

(Matching)
New Course Request

SFP 09 2008
Indiana University

East Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit Graduate credit Professional credit 90

1. School/Division Social Work 2. Academic Subject Code SWK

3. Course Number S555 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services) 4. Instructor _____

5. Course Title Social Work Practicum I

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional) _____
(Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2008

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _____ to _____

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes No _____

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes _____ No

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: (Matching - MCI) The MSW Social Work Practicum I is an educationally-directed practice experience under the direct supervision of an approved field instructor. The assigned faculty liaison oversees the practicum to ensure that course objectives have been met. The practicum provides opportunities for the application and integration of classroom concepts and principles for the development of core skills in generalist social work practice.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _____ or Variable from _____ to _____

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _____ to _____

13. Estimated enrollment: 30 of which 100% percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: _____ Will this course be required for majors? Yes

15. Justification for new course: This course is required in MSW Program; pulling from MCI.

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

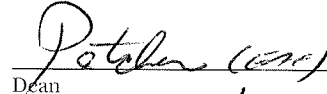
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

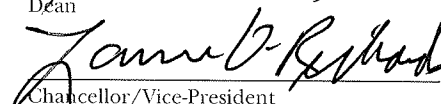
Submitted by:

Approved by:

 Date 7-24-08
Department Chairman/Division Director

 Date 7-24-08
Dean

Date _____
Dean of Graduate School (when required)

 Date 7/28/08
Chancellor/Vice-President

Date _____
University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

Indiana University School of Social Work

S555 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I

COURSE SYLLABUS (3 credits)

Prerequisite: *S501 Professional Social Work at the Masters Level: An Immersion*
Pre or Co-requisites: *S502 Research I*
S503 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
S504 Professional Practice Skills I
S505 Social Policy Analysis and Practice
S514 Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups
S516 Social Work Practice II: Organizations, Communities, Societies

Course Description

The MSW Social Work Practicum I is an educationally-directed practice experience under the direct supervision of an approved field instructor. The assigned field liaison oversees the practicum to ensure that course objectives have been met. The practicum provides opportunities for the application and integration of classroom concepts and principles for the development of core skills in generalist social work practice with selected social systems using a strengths perspective. It builds upon the knowledge and skills learned and developed during the immersion and intermediate course work of the program.

Learning opportunities emphasize the values, and ethics of the profession, fosters the integration of empirical and practice-based knowledge; and promotes the development of professional competence. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated on the basis of criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of program objectives.

The Field Practice Seminar is designed to assist students in integrating classroom learning with the experience of an internship. Students will also be introduced to assessment systems including the DSM and SWOT. The seminar provides a supportive setting for students to discuss practice issues raised in the field placement related to their Learning Agreement and field experience. This involves recognizing/exploring professional and personal biases, discussing ethical dilemmas and supervisory issues and increasing cross-cultural competencies.

Course Objectives

Through active participation in the learning experiences and completion of the readings, assignments, and learning projects offered throughout this course, learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Apply the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice according to the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics.
2. Identify and respect the positive value of human commonalities and differences especially in relation to age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
3. Identify the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and identify and apply strategies and skills of change that advance social and economic justice.
4. Apply knowledge of life-span variables and use theoretical frameworks to understand the interactions among individuals and between individuals and social systems (i.e., families, groups, organizations and communities).
5. Function effectively within a social service organization and identify potential issues for organizational change.
6. Develop critical thinking skills in the application of appropriate theories, assessment systems (DSM) knowledge, and skills for generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes.

7. Analyze, formulate and influence the impact of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies.
8. Apply knowledge of agency history, policies, procedures and programs and their relationship to current social work practice.
9. Understand the history of social work in relation to the current issues of practice.
10. Use communication skills and understand their differential application with a variety of client populations, colleagues, and the community.
11. Apply the knowledge and skills of graduate social work practice (including preparing, beginning, exploring, assessing, contracting, working, evaluating and ending) with systems of all sizes.
12. Use supervision and consultation appropriately in social work practice.
13. Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.

Required Text

IU School of Social Work MSW Comprehensive Handbook. The MSW Handbook provides a full description of field policies, safety information and required forms for educational assessment, planning and evaluation. Students are also required to do professional reading in the specific area of the placement agency's social work practice. These readings may be recommended by the field instructor, field liaison or identified by the student him/herself. These readings should be listed on the mid-point and final evaluation.

