

9 Core Competencies in Social Work Education

— BASW | Foundation Year —

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A: DEMONSTRATE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

- Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
- Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
- Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
- Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes;
- Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior

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B: ENGAGE DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE IN PRACTICE

- Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
- Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences;
- Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies

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C: ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels;
- Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice

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D: ENGAGE IN PRACTICE-INFORMED RESEARCH AND RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

- Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research;
- Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings;
- Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

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E: ENGAGE IN POLICY PRACTICE

- Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;
- Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services;
- Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice

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F: ENGAGE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies;
- Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies

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G: ASSESS WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

- Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies;
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies;
- Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies;
- Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies

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H: INTERVENE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

- Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies;
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies;
- Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes;
- Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies;
- Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals

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I: EVALUATE PRACTICE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

- Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;
- Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes;
- Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels

