

Example of Field Placement Activities:

Competency I: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Professional Behavior

- Assist Clients in applying for and receiving services
- Attend community or agency planning meetings that focus on service gaps and restrictive eligibility criteria
- Work on a team that is developing new programs or grant proposals designed to expand service delivery
- Incorporate the feedback received in supervision into daily practice
- Video tape a role play session and self-evaluate skills used
- Research the social work job description and become knowledgeable about professional role/boundaries
- Attend interdisciplinary conferences and case presentations as an observer or participant
- Review/Discuss NASW Code of Ethics regarding professional standards related to boundaries, dual relationships
- Use professional language that meets the norms of the agency
- Follow agency requirements for attendance, submission of documentation/reports by required deadlines as well as meet agency dress code requirement.
- Read a scholarly article weekly which addresses the population being served and discuss during supervision
- Participate in opportunities that support professional development such as workshops, seminars, and community lectures that support your work with the agency population or for professional growth
- Develop a weekly agenda for supervision and submit it to the field instructor as agreed
- Keep a journal of field experiences and discuss during supervision
- Create a portfolio of field activities participated in which build professional resume
- Allow student to demonstrate effective oral and written communication with individuals, families, groups or community through assignment of a small caseload (maximum 5 clients) and discuss progress or lack of during field supervision
- Create opportunities to conduct oral presentations which would support an agency need identified
- Discuss complex case(s) during field supervision
- Discuss in field supervision policy issue(s) related to a case situations

Ethical Behavior:

- Prepare a case discussion for supervision on an ethical dilemma identified and become aware of the process used to make ethical decisions
- Demonstrate understanding and application of the six core values of the NASW Code of Ethics
- Discuss ethical or value issues in relation to specific cases
- Observe how the social worker tolerates ambiguities and discuss during supervision how you respond/ tolerate the "grey" areas in ethical situations that arise in field
- Identify 3 ethical dilemmas to discuss with the field instructor during supervision; apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions using the NASW Code of Ethics and evidence-based decision making models
- Identify multiple sources of knowledge (journals, classroom learning, colleague consults, NASW Code of Ethics, scholarly articles, etc.) and distinguish how these sources are relevant to the services being provided to the population at your field site
- Observe a staff meeting or other type of task meeting and discuss during supervision strengths of the meeting, areas of improvement and suggest changes based on sound decision making

Competency 2: Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice

- Review several client files and assess cultural values and determine if marginalization has occurred (in other words were could agency decisions have been influenced by poverty, sexual orientation, ethnicity etc.) and discuss during supervision
- Identify a client that is culturally diverse; do research on how to engage and take the lead in working with this client
- Identify personal biases, stereotypes you have become aware of while in field and discuss during supervision what you may do to address them professionally
- Develop knowledge about the diversity of the agency based on the clients served. What is done to recruit diverse staff and provide ongoing training related to cultural competence
- Identify the unique qualities and attributes of your clients and how they incorporate their uniqueness and share during field supervision how the uniqueness of your clients impact their experiences and life trajectory
- Purposely work with clients of diverse backgrounds
- Attend a workshop or seminar on cultural diversity that may include religion, gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation
- Develop a staff training on cultural diversity to support continued staff development

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

- Read the agency's policy on discrimination; research current issues that are affecting the client population served by the agency and discuss during field supervision
- Demonstrate an understanding on how funding is directly linked to social and economic justice within your agency site
- Describe how you have been able to promote human rights and social and economic justice with your clients
- Identify underserved needs of the client population and develop strategies to meet these needs as all system levels (client resource & services)
- Engage in advocacy efforts (i.e. contacting lawmakers/political representatives at local, state, and federal levels on issues affecting the population served by your field site)
- Advocate for client's needs within your agency to advance their social or economic standing
- Engage on the social justice issues that your agency is involved with which promote client well-being or services provided

