning And Goal Setting – Direct Practice
- Intervention Planning And Goal Setting – Indirect Practice
- Innovative Interventions For Direct Practice
 - Elderly
 - Adults
 - Adolescence
 - Children
- Innovative Interventions For Indirect Practice
- Implications Of Policy On Direct Practice
- Implications Of Policy On Indirect Practice

Successful Completion of the Course

Successful completion of the seminar will include the following components:

- Active engagement in direct and indirect social work practice and supervision.

- Active, prompt engagement in the seminar activities and assignments.
- Presentation of cases for consultation – direct and indirect cases.
- Participation in case consultation.
- Current topics and supporting articles, documents, books, or news releases to share with colleagues related to practicum setting at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
- Accurate accounting of time spent in agency via annotated time logs.
- Participation in weekly supervisory meetings including assessments midway and at the end of each semester with the field instructor and the field coordinator.

SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1

Topic: Discussion of Seminar assignments and expectations

Week 2

Field Log due

Week 3

Topic: Bio-Psycho-Social Assessment With Specific Populations

- Elderly
- Adults
- Adolescence
- Children

Week 4

Field Log due

Week 5

Topic: Implication Of The Rural Context Of Direct Practice

Week 6

Field Log due

Week 7

Topic: Implication Of The Rural Context Of Indirect Practice

Week 8

Field Log due

Week 9

Topic: Use Of Evaluation Instruments For Direct Practice

Week 10

Field log due

Week 11**Week 12**

Topic: Use Of Evaluation Instruments For Indirect Practice

Week 13

Field log due

Week 14

Topic: Intervention Planning And Goal Setting – Direct Practice

Week 15

Topic: Intervention Planning And Goal Setting – Indirect Practice

SUMMER SEMESTER SCHEDULE**Week 1**

Topic: Innovative Interventions For Direct Practice

- Elderly
- Adults
- Adolescence
- Children

Week 2

Field Log due

Week 3

Topic: Innovative Interventions For Indirect Practice

Week 4

Field log due

Week 5

Topic: Implications Of Policy On Direct Practice

Week 6

Field log due

Week 7

Week 8

Topic: Implications Of Policy On Indirect Practice

Week 9

Field Log Due

Week 10

Final field log due