

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 584 – Advanced Field Practice
Section 003
4 credit hours
Summer 2019

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1 and by appointment

Prerequisite(s): 510, 512, 513, 519, 522, 537, 538, 539, 542, and 543 or 544 or Advanced Standing

Code of Conduct

It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct Code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook (www.csw.utk.edu). Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Field Placement Contract.

The Honor Statement

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (*Hilltopics*).

University Civility Statement

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>

Disability

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, contact The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Student Disability Services office at 100 Dunford Hall (865) 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Dimensions of Diversity

The College of Social Work and the University of Tennessee welcome and honor all people. In accordance with the U.S. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement), “the dimensions of diversity as the intersectionality of multiple factors, including” age, class, color, culture, mental or physical disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, national origin, political ideology, race, regionality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. The College values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. “A person’s diverse life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim” (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement). The College of Social Work promotes social justice and social change, and strives to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

Course Description

This is a required concentration course. Instruction and supervision in advanced evidence-based social work practice. This course includes an agency-based experience. This practicum is completed concurrently with required and elective concentration coursework.

The focus is on the application of advanced social work knowledge, values, ethics, and skills to the practice setting. Students continue to apply, practice, and integrate generalist course content and progress to integration of advanced content in their chosen concentration. Students are given the opportunity to apply research and theoretical knowledge to complex direct and indirect practice assignments. Experienced practitioners/field instructors in the agency setting provide instruction, supervision, and support to students to assist them in developing competencies in engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation of practice.

Course Rationale

The field setting provides a unique learning environment in which the social work profession’s knowledge, values, and skills can be observed, learned, and practiced. The concentration field placement is critical to the students’ capacity to integrate learning from their generalist coursework and make the transition to advanced practice knowledge and skills. In this setting, students receive continuous evaluative feedback that enables them to refine practice skills and increase self-awareness. Students are able to directly experience cultural diversity and develop skills in culturally affirming practice. Students are also able to directly identify and experience ethical problems and dilemmas and to practice strategies for resolution. The concentration placement prepares students to practice competently and ethically upon graduation from the program.

Course Competencies

Students enrolled in SW 584 during the summer session are usually beginning their concentration field experience. The first task for students starting field in a new placement is to orient to the agency. Given the short summer term and the time needed for orientation, students beginning a concentration field placement in the summer session will only address four of the nine required competencies for concentration field. The four required competencies are Competencies 1, 2, 6, and 7. These competencies are listed in bold below.

If a student is continuing or completing concentration field in the summer session, the student will be required to address a minimum of four competencies. The student and field instructor

should decide together which competencies are to be addressed in summer and develop assignments on the learning plan only for the agreed-upon competencies.

Course competencies differ according to concentration. All of the competencies for concentration field are listed below by concentration in Evidence-Based Interpersonal Practice (EBIP) or Organizational Leadership (OL).

EBIP Concentration Competencies

Competency 1 – Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in interpersonal practice.

Competency 2 – Engage in interpersonal practices that are responsive to diversity and difference.

Competency 3 – Advocate for human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice within the context of interpersonal practice.

Competency 4 - Analyze and apply research evidence for interpersonal practice and apply practice experience to research.

Competency 5 – Analyze organizational and public policies that impact client wellbeing, service access and delivery, and articulate strategies for policy change.

Competency 6 - Demonstrate evidence-informed strategies for engagement with diverse clients.

Competency 7 – Demonstrate use of an advanced knowledge base to develop comprehensive client assessments.

Competency 8 - Select and apply culturally relevant, evidence-based methods of intervention with clients.

Competency 9 – Use multiple methods to evaluate and improve practice with client systems.

OL Concentration Competencies

Competency 1 – Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in the organizational practice setting.

Competency 2 - Engage in organizational practices that are responsive to diversity and difference.

Competency 3 – Advocate for human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice in the organizational practice context.

Competency 4 – Analyze and apply research evidence for organizational practice and apply practice experience to research.

Competency 5 – Analyze organizational and public policies that impact client wellbeing, service access and delivery and articulate strategies for policy change.

Competency 6 - Demonstrate evidence-informed strategies for engagement with organizations, constituencies, and communities.

Competency 7 - Demonstrate use of an advanced knowledge base to develop comprehensive assessments of organizations, programs, and communities.

Competency 8 – Use advanced knowledge and research evidence to identify and apply culturally relevant interventions in the organizational setting.

Competency 9 – Use multiple methods and relevant theories to evaluate and improve program outcomes with client systems.

Course Outline

Students enrolled in SW 584 will complete a Learning Plan with their agency field instructors at the beginning of each semester. This individualized learning plan will delineate specific learning experiences and assignments for each course competency. These learning activities will be completed within the field practicum and will comprise the assignments for the course.

