

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

MSW CONCENTRATION YEAR PRACTICUM

SWK 5820

Social Work Practicum III

SYLLABUS

Course Title: Practicum III (SWK 5820)

Course Description: Practicum III provides an educationally-focused and professionally supervised advanced practicum experience and requires a minimum of 550 clock hours at an assigned practicum site. Students may take the course during spring semester concurrently with the corresponding integrative seminar earning the full 12 credit hours for the course in the spring or may take the course for 6 credit hours in the spring and 6 additional credit hours in the summer. Students who select the spring block practicum spend 36-40 hours per week at the practicum site. Those who elect the spring/summer option spend 18-20 hours per week at the site.

Credit Hours: 6 or 12

Prerequisites: Completion of all foundation year coursework including the practicum, completion of or concurrent enrollment in all required concentration courses, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. Students must resolve any grades of Incomplete prior to enrollment.

Co-requisites: Administration and Community Practice (ACP) concentration students must be concurrently enrolled in or have completed SWK 5983 Social Service Monitoring and Evaluation. Direct Practice (DP) concentration students must be concurrently enrolled in or have completed SWK 5973 Integrative Seminar. An exception to concurrent enrollment in the integrative seminar may be made for Advanced Standing part-time students.

Purpose:

Practicum III provides concentration year students an opportunity to develop specialized competencies in the practice concentration they have selected, Administration and Community Practicum (ACP) or Direct Practice (DP). In planning the field placement at this level, both student and faculty focus on the individual student's career interests and objectives.

Integration of Specific Content Areas:

Students in Administration and Community Practice are offered a controlled, professionally supervised experience in which the student identifies an administration and/ or planning issue of interest, assumes leadership in the design of a professional and educational role in relation to the interest area, applies the values, knowledge and skills gained in prerequisite course work to the identified goal, and evaluates the effectiveness of the intervention undertaken.

Students in the Direct Practice concentration are provided an opportunity to develop skills in working with individuals, small groups, and/or families under the direction of professional social work practitioners. Placements are made in public and private agencies and facilities.

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.

Course Schedule:

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 Concentration Year Practicum: Upon successful completion of the second year of graduate practicum, the student will be able to do the following, both verbally and in writing.

1. Formulate assessments of focal client systems which are systematic, grounded in valid and relevant theories, and which form the basis for facilitative professional intervention.

2. Select an intervention strategy appropriate to the assessment, consistent with clients' needs, and taking into account the agency and cultural contexts.
3. Implement the intervention strategy demonstrating mastery of the intervention techniques, disciplined use of self, facilitative relationships with the client, and responsiveness to the ramifications of the intervention effort for non-focal aspects of the client and agency systems.
4. Assess the impact of interventions undertaken, make corrective adjustments in assessments, intervention plans or skill utilization, and identify alternative intervention roles or models as these are necessitated by evaluation.
5. Articulate an integrative assessment of the interaction between various factors affecting service delivery to the client system in the agency, and able to demonstrate an understanding of interactions between agency realities, intervention philosophy, the dynamics of the client system and relative cultural contexts in such a way as to represent a personalized understanding of social work practice within the practicum agency.
6. Conduct ongoing evaluation of one's own professional efficacy, and remain abreast of changes in the knowledge and skills utilized in the profession.
7. Relate effectively to supervisors and colleagues in order to deliver social services effectively, and monitor and assess the efficacy of practice.
8. Identify and articulate the existing policies within a given agency or setting which inform and constrain interpersonal practice, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the interpersonal practitioner in providing information to policy makers on the impact of policies or the effective provision of services.

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.