



GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I

SOWK 8160 | 3 credit hours

Spring Semester 2020

Class Meetings: Mondays, 4:00–6:00 P.M., 126 CPACS

Instructor: Professor C.J. Washington (Dr. Washington; *She / Her / Hers*)

Office: 206 CPACS

Office Phone: 402.554.2792

Email: cjwashington@unomaha.edu

NOTE: Students should contact the instructor via email rather than by phone. Email messages will be responded to within 24 hours, excluding weekends, holidays, and breaks.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00–3:00 P.M. or by appointment

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 P.M. or by appointment

Department: Grace Abbott School of Social Work

Main Office: 206 CPACS

Dept. Phone: 402.554.2972

COURSE INFORMATION

Description

This course is designed to provide supervised, individual and experiential learning offered within the setting of a selected social service agency. The student will be introduced to a variety of social work practice roles, develop professional relationships with client systems and learn to apply different interventions to effect change across the life span. In order to facilitate integration of classroom theory with practice, students will attend a seven-week Practicum Lab/Seminar (2 hours every other week in spring/fall; every week in summer).

Rationale/Overview

The Practicum experience consists of a series of courses which are characterized by individualized and experiential teaching and learning, offered within the setting of a social service agency and supervised by approved community practitioners. The courses, taken sequentially, are expected to facilitate learning experiences which are appropriate to the student's educational level and needs, and supportive of classroom learning.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes



1. Define, compare and contrast Social Work theories, and concepts in social work practice and its changes in application over time.
2. Apply and practice the generalist social work perspective and skills when working with clients and families across the lifespan, within the agency structure and the community.
3. Recognize and examine cultural issues in social work practice, demonstrating skill in working with diverse populations across the lifespan.
4. Examine, interpret and demonstrate skill in applying social work values and ethics as they relate to social work practice, adhering to the NASW Code of Ethics.
5. Practice and use effective oral and written communication within the agency system, including knowledge of and use of computer technologies.
6. Utilize supervision to advance knowledge of social work theories and skills, and as an opportunity for self-understanding in relationship to the client, agency and community.
7. Identify and critically analyze social policies, social justice and social change issues as they relate to social work practice with individuals, families and communities.
8. Analyze, evaluate, discuss and apply research as it pertains to agency activities and/or projects.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Required Text(s)

All required readings are available electronically through the Criss Library and linked through Canvas.

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT

For the student's practicum experience, experiential learning with instruction and supervision by university-selected and appointed agency practitioners. Liaison and consultation to the practicum supervisor and student by selected Grace Abbott School of Social Work faculty. For the practicum lab/seminar, Grace Abbott School of Social Work faculty serve as leaders in the lab/seminar. Group discussion, student presentations, and limited didactic presentation by leader.

Student participation in practice assignments in agency of placement (learning contract). Student preparation for shared responsibility in supervision and reporting of assignments. Regular attendance and informed participation in practicum lab/seminars.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to drop a course (via MavLink) and receive a 100% refund	January 19, 2020
Last day to withdraw from a course (via MavLink) with a grade of "W"	April 3, 2020

NOTE: This syllabus is written as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected learning outcomes. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule that may result in enhanced or more effective learning for students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course.



ASSESSMENTS (ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS)

Practicum Experience 80 points (total)

Lab/Seminar 20 points (total)

100 points (total)

GRADING SCALE

Performance Level	Student Efforts and Skills in this Competency*	Final Grade
9.5-10 (outstanding)	Excellent	A+
7.5-9.4 (exceeds expectations)	Above Expectations	A (8.5-9.4) A- (7.5-8.4)
5.5-7.4 (meets expectations)	Satisfactory	B+ (6.5-7.4) B (5.5-6.4)
2.5-5.4 (below expectations)	Some effort and/or some skills; improvement is needed	B-
1.0-2.4 (unacceptable)	Little effort and/or little skill	C+ C C- D+ D D- F

*The Insufficient Evidence (IE) rating may be used if the skill is not specified on the learning contract, if the student has not had the opportunity to perform the skill, or if the practicum instructor/supervisor has not observed sufficient evidence for rating the student's performance of the skill. Students are evaluated on satisfactory completion of the learning tasks; more than one "IE" in each goal area could affect the student's final grade. This rating also includes tasks that are not applicable to the practicum setting.

