

UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work Plan for Interruption of Practicum Placement Due to National or Local Events

UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW) has developed a plan to address temporary disruption to students' social work practicum placements due to national or local events such as communicable diseases, natural disasters, and/or civil unrest.

If students are advised by their agency, supervisor, and/or government to not attend their practicum placement, or if safety concerns warrant a temporary disruption in practicum, students should **immediately** consult with **BOTH** their GASSW Practicum Faculty Liaison and their Practicum Supervisor(s).

In efforts to fulfill the student's hour requirements, Learning Contract activities and educational competencies during temporary practicum placement stoppages, we are providing **alternative practicum learning activities** that can be completed off site.

This policy is meant to address short-term practicum placement disruptions, with an end date of December 31, 2020. If the practicum stoppage continues beyond the end of the year 2020, a review will be conducted by the GASSW Practicum Office to determine the most appropriate response to support students in completing their practicum requirements.

Alternate Learning Activities

Practicum Instructors (i.e. Educational and Task Supervisors) should assign students off-site alternative practicum learning activities that the student may complete in the event of a temporary practicum disruption. Examples of alternative practicum learning activities are listed below.

- **Supervision:** Weekly supervision using Zoom or other teleconferencing applications.
- **Meetings with individuals, families, and groups** utilizing teleconferencing applications that can be accessed via computer, tablet, and/or telephone; provided teleconferencing applications meet any agency requirements regarding HIPAA and/or confidentiality.
- **Trainings for Agency:** develop trainings that will benefit the agency (ex- self-care, ethics, etc.)
- **Groups/Workshops for Clients:** develop curriculum for future implementation with clients (ex- life skills, grief, trauma, domestic violence, etc.)
- **Written Materials for Clients or Community:** develop handouts/flyers/brochures (ex- explain voting rights, informed consent policies, etc.)
- **Organizational Policy Review:** review agency policies with suggestions/recommendations where appropriate (ex- safety policies, diversity policies, use of social media, utilization of technology, etc.)

- **Legislative Policy Review:** review relevant laws and policies impacting the population students work with (ex- Indian Child Welfare Act, Emergency Mental Health Holds, Homeless Camping Ban, etc.) and provide a synopsis of key takeaways or prepare advocacy materials (letter to editor, develop key talking points, etc.)
- **Literature Review:** conduct a literature review on a specific topic relevant to practicum placement (ex- effectiveness of an intervention, how interruption of services impacts mental health or economic stability, etc.)
- **Grants:** research potential grant opportunities and/or prepare aspects of the grant writing.
- **Community Networking/Resource Development:** teleconference with various service providers, participating in resource mapping, and develop a list of resources for clients with services offered, referral process, etc.
- **Complete online trainings:** complete assigned (**online**) trainings and provide a certification of completion and/or a short written reflection and/or prepare a presentation to disseminate knowledge gained.

Practicum Instructors (Educational and Task Supervisors) may come up with other activities or trainings, in addition to the ones listed on this page. **All activities should be pre-approved by their agency supervisor.**

Confidentiality and the Use of Technology

All students must comply with relevant laws, regulations, ethical standards, and organizational policies to ensure the confidentiality of clients. Students and agencies are encouraged to utilize the standards listed in the NASW Code of Ethics to inform their use of technology. While each agency should develop their own protocols around the use of technology and confidentiality, the following best practices should be followed by all students:

- Take reasonable steps to maintain appropriate boundaries when using personal phone numbers or other electronic communication. For example, consider temporarily hiding your caller ID when making outgoing calls, through your phone's settings.
- Position web cameras so that others can only see your face- all visible confidential data should be removed from camera view.
- Conduct all sensitive conversations in a private space. Be mindful of the potential for family members or bystanders to overhear any portion of your discussions.