Course Content and Learning Opportunities

Agencies selected for Practicum I placements must provide a broad range of interpersonal and leadership practice learning opportunities. Students are expected to be involved in community-based practice: potential sites include multi-service centers, community support programs, the urban church project, public housing communities, schools, community health centers and children/family shelters.

Suggested learning activities for each goal are listed below. The following learning activities are not intended to be exclusive but represent a range of learning opportunities relevant to the practicum course objectives.

Goal I: Professional Growth and Development – *Agency placements should provide students the opportunity to demonstrate application of social work values and ethics including commitment to ongoing professional development; and through weekly supervision with a qualified field instructor identify personal strengths and areas for growth and an understanding of the professional use of self and utilize supervision and consultation appropriately for generalist social work practice.*

- Identify personal and professional values in relation to specific assignments and discuss with the field instructor the potential impact of conflict between personal and professional values and strategies for resolving conflict. (Objective 1)
- Review and analyze the NASW Code of Ethics in relation to selected agency assignments. (Objective #1)
- Read current research studies related to agency practice and identify how they apply to specific agency assignments. (Objective #13)
- Devise and implement strategies to evaluate practice with clients of all system sizes. (Objective #13)
- Participate in the design, data analysis and/or knowledge dissemination of a program evaluation within the agency. (Objective #13)
- Prepare agendas for weekly supervisory sessions that identify specific strengths and learning needs in relation to agency assignments. (Objective #12)
- Complete a process recording that identify the student's awareness of self and their professional purpose in the specific interview and client situation. (Objectives #10, 11 & 13)
- Maintain a log of practicum activities that identify awareness of personal biases and reactions and discuss with field instructor during weekly supervision. (Objective #2)

- Identify resources within and outside the agency for professional consultation on issues outside of the student and field instructor's specific expertise. (Objectives #8, 10 & 12)

Goal II: Organizational and Community Context of Practice – Agency placements should provide students with opportunities to identify and respect the positive value of human commonalities and differences especially in relation to age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, mental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation; to understand the history of social work in relation to the current issues of practice, to develop requisite skills for functioning effectively in a social service agency and to identify the role of social policy in helping or deterring people in improving quality of life.

- Identify the patterns, dynamics and consequences of discrimination which impact agency clients at the mezzo/macro level and devise a strategy for addressing needs of various client populations. (Objective #3)

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- Visit an agency with a mission specifically related to cause advocacy (child abuse, AIDS, older adults, etc.) and participate in their efforts on behalf of specific issues relating to client populations served. (Objectives #2 & 3)
- Participate in the political process that could influence policy formation impacting the clients and services of the placement agency. (Objective #7)
- Identify, read and report about social work's historical development on issues related to agency practice. (Objectives #5, 8 & 9)
- Visit agencies that serve populations-at-risk other than those with which they have contact in their placement agency. (Objective #2)
- Identify oppression issues through the study of the specific community or neighborhood in which the agency is located as well as home visits with those populations; develop a strategy for lessening an oppression issue. (Objective #3)
- Identify informal service networks including religious and cultural organizations used by oppressed populations to meet their needs that might support or augment social service delivery (i.e., the urban church and/or trade/barter economic systems). (Objective #4)
- Attend orientation to the placement agency, including interviewing agency staff or reading policy/procedure manuals and adhere to and/or suggest changes for agency policy and procedure in social work practice. (Objective #8)
- Study the history of the agency and the development of the relevant social service delivery system. (Objective #8)
- Analyze the impact of current or emerging social policy related to the agency client population. (Objective #7)
- Analyze the community as to the range of agencies and services available to meet client needs and identify where client needs are unmet. (Objective #3)

Goal III: Direct Service Practice Knowledge and Skills – Agency placements should provide students with many opportunities to identify, understand and appreciate human diversity; critically consider and apply human behavior and social environment theory to generalist social work practice in their agency setting; and develop communication and interactional skills for generalist social work practice.

