



SOCW0561 MSW Foundation Practicum I

Fall 2019

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Class Hours: Thursday evenings 5:15-7:00pm

Please note: This is a hybrid class and there is no text book required for this class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MSW students in the foundation year are required to complete a two-semester, 400 hour, social work foundation practicum. Included in the practicum is a hand-on social work internship in an approved agency under the supervision of a professional social worker and a hybrid weekly seminar that requires further integration of practice with the knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes required in the field and included in the foundation curriculum.

COURSE OVERVIEW

SOCW 0561, Field Practicum I, includes both the first 200 hours of the two semester Social Work Field Placement and the weekly integrative seminar. The social work practicum provides social work students with an opportunity to demonstrate, practice, and learn social work skills; examine and test their understanding of social work values; apply and integrate classroom learning; acquire new knowledge about social work practice in a variety of substantive areas and practice settings; and develop an identity as a professional social worker. Social work students spend an average of sixteen hours per week in the field for both semesters of their foundation year. In addition to the time spent in the field setting, practicum students also participate in the weekly Integrative Seminar. The seminar provides students with an opportunity to discuss and compare practicum experiences, learn from and teach each other, examine personal values and ethical issues in social work practice, and further integrate knowledge and experience through structured assignments and activities. Direct practice, field supervision, process recordings, seminar discussions, integrative journals, and case consultations are utilized as learning tools and require students to directly apply these concepts in their social work practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall course objective is to demonstrate mastery of the MSW Foundation Competencies and observable behaviors (identified below). This includes increasing the ability of students to demonstrate the application of theory to practice and to demonstrate this is informed by knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes that include the social worker's critical thinking, affective reactions, and exercise of judgment in regard to unique practice situations.

A Learning Agreement developed collaboratively by the student, field instructor, and faculty liaison will describe how the student will specifically develop and apply the competencies in observable ways within the internship setting and represents the student's specific objectives for the internship portion of the practicum.

Concurrent with the objectives identified in the Learning Agreement, the Integrative Field Seminar will utilize specific assignments and learning tools (included in the syllabus) that require further integration of practice with the knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes required in the field and included in the foundation curriculum.