

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Work 544 Foundation Field Practice

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.utk.csw.edu) Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Field Placement Code of Conduct.

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*, 2007).

Disability

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact The University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Course Description

This is a required foundation course. Instruction and supervision in generalist social work practice. This course includes a seminar and agency-based internship.

The focus is on the application of social work knowledge, values, ethics, and skills to the practice setting. This course is a continuation of SW 542 – Foundation Field which begins in the Fall Semester. Students continue in the same agency placement for SW 544. Students continue to integrate and apply foundation content and demonstrate mastery of foundation competencies.

The foundation field practica draw upon the content of all academic courses as the student uses the field agency experience to identify, apply, practice, and integrate generalist and advanced social work knowledge and skills. Through provision of client services students refine direct practice skills and apply the steps of evidence-based practice. In the field agency setting, students are also able to identify and integrate knowledge of social, economic, and political environments, social welfare policy, and develop advocacy skills to advance social justice for at-risk populations. This course enables students to develop a deepening awareness of issues of diversity and oppression in direct and indirect practice contexts and activities.

Course Rationale

Foundation Field is critical to the students' capacity to integrate the broad knowledge base required for effective generalist social work practice regardless of setting. The field practicum experience enables students to identify and respond to issues of social justice, deepen awareness of and sensitivity to diversity, and use an ecological approach to solving real client problems. The foundation field courses lay the essential groundwork of generalist practice competencies preparing students to progress to concentration field.

Course Competencies

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Develop client assessments using a cultural, ecological, transactional, developmental framework reflecting an awareness of multiple cultures within client systems, the effects of discrimination and oppression, and the capacity to engage clients as expert informants to identify client worldview and cultural strengths, resources, and natural support systems.** (Field- F.1; Diversity F.3, F.4; Pops at-Risk and SJ- F.2)
- 2. Demonstrate effective, differential use of communication and interviewing skills across client populations that reflect awareness of and respect for cultural differences.**
(Field- F.3; Diversity F.1)
- 3. Demonstrate skills in engaging, maintaining, and appropriately terminating helping relationships with diverse clients/client systems.**
(Field – F.2, F.3; Diversity F.1)
- 4. Identify ethical and value conflicts in direct and indirect practice with client systems, exhibit capacity to tolerate ambiguity, and demonstrate effective use of strategies for resolution.** (Field F.7, F.8; Values/Ethics F.3, F.4)
- 5. Demonstrate appropriate and ethical professional conduct and boundaries in accordance with the NASW and IFSW Codes of Ethics, applicable laws, professional standards, and organizational policies and procedures and function appropriately within the structure of the agency and service delivery system.** (Field F.9, F.11; Values/Ethics F.1)
- 6. Demonstrate consistent, effective use of supervision and consultation regarding ethical and cultural issues and appropriate assessments, interventions, evaluations, and terminations with and on behalf of client systems.** (Field F. 8; Diversity F.5)
- 7. Critically analyze and evaluate potential interventions; select and implement those that are culturally affirming and supported by empirical evidence.** (Field F.2 Critical Thinking/EBP F.3, Diversity F.1, F.4)

8. Identify gaps in and barriers to culturally relevant services, and instances of discrimination, oppression, and denial of human rights and use evidence-based methods of advocacy to advance well-being, human rights and social and economic justice. (Field F.4, F.10; Pops-at-Risk, F.4.,F.6)

**SW 544: Foundation Field Seminar Course Outline
Spring 2009**

Seminar Description

The seminar for SW 544 is focused on integration of academic coursework and field experiences. Content may be delivered in a face-to-face, online, or combination format. Students will earn a total of 10 clock hours for field for completion of the seminar.

This seminar will focus on integration with field experience of three program content areas: Diversity, Populations at Risk and Social Justice (Course Competencies 1, 2, 3, 7, 8) and Values and Ethics (Course Competencies 4, 5). There are no written assignments.

Seminar Requirements

Attendance at field seminar is required. If a student must miss a seminar session, s/he must contact the seminar instructor on his/her campus to arrange for completion of a make-up assignment. Students are expected to arrive at seminar on time. Students who arrive late delay and/or disrupt the schedule of activities.

Each student is expected to actively and fully engage in seminar discussions and activities. Students will not need laptop computers in seminar sessions. The seminar instructor reserves the right to ask students to close laptops in order to participate fully and respectfully in class discussions and activities.

Grading Information

The SW 544 Field Seminar is a component of the SW 544 Foundation Field Practicum. Grading for SW 544 is Satisfactory/No Credit, including the Field Seminar. Students must receive a Satisfactory in Field Seminar in order to receive a Satisfactory grade for SW 544.

Requirements for a Satisfactory grade are as follows:

- Attendance at all seminar sessions and/or completion of makeup assignments for missed sessions.
- Punctual arrival.
- Active participation in seminar discussions and activities.

Students who fail to meet the requirements of Field Seminar will receive an Incomplete or No Credit grade for SW 544. Students who receive an Incomplete will be required to meet with the seminar instructor to develop a plan for successful completion of the seminar.