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

- Use client situation or issue to research scholarly information and begin to connect underlying issues (i.e. domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, truancy)
- Identify an agency problem or issue that needs to be addressed and develop a plan to address it that includes gathering data and evaluating outcomes
- Design a field project to create sustainable change within your agency (required)
- Review agency quality/outcome measures being used to evaluate practice and assess how this information is impacting client service delivery
- Apply and assess the efficacy of the evidenced based practice approach that is being implemented in your site with clients/ client system
- Keep statistical reports and discuss impact of services with field instructor
- Discuss with field instructor ways in which research is used by the agency to support activities of the organization
- Discuss with Field Instructor relevant HBSE theories and perspectives applied when assessing and working with client systems

- Discuss in supervision what is being learned in the classroom related to research on effectiveness of interventions applied to the population served
- Identify models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation utilized at your agency
- Identify Theories that are applicable to your field setting and how you see them being applied with the population being served

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice:

- Interview an agency administrator/policy maker to discuss policies implemented in field site which pertain to clients, staff or students (review a policy before meeting with administrator/policy maker)
- Attend an agency board meeting, community meeting (city council, county board, tribal meetings, etc.) to become familiar with policy issues related to population served, agency or community as a whole
- Identify and discuss with field instructor the policies and laws that are adversely affecting the client population served by field site
- Prepare agency concern to present to local legislator at Legislative Day in Austin
- Prepare and present information in support of a policy or program reform
- Demonstrate an ability to be flexible in your interactions with client systems based on their needs
- Become familiar with the funding sources for your agency and become knowledgeable related to the process of securing funding and the impact of community resources on services.
- Become familiar with grant writing process and be involved in development of a proposal
- Participate/Organize a fundraiser for the agency and develop knowledge on how it is operationalized
- Go through the service delivery system within your agency as a “client” and report observations/findings with your field instructor during field supervision.
- Prepare a presentation/report for quality improvement of services based on client/staff feedback and provide to field instructor during supervision (Powerpoint presentation for Chief of Police)

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Read case files and any other pertinent information to prepare for engagement (first meeting) with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- Discuss plans for establishing the client relationship with field instructor
- Develop and research a group intervention (psychoeducation) for clients in the field setting
- Organize and facilitate a community action group related to a specific issue
- Conduct effective interviews with assigned clients that demonstrate relationship-building skills and an ability to establish rapport with a client system; allow the field instructor to observe interactions
- Effectively perform the skill of: effective talking, active-listening, use of empathy through verbal and non-verbal communication, introduce self, orienting clients to agency services and discuss policy and ethical factors with clients

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Utilize standardized measurement and diagnostic tools, generate recommendations to client systems based on information gathered
- Be observed by field instructor or task supervisor when conducting formal and informal assessments on clients and incorporate feedback and verify achieved competency
- Effectively perform the skills of: asking open ended/ closed ended questions, seek clarification, reflect on content and feelings,
- Demonstrate an ability to fully assess and verbalize strengths and limitations with the client system
- Demonstrate the ability to complete an assessment (e.g., intake, psychosocial,)

- Demonstrate the ability to conduct a comprehensive assessment identifying issues related to transitions over the course of the life cycle
- Utilize an eco-map when working with a client to obtain and give relevant information regarding reason for services
- Utilize a genogram effectively with a client

Competency 8: Intervene w/ Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Discuss intervention plan with field instructor and receive feedback; assess whether the intervention strategies are reasonable, likely to reach the client's goal, and within the agency's scope of practice
- Take into consideration the agency's mission and scope of practice when developing interventions for client's served

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice w/ Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Effectively perform the skills of: identifying and clarifying issues, establishing goals, developing an action plan, evaluating plan, develop service plan, evaluate client progress, confronting inconsistencies, making referrals and negotiating, mediating and advocating for clients
- Develop mutually established goals with client's assigned
- Deliver a case presentation to field instructor or unit team and incorporate feedback with client (s) assigned