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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

Prerequisite(s): 510, 512, 513, 519, 522, 537, 538, 539, 542, and 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, please contact The University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services 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 specialization 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 specialization 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 foundation course content and progress to integration of advanced content in their chosen specialization. Students are given the opportunity to apply the steps of evidence-based practice 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 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 specialization field placement is critical to the students’ capacity to integrate learning from their foundation 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 specialization placement prepares students to practice competently and ethically upon graduation from the program.

**Course Competencies**

Although all students in SW 586 must demonstrate sufficient mastery of the seven course competencies, these competencies are operationalized differently according to specialization. The competencies are listed below by specialization in Evidence-Based Interpersonal Practice (EBIP) or Organizational Leadership (OL).
EBIP Specialization Competencies

**Competency 1 – Ethics and Professional Behavior**  Student will be able to demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics, laws, regulations, and professional standards and apply models for ethical decision-making. (EPAS 1, EBIP 1.1, 1.3)

**Competency 2 – Advocacy**  Student will be able to advocate for human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. (EPAS 3, EBIP 3.1, 3.2)

**Competency 3 – Policy**  Student will be able to analyze agency, local, state, and federal policies that impact client wellbeing, service access and delivery, and articulate strategies for policy change. (EPAS 5, EBIP 5.1)

**Competency 4 – Assessment**  Student will be able to demonstrate use of an advanced knowledge base to develop comprehensive and highly individualized client assessments. (EPAS 7, EBIP 2.1, 7.1)

**Competency 5 – Intervention**  Student will be able to select and implement evidence-based methods of intervention. (EPAS 8, EBIP 8.1)

**Competency 6 – Practice Evaluation**  Student will be able to use multiple methods to evaluate and improve practice with client systems. (EPAS 9, EBIP 4.1, 9.1)

**Competency 7 – Professional Development and Self-Care**  Student will develop and implement strategies for professional development and self-care. (EPAS 4, EBIP 4.1)

OL Specialization Competencies

**Competency 1 – Ethics and Professional Behavior**  Student will be able to demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics, laws, regulations, and professional standards and apply models of ethical decision-making. (EPAS 1, OL 1.1)

**Competency 2 – Advocacy**  Student will be able to advocate for human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. (EPAS 3, OL 3.1, 3.2)

**Competency 3 – Policy**  Student will be able to analyze agency, local, state, and federal policies that impact client wellbeing, service access and delivery and articulate strategies for policy change. (EPAS 5, OL 5.1)

**Competency 4 – Assessment**  Student will be able to demonstrate use of an advanced knowledge base to develop comprehensive assessments of client systems, including organizations and communities. (EPAS 7, OL 2.1, 7.1)
Competency 5 – Intervention  Student will be able to use research evidence and theories of organizational management to select and implement interventions in the organizational setting. (EPAS 8, OL 8.1)

Competency 6 – Program Evaluation  Student will be able to use multiple methods to evaluate and improve program outcomes with client systems. (EPAS 9, OL 4.1, 9.1)

Competency 7 – Professional Development and Self-Care  Student will develop and implement strategies for professional development and self-care. (EPAS 4, OL 4.1)

Course Outline
Students enrolled in SW 586 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. Although all students in SW 586 must demonstrate mastery of the seven course competencies and related practice behaviors, these competencies are operationalized differently on the specific concentration learning plans. Students should select and complete the Learning Plan specific to their specialization in Evidence-Based Interpersonal Practice (EBIP) or Organizational Leadership (OL). This reflects the specialized knowledge and skills associated with each specialization. For example, students in the EBIP specialization will address the assessment competency by completing comprehensive assessments of individual clients, while students in the OL specialization will focus on assessment of larger client systems.

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.

Students in both specializations will utilize critical thinking and evidence-based practice to guide intervention. The seven competencies also clearly reflect the broad-based micro-macro theme of the curriculum. All students must demonstrate competency in policy practice, advocacy and interventions to promote human rights, social, economic, and environmental justice.

Grading Information
Grading for SW 586 is Satisfactory/No Credit. The Field Coordinator is the course instructor and is responsible for assigning the final grade. In order to receive a Satisfactory grade in SW 586, students must complete the following requirements:

- Complete at least the minimum number of required hours in the agency placement. These 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. SW 586 is the first in a sequence of advanced field courses requiring a total of 672 placement hours. Students who are extending field over 3 semesters will enroll in SW 584 in the
fall and spring semesters. 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.

- Receive a rating of at least 3 on every competency practice behavior on the End of Semester Evaluation. This rating is assigned by the Field Instructor.
  In the first semester of placement, a student may receive a rating of 2 on one or more practice behaviors due to insufficient opportunity to practice the skill. If the student receives a 1 on any competency, the student is in jeopardy of receiving a grade of No Credit (NC) for the course. Students are expected to receive a rating of at least 3 on every competency practice behavior at the end of the final semester of SW 586.

- Students are responsible for completing and submitting all field-related documents by the due dates provided to them at the beginning of the semester.

- A student who receives the grade of NC for SW 586 will be dismissed from the MSSW program.