

Welcome to the California State University, Los Angeles



Module 2 Responsibilities of Field Instructor

Objectives

- Overview of Field Instructor requirements and responsibilities
- Role of Preceptor
- Brief overview of Field Instructor document responsibilities
- Problem solving student issues
- Scope of practice of student

Introduction

- A field instructor (FI) is committed to the values and ethics of the social work profession.
- A field instructor has an integral role of assisting, teaching and guiding a student in their learning process in the field of social work.
- The hands-on field experience that a student receives is vital for their professional development.

Responsibilities of Field Instructor for MSW interns

- A field instructor should have an MSW degree and at least 2 years of post graduate experience.
- Provide each student with a minimum of 1 hour of individual supervision each week.
- Group supervision is an added benefit to a student learning experience however it cannot be substituted for the required weekly individual supervision.



Responsibilities of Field Instructor continued.

- Field instructor should be present at the days and times the student is in field placement. If the field instructor is unavailable, a preceptor in the agency should be available to assist student if needs arise. Having a preceptor assigned to a student is not a requirement.
- A preceptor may be chosen by field instructor. The preceptor may hold a degree in the Behavior Sciences other than Social Work.



Responsibilities of Field Instructor continued

- Develop a Learning Agreement along with student that describes learning objectives and opportunities.
- Review process recordings with student. Process recording log should also be signed by field instructor to verify submission and review of required process recordings.
- Sign student timesheet that verifies days and times of student field work.
- Complete student Comprehensive Skills Evaluation along with a credit/no credit recommendation.

Role of Field Instructor

- Provide student with agency orientation on safety, policies and procedures.
- Become familiar with student's learning style. Is the student a visual learner, hands on, trial and error, etc?
- Discuss what your expectations are and ask your student what expectations he/she has of the agency.



Field Instructor and the School of Social Work

- Meet with Field Liaison to assess student progress during placement period.
- Contact Field Liaison to inform of issues or concerns that arise with student field performance as soon as attempts to remedy the situation fail. Do not wait until mid semester or end of semester.
- Attend field instructor orientations and other field-related activities.

Problem Solving

- Issues that may arise with a student can include anxiety, boundaries, time management, self disclosure, etc.
- Being on top of any potential issues/problems that may arise will increase the effectiveness of problem solving with your student.
- Attempt to problem solve with your student first; if the issue is not resolved contact your field liaison immediately.



MSW Student Activities

Examples of potential MSW student activities:

Biopsychosocial Assessments

Case management

Supportive counseling

Advocacy

Interdisciplinary Treatment Team Planning

Macro Practices

Networking/Linkage with other community agencies

Short term/long term treatment

Crisis intervention

Group work

Psychotherapy

Diagnosis and treatment planning



Foundation Year: 1st yr. field experience

Emphasis in the Foundation Year is placed upon developing the groundwork of appropriate social work practice skills and knowledge, which may include:

- developing relationships
- acquiring interviewing skills
- mastering beginning psychosocial assessment
- making diagnostic assessments
- developing intervention skills
- direct practice interventions
- group facilitation

Entry level to the profession of social work is generalist practice. Generalist social work practitioners work with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations in a variety of social work and host settings. The generalist practitioner views clients and client systems from a strengths perspective in order to recognize, support and build upon the capabilities of all human beings. They use a professional problem-solving process to engage, assess, broker services, advocate, counsel, educate, and organize with and on behalf of client and client systems.

Advanced Year: 2nd yr. field experience

During the Advanced Year - students are expected to develop an increased insight and depth of understanding of agency and client systems and social work practice skills and are exposed to a diversity of experiences. The goal of the second-year field placement is to build on the first-year experience to help students develop advanced and more focused social work skills—including clinical interventions with diverse populations effective treatment strategies on a micro/macro level where appropriate.

Students may select a placement site that offers a more macro or more micro focused practice experience where they will further their skills in administrative activities, including organizational development, program planning and program evaluation.

Responsibilities of Field Instructor for BASW interns

- A field instructor should have a BASW degree or MSW degree and at least 2 years of post graduate experience.
- Provide each student with a minimum of 1 hour of individual supervision each week.
- Group supervision is an added benefit to a student learning experience however it cannot be substituted for the required weekly individual supervision.



BSW Student Activities

Intake assessments

Case management

Supportive counseling

Advocacy

Linkages and referrals

Crisis assistance

Psychoeducational group facilitation

Developing case/care plans

Participate in agency team meetings

**BSW students do not conduct psychotherapy*

BSW Scope of Practice

- BSW students are not trained to and may not be allowed to conduct Psychotherapy(group or individual).
- Supportive Counseling is acceptable to be performed by BSW students.
- Supportive counseling is considered an exchange of ideas to effectively problem solve an individual's daily living issues associated with their emotional, cognitive, or behavioral problems. BSW students may engage in skill building or co-facilitating a group.

Macro Practice Activities

Macro activities are often based on needs, problems, issues, and concerns identified in the course of working individually with diverse clients seeking services. Rothman, Erlich, and Tropman (2008) identify three arenas of intervention: communities, organizations, and small groups.



Macro Practice Activities (Cont.)

- **Program Planning, Development & Evaluation:**
 - ✓ *Designing and developing programs that address the community/client needs.*
 - ✓ *Evaluating whether or not the programs meet the client needs/are they effective?*
- **Community outreach/Organizing**
 - ✓ *Getting to know the communities being served by the agency and vice versa through open houses, community fairs, and other sponsored events*
 - ✓ *Working with communities and their members at bringing about desired improvement in the social well being of individuals, groups and neighborhoods.*
- **Work with Committees & Boards**
 - ✓ *Participating in agency, community, or local city and state wide committees, advisory boards to elicit system change*

Macro Practice Activities (Cont.)

- **Budgeting and financial management**
 - ✓ *A budget is a financial plan. It is a projection of what will happen financially if certain strategies and decisions are implemented.*
- **Research & Grant Writing**
 - ✓ *Successful grant writing involves the coordination of planning, searching for data and resources, writing and packaging a proposal, submitting a proposal to a funder, and follow-up.*
- **Media and marketing**
 - ✓ *Determining the use of social media platforms and websites to promote an agency's services, funding needs, successes, and outreach efforts.*

MSW Scope of Practice

- It is within an MSW student's scope of practice to perform Psychotherapy or any of the previously mentioned student activities
- Psychotherapy is a form of treatment for emotional problems in which a therapist establishes a relationship with an individual for the purpose of modifying self-defeating patterns of behavior and promoting positive personality growth and development. Psychotherapy is generally undertaken to gain self-knowledge. Most people come to therapy because defenses which have served them in the past are no longer working or useful.



Roles and Responsibilities

Thank you

THE END