

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

MSW FOUNDATION YEAR PRACTICUM SWK 5413 and SWK 5423 Social Work Practicum I and Social Work Practicum II

COURSE OUTLINE

Catalog Description: SWK 5413 Social Work I and 5423 Practicum II offer an educationally focused and professionally supervised practicum placement in an area social service agency. Together the two courses require a minimum of 460 clock hours at an assigned practicum site. Students may take the courses over fall and spring semester, spending approximately 18-20 hours per week at the site each semester or they may take the two courses simultaneously in the summer as a block and spend 38 hours per week at the site.

SWK 5413 Social Work Practicum I

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite and Co-requisite: student must be enrolled in or have completed all foundation year graduate courses in the MSW program.

SWK 5423 Social Work Practicum II

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite and Co-requisite: student must be enrolled in or have completed all foundation year graduate courses in the MSW program.

Course Description: 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.

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 foundation year 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.

The course integrates content from all classes that are part of the foundation year 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.

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 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 and 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 MSW Foundation Year Practicum: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social work values and ethics in professional relationships with colleagues and clients.
2. Articulate the organizational structure and role of the practicum agency in meeting social welfare goals within the community and its relationship to the larger social service systems.
3. Identify practicum roles and multiple system levels within the agency setting.
4. Demonstrate professional use of self in engaging and interviewing client systems
5. Assess client system strengths and needs utilizing social systems theory.
6. Develop and implement appropriate intervention plans with diverse client populations.
7. Demonstrate the use of several generalist practice roles at multiple system levels within the agency setting.
8. Demonstrate an ability to function as part of an intervention team in carrying out the goals and objectives of a client system intervention plan
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of one's own practice.

10. Demonstrate professional growth and development through appropriate use of supervision provided by the practicum instructor and interactions with other agency staff.

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.