- Demonstrate the ability to assess and intervene with agency assignments involving diverse populations. (Objectives #6 & 7)
- Reflect upon personal experiences with diversity in relation to agency assignments and the potential impact of personal experiences on provision of services. (Objective #2)
- Analyze commonalities, strengths and uniqueness among people upon which to build skills for competent generalist social work practice through discussion with field instructors and in process recordings. (Objective #12)
- Identify strengths of diverse populations served by the agency and build upon those strengths in case planning with specific agency assignments. (Objectives #6 & 11)
- Identify life-span variables in regard to specific client assignments of different system sizes through discussion with field instructor and in process recordings. (Objectives #4 & 11)

- Apply, compare and evaluate life-span variables and other theoretical frameworks in relation to client situations and interventions through discussion with field instructor. (Objectives #4, 11 & 12)
- Identify the contributions of other professional disciplines in relations to social work. (Objective #4)
- Assess and develop intervention plans with individuals and families. (Objective #11)
- Provide case management (including home visits whenever appropriate) and referral services to individuals and families. (Objectives #10 & 11)
- Provide intake and/or crisis counseling services to individuals and families. (Objectives #10 & 11)
- Identify differential use of communication/interactional skills with diverse client assignments. (Objective #10)
- Facilitate or co-facilitate an existing group service. (Objective #4)
- Develop a prospectus (plan) for a group service/program that could be offered at the agency. (Objectives #4 & 11)
- Assist in volunteer training or recruitment efforts. (Objective #11)
- Develop or assist with a neighborhood survey/capacity assessment. (Objective #10)
- Participate in legislative or other advocacy activities. (Objective #10)
- Participate in social action efforts within the agency or related to the population the agency serves. (Objective #10)

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- Participate in agency fund-raising efforts or assist with the preparation of a grant proposal. (Objective #10)
- Assist in the development of media materials. (Objective #10)
- Assist with the preparation of a budget for a program or service area. (Objective #10)
- Present a client case plan to a staff or interdisciplinary team; write life-span histories and case summaries. (Objectives #10, 11 & 12)
- Document work on agency assignments using agency recording format. (Objective #10)

Course Policies

1. If you must miss time at your agency, you must notify your field instructor in a timely manner. You must make up any missed time at your agency.
2. Students are expected to observe the agency schedule for holidays. When agencies are closed on a scheduled field day, this time does NOT need to be made up. However, the expectation is for the time to be used for practicum support activities.
3. Students are expected to conform to the standards and practices established by the agency and by the School for the practicum course including adherence to the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.
4. A formal evaluation of the course and its instructor will be completed at the end of the semester.
5. Participation in field seminars offered by the School is mandatory.

Grading

The final grade for S555 Social Work Practicum I is Satisfactory (S) or Fail (F). The evaluation process begins as goals and expectations that are mutually discussed by the student and field instructor during the pre-placement interview and during the first weeks of placement. Therefore, the student and the field instructor share responsibility throughout the semester for assuring that discussion of student progress and performance as well as the student's experiences with the agency and the field instructor are open and ongoing. By the end of the third week in the placement, the student and the field instructor should have identified appropriate, specific learning opportunities available to the students and have completed the Learning Agreement (**Based Upon Course Objectives**) for review by the field liaison. This becomes

the guide for the practicum experience and the student will be evaluated upon his/her ability to meet its expectations.

At two points during the semester, the School requires that written evaluative documents be completed: at mid-point and at the placement's end.

Mid-Point Evaluation Report

It is recommended that the student and field instructor complete the report independently and then, in conference, share and discuss their perceptions and observations. A report that reflects the ideas of both is then forwarded to the field liaison. Although ongoing contact with the liaison is expected, it is critical that difficulties in student performance or disagreement between the student and the instructor regarding student performance be reported immediately to the field liaison and that some discussion take place among all parties to examine the problem and plan for its resolution.

Final Evaluation Report

The recommended process for the final evaluation parallels that of the mid-point progress report. The student and the field instructor independently prepare observations regarding student performance, share and discuss their observations in conference and forward a signed report which reflects both the field instructor's and the student's perceptions of the student's level of performance to the field liaison.

The grade for the three credit hours of practicum is assigned by the field liaison in consultation with the field instructor. The liaison's role in the evaluation process is to assist field instructors in assessing student performance as well as to assure comparability among expectations for students in various settings. A clear agreement between field instructor and field liaison regarding the evaluation and grading process prevents confusion and problems at the semester's end.

The evaluation process should be characterized by openness, mutuality and specificity regarding student strengths, learning needs and progress identified. The evaluation process is an integral part of the learning experience and can strongly contribute to the student's professional and personal growth.

In addition, the instruction and course content of Social Work Practicum I is evaluated by students and field instructors. It is the responsibility of the Field Component to collect information and provide field instructors feedback from course evaluations.