WRITING GUIDELINES

Students should make sure that writing assignments are free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Papers should adhere to the most recent citation style outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

In this course, students will submit written work by making use of information and ideas found in print or online sources. Whenever material from another writer is used, it is important that students quote or paraphrase appropriately and cite the source.

The UNO Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as "presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting academic work in whole or in part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person."

Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Consequences for plagiarism are up to the discretion of the instructor; they may range, for example, from rewriting all or part of a paper to a grade of F for the course.



Students who plagiarize more than once are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university.

Students SHOULD NOT GUESS when it comes to using or citing another writer's work. Students should contact the instructor or a consultant at the UNO Writing Center with questions. Students should take a printout of the original source as well as the paper that is being written to the consultation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found responsible for violating the [policy on Academic Integrity](#) shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Violations of the policy on Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following: cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials and/or equipment, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, and/or misrepresentation to avoid academic work. More information about these areas and the procedures addressing academic integrity is available from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs (EAB 202 | 402.554.2262).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive on time to class meetings. Students should come to class well prepared, meaning readings and other assignments have been completed. Students are expected to be respectful of their classmates and the instructor. Distracting and/or disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated.

CELL PHONES, MOBILE DEVICES, AND LAPTOPS

Students are welcome to use cell phones, mobile devices, and/or laptops in class provided they are used for academic purposes such as note taking, accessing course materials, or researching course concepts and their use does not disrupt fellow classmates. Please silence devices if at all possible. A student who receives a phone call or text, should step outside the classroom to respond. DO NOT take pictures or video during class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to have access to a computer frequently, as all writing assignments used will be typed out and not handwritten. The software students use to write assignments is irrelevant, as long as the writing guidelines outlined in this syllabus are followed. It is recommended that students have access to a computer weekly. Public computers are available on the UNO campus. Consult [Information Technology Services](#) and the [Criss Library](#), for more information on equipment locations and availability.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support for common university systems, including Canvas and email, is available from Information Technology Services [technical support](#) located in Epley Administration Building (EAB) 104.



ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

In addition to accommodations in the classroom, the Accessibility Services Center (ASC) helps coordinate accommodations for students with disabilities at any practicum, internship, service learning experience, or other field placement. If such accommodation is required, it will be important to speak with an ASC representative early in the site selection process. Please make an appointment with the ASC (Location: H&K 104, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu) well in advance of the placement to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

CRISS LIBRARY

UNO's Criss Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Subject specialist librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can provide guidance for a specific area of study. Students are encouraged to explore customized resources featured on the [Criss Library](#) website.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is prepared for a wide range of emergencies. Students should familiarize themselves with procedures and assistance available on UNO's [emergency information page](#). If travel to campus is not feasible due to a declared emergency, a combination of Canvas, teleconferencing, and other technologies will be used to facilitate academic continuity. Students will be notified of procedures through Canvas course site announcements and email as appropriate.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, students should use his/her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Students who are not able to attend class due to adverse weather conditions, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if the instructor is unable to reach the class location, students will be notified of any cancellation or change as soon as possible (by approximately 1 hour before class starts and by posting an announcement in Canvas). Students who cannot get to class because of weather conditions, will be provided allowances relative to attendance policies as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

PREFERRED NAME AND PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. The instructor will gladly honor a student's request to be addressed by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise the instructor of this preference early in the semester so that instructor records may be changed appropriately.



WRITING CENTER

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their hours and locations or to schedule an appointment, go to unomaha.edu/writingcenter or visit their main location in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 150.

SPEECH CENTER

The [UNO Speech Center](#) provides free consulting and coaching services to all UNO students, faculty, and staff in preparing oral presentations. The Speech Center Consulting Room can help students with presentation preparation, outlining, effective delivery techniques, along with any other presentational needs. Speech consulting will help at any stage in the speech