Students should select and complete the Learning Plan specific to their concentration in Evidence-Based Interpersonal Practice (EBIP) or Organizational Leadership (OL). This reflects the specialized knowledge and skills associated with each concentration.

As stated above, students who are beginning their concentration field experience in the summer are only expected to address Competencies 1, 2, 6 and 7. Students who are continuing or completing their concentration field sequence in the summer session are to address a minimum of four competencies.

Students who are completing certificate programs may also have specific requirements for their field activities that must be integrated into the learning plan. Students in certificate programs may refer to the *Certificate Program Field Procedures* under MSSW Field Forms on the CSW website for more specific information. Students may also consult with the chair of their certificate program for information about certificate-specific field requirements.

Grading Information

Grading for SW 584 is Satisfactory/No Credit. The Field Coordinator is the course instructor and is responsible for assigning the final grade. In order to receive a grade of Satisfactory in SW 584, students must complete the following requirements:

- Students are required to complete a minimum total of 672 placement hours and 12 credit hours for advanced/concentration field. Students who are extending field over 3 semesters will enroll in SW 584 three times to earn the 12 credit hours. SW 584 in the summer session requires completion of a minimum of 160 hours in field placement. SW 584 in fall and spring require completion of a minimum of 224 hours per semester.

Required minimum hours for field per semester:

160 for Summer (Students encouraged to complete more than the minimum)

224 for Fall

224 for Spring

608 (Total hours *if students complete only the minimum required for each term*)

672 is required for completion of concentration field and graduation.

As indicated by the chart, if students complete only the minimum hours required for summer, fall, and spring, they will not meet the minimum total requirement of 672 field hours. Consequently, students who complete only 160 hours in summer must have a plan to complete the additional hours over the course of the academic year. Additional hours may be completed within fall and spring semesters, but students should also expect to complete a substantial number of hours during the semester break between fall and spring semesters. Students are strongly encouraged, if possible, to exceed the minimum requirement of 160 hours for summer so that the additional hours can be applied to the total requirement of 672 hours by end of concentration field.

All field hours must be documented on the student's time sheet in IPT and approved by the Field Instructor. The Field Instructor's signature signifies approval. Specific plans for completion of the required 672 hours must be approved by the student's Field Coordinator.

- Complete the learning activities listed on their learning plans and enter sufficient information in the column *Evidence of Assignment Completion* to document satisfactory completion.
- Students are responsible for completing and submitting all field-related documents by the due dates provided to them at the beginning of the semester.
- Receive a rating of at least 3 on every competency practice behavior on the End of Semester Evaluation by the last semester of concentration field. This rating is assigned by the Field Instructor. The rating scale is detailed below.
- A student who receives the grade of NC for SW 584 will be dismissed from the MSSW program.

Evaluation Rating Scale

4 = Advanced Competence - Student consistently demonstrates effective integration of knowledge, values, and skills at a more advanced level than would be expected for a student at this point in the MSSW program student consistently exceeds performance expectations.

Student goes “above and beyond” on assignments and consistently seeks and integrates feedback to enhance competency.

3 = Competence – Student demonstrates consistent integration of knowledge, values, and skills at the expected level of performance for a student at this point in the MSSW program. Student is meeting expectations on all assignments and integrates feedback to enhance competency.

2 = Emerging Competence – Student demonstrates beginning capacity to integrate knowledge, values, and skills. Student is using feedback to build competency, but performance is not yet at the expected level for where the student is in the MSSW program. In the first semester of placement, a student often receives a rating of 2 on one or more practice behaviors due to insufficient opportunity to practice the skill.

Please note: Emerging competence is an acceptable rating at midterm and at the end of the semester **UNLESS** the 2 is assigned on the end of semester evaluation for the student’s final semester in the placement. Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate competence and receive a rating of at least 3 on all practice behaviors by the end of the placement. A rating of 2 should not be assigned to a student on the end of semester evaluation for the final semester of placement unless there are concerns about the student’s readiness for graduation and performance as a new professional social worker.

If a student earns multiple ratings of 2 on an evaluation, the student and field instructor should discuss and document what is needed for the student to achieve competence and forward the documentation to the field coordinator.

1 = Insufficient Competence – Student does not demonstrate essential knowledge, values, and/or skills. Student is not completing assignments adequately and is not responding appropriately to feedback. This student may receive a grade of No Credit for field.

NI= Not Initiated – (Mid-term Evaluation only) – This rating signifies that student has not yet had the opportunity to complete specific assignments and to demonstrate the relevant knowledge, values and skills.