

ADVANCED STANDING PREPARATION SEMINAR
Social Work 650
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Department of Social Work

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This seminar is required for all students admitted to the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at Minnesota State Mankato. Such students have already attained an undergraduate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program, thereby completing their “foundation” content. This seminar is designed to review and extend these students’ preparation for advanced generalist graduate-level social work, while also building a strong cohort of classmates. The Advanced Standing Preparation Seminar helps students refine their professional self-identity as advanced generalist social workers while ensuring that they are ready to enter the concentration year of the advanced generalist MSW program. The course content will focus on the CSWE foundation areas: 1) Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 2) Social Welfare Policy, with an emphasis on social and economic justice and systems change 3) Values and Ethics, 4) Diversity distinguished by age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, 5) Micro, Mezzo, and Macro level Practice, and 6) Research. SOWK 650 will also provide students with an introductory orientation to issues impacting advanced generalist social work practice in rural and small communities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Be ready to begin the Advanced Standing version of the MSW program, recognizing their strengths and responding to any deficits in their preparation, understanding graduate-level expectations, and developing self-care strategies including use of the professional cohort (MSW 4.3).
- 2) Possess the technological and academic skills (e.g., Library/Web research. Listserv use, D2L, APA style, critical thinking, professional writing) to successfully complete graduate education in social work (MSW 1.1, 4.3).
- 3) Critically analyze and apply the social work value base, ethical standard, an ethical decision-making model to advanced generalist social work practice (MSW 2.3).
- 4) Understand the research processes used in social science research and the application to practice and program evaluation (MSW 1.3, 2.2, 4.1).
- 5) Critically examine the research literature and apply to evidence-based advanced generalist social work practice

- 6) Critically analyze and apply the major bio-psycho-social theoretical frameworks that inform advanced generalist direct social work practice (MSW 2.2).
- 7) Critically analyze and apply the theoretical frameworks that inform advanced generalist indirect social work practice (MSW 2.2).
- 8) Understand and apply the generalist practice model and skills for social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels (MSW 1.2, 1.6).
- 9) Critically examine social problems and policy issues that impact advanced generalist social work practice and understand how to apply a policy analysis framework to guide policy practice (MSW 3.2).
- 10) Critically examine awareness of and knowledge about the spectrum of human diversity in order to engage in culturally competent advanced generalist social work practice, with an emphasis on understanding the cultural context of rural and small communities (MSW 1.4, 3.1).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will have a set of readings due for each class, providing some of the seminal literature on the topic for this class, and including some of the major readings from each of the foundation courses. Students will be prepared to discuss those readings in class and on-line. An ongoing theme will be readiness to move to advanced study across all areas of the curriculum and students will do self-assessment assignments for each area (Practice, Values/Ethics, Diversity, HBSE, Policy, and Research). The seminal project for this course is a comprehensive case application paper incorporating all areas of the curriculum to a field of practice and client population of their choice.

Course Participation. It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions both when on-campus and on-line. While a great deal of the learning for this course will be carried out independently, it is a graduate seminar which means it will focus on discussion of readings rather than on presentation and lecture. This course is only 10 sessions, and students cannot miss more than one session without it impacting their grade. Five points will be deducted from a student's overall earned points for each class session missed. Accommodations can be made for emergency absence (e.g., illness, injuries), but vacations, family events, and other similar situations are not considered excused emergencies.

Required Reading Critiques (30 points, 30%). Students are required to read all required readings prior to class and actively and meaningfully participate in all in-person and on-line discussions. For each in-person and on-line class session students are required to write a 300 word narrative describing the salient points/information/concepts of the required readings and examining how the information can be applied to the students evidence-based generalist social work practice. Narratives will be posted on D2L.

Application of Ethical Decision-Making Model (10 points, 10%). Students will write an essay that describes the ethical decision making process in an assigned case.

Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper (each paper is worth 25 pts/50 points total, 50%). Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate and social work values/ethics, aspects of human diversity, theories of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy, and the generalist direct and indirect intervention model in a field of social work practice with a individual client system experiencing a specific social problem with services delivered by a specific type of organization within a rural community context. Students will write two papers: 1) application and integration of theory, practice, aspects of diversity, ethics, and policy for advanced generalist direct practice at the micro level, and 2) application and integration of theory, practice, aspects of diversity, ethics, and policy for advanced generalist in-direct practice at the mezzo/macro level.

Self-assessment Assignment (10 pts; 10%): Students will identify their competencies for graduate-level education in the concentration year of the MSW program. In particular, they will assess their readiness to move from foundation to advanced graduate coursework in the areas of Practice at Micro, Mezzo, and Macro-levels, Social Work Values and Ethics, Diversity, HBSE, Policy, and Research.

SOWK 650 COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Topic: Introductions & Program Orientation

- Introductions of Students & Instructor(s)
- Overview of Seminar and Orientation to Advanced Standing Program
- Review the definition of generalist practice & the MSW program definition of advanced generalist practice.
- Review of the MSW program's definition of evidence-based practice.
- Self-Assessment of Social Work Knowledge, Values, and Skills (Introduction)

Topic: Writing, Technology and Graduate-Level Research and Study

- Orientation to Desire2Learn and Library System
 - Online Tutorial on use of D2L
 - Article location using MSU Memorial Library Online Database services
 - Discussion of assignments
 - Required Reading Critiques
 - Application of Ethical-Decision Making Model to Case Study
 - Critique of Research Article
 - Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper

Week 2

Topic: Social Work Values and Ethics

- NASW Code of Ethics
- Ethical Decision Making Model
- Contemporary Social Issues and Ethical Dilemmas for Social Workers

Week 3

Topics: Applied Social Work Research: Evidence-Based Practice

- Using the research literature
- The importance of evidence-based practice
- Using the Language of Research
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Designs
- Measurement and Data Collection

Week 4

Topics: Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Part 1)

- Advances in Understanding: Neurobiological Advances

Week 5

Topics: Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Part 2)

- Ecosystems Theory (systems theory and ecological model)
- Review of macro practice theories

Week 6

Topic: Micro-level Direct Practice

- Overview of the generalist practice intervention model for direct practice: engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, follow-up.

Week 7

Topics: Human Diversity and Cultural Competence

- Examination of the spectrum of human diversity
- Oppression, Social Justice, and Communities “at-risk”
- Cultural competence in rural and small communities

Week 8

Topics: Mezzo/Macro Practice: Task Groups & Organizations

- Overview of the generalist practice intervention model for in-direct practice: engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, follow-up
- Social service/human service organizations: issues in management and service delivery

Week 9

Topics: Social Welfare Policy & Macro Practice: Policy and Community

- Social Welfare Policy Analysis; Communities and Community Organizing; Creating Change through Legislative Advocacy

Week 10

Topics: Wrap-Up of Seminar