



COVID-19 Practicum Group Option for Current Practicum Students

In an effort to give students another option to obtain direct hours, the Practicum Office is allowing current practicum students to form groups with 5-6 fellow BSSW practicum students. The groups must be done via Zoom. We ask that one or two students be the group leader and conduct a group according to the student level:

- BSSW can run skills building or educational groups around a particular subject or skill;

Organization of Group

We recommend group sessions last 30-45 minutes, with an additional 30-45 minute group discussion directly following. This additional discussion is designed to review what went well, areas for improvement, the experience as a group member/leader, group dynamics, etc., [see group discussion questions](#).

Supervision and Feedback

Ideally the practicum student who is leading the group will ask their practicum supervisor to 'sit in' on the group and offer insight, or the student who is leading the group can record the group and review with their supervisor during their regularly scheduled supervision time. This is in an effort to simulate and gain experience in group settings if the student is unable to experience group dynamics in practicum due to COVID-19.

How to Count Your Hours

If the student is the group leader, they can count the entire time as direct non-face to face hours. As a group member, students can count the first half as indirect hours and the second half (group discussion) as direct non-face to face hours provided the student participates in the group discussion. We ask that every student have the opportunity to lead a few group sessions in a row by switching leader roles every couple of weeks.

Confidentiality

We also ask that as a group member, students refrain from using their own experiences but rather draw inspiration from clients they have worked with in practicum or a job. Since this is a peer-to-peer activity students must abide by the NASW Code of Ethics, respect confidentiality of clients and peers alike while abiding by the rule of acting/role playing, drawing inspiration from previous clients, classroom examples and case studies.

Please reach out to the Practicum Office if you have any questions, are having trouble finding group members, etc. Also, please review the documents attached that outline other tasks you can do for direct and indirect hours if you are unable to work with clients right now.