

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
UNDERGRADUATE PRACTICUM
SWK 4315 and SWK 4325
Social Work Practicum I and Social Work Practicum II

SYLLABUS

Course Title: Practicum I (SWK 4315) and Practicum II (SWK 4325)

Course Description: Together, these two courses offer an educationally focused and professionally supervised practicum placement in an area social service agency. Each course requires a minimum of 300 clock hours at an assigned practicum site for a total of 600 clock hours over fall and spring semesters. Students spend 20-24 hours per week at the practicum site under the supervision of a professional social worker who serves as practicum instructor.

Credit Hours: 5 for each course

Prerequisites for 4315: senior standing as a social work major having successfully completed all junior year social work coursework: 2113, 3003, 3103, 3233, 3323, 3113, 3243, 3313, and 2232; **Co-requisites:** 4311, 4083, 4103

Prerequisites for 4325: 4315, 4311, 4083, 4311; **Co-requisites:** 4331, 4093

Purpose:

Social Work Practicum I and II offer experiential learning opportunities in social work practice in selected human service agencies and treatment facilities. Together these two courses allow students to integrate knowledge, skills, and values learned in the classroom by application of that learning in educationally directed experiences with diverse client systems. These two courses are offered concurrently with and linked to an integrative seminar (SWK 4311 and 4331) and limited to senior undergraduate social work majors.

In addition to application of basic social work knowledge, values, and skills, practicum learning experiences are designed to promote the socialization of the student to the profession, growth in work and time management, and development of professional relationships with other social work professionals. The primary emphasis in undergraduate practicum coursework is application of generalist social work practice skills including engagement, assessment, intervention planning and implementation, evaluation, and the conscious use of professional self.

Integration of Specific Content Areas:

These two courses integrate content from all classes that are part of the undergraduate social work curriculum including ethics and values, diversity, social and economic justice, populations-at-risk, social work practice and policy, and human behavior in the social environment. Some content on social work research is also integrated.

Teaching/Learning Methods:

Students engage in pre-practicum planning during the semester prior to their placement by attending orientation, submitting a practicum application, and meeting with the Practicum Coordinator or her designee and with staff at community-based practicum sites. All student placements are approved by the Practicum Coordinator at the individual student's campus.

Supervision of placements is provided by on-site practicum instructors who are generally employees of the assigned agency and provide the student with regular, formal, individual, weekly supervisory conferences. Process, audio, and/or video recordings are suggested teaching devices for use by the practicum instructor. Students are required to submit a Teaching-Learning Agreement within the first three weeks of the semester, weekly logs and supervisory conference forms, and mid-term and final evaluation. Students are advised to maintain their own practicum portfolio to use in periodic conferences with the faculty liaison. A member of the OUSSW faculty serves as faculty liaison and meets with student and practicum instructor at least twice during the semester.

Placement of students may be made within a fifty (50) mile radius of the OUSSW. Students must have a dependable means of transportation and are responsible for their transportation to and from the practicum site as well as for travel connected with the placement. Students are expected to make satisfactory progress in the practicum in order to continue in the degree program.

Class Dates, Location, and Hours: See current practicum calendar

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:**Required texts:**

University of Oklahoma School of Social Work. *Practicum Manual*. (Available on line at www.ou.edu/socialwork)

National Association of Social Workers (1997). *Code of Ethics*. NASW Press.
(Provided by School of Social Work)

Educational Outcomes for Undergraduate Practicum: Upon successful completion of this course and the co-requisite integrative seminar, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social work values and ethics through conduct in practice with client systems.
2. Articulate the structure and functioning of the agency setting in meeting social welfare goals within the community and its relationship to the larger social services systems.
3. Identify generalist practice roles at multiple systems levels within the agency setting.
4. Demonstrate professional use of self in engaging and interviewing client systems.

5. Formulate a client system social assessment and plan of intervention that incorporates social systems and strengths perspectives.
6. Develop and implement an appropriate service or treatment plan with diverse client populations.
7. Demonstrate an ability to function as part of an intervention team in carrying out the goals and objectives of a client system intervention plan.
8. Demonstrate the use of several generalist practice roles at multiple system levels within the practicum setting.
9. Use appropriate empirical methodology to evaluate the goals and objectives of the intervention plan.
10. Show evidence of effective use of supervision and use of agency resources in working with client systems and in assessing personal need for continued professional development.
11. Demonstrate professional growth and development through appropriate use of education direction provided by the practicum instructor and interactions with other agency staff and outside resources.

Class Policies:

For information on setting up the practicum placement, teaching and learning methods, and method of evaluation and grading and for policy on attendance, behavior, reasonable accommodation, and religious observances, see the Practicum Program Manual available on the Practicum webpage at www.ou.edu/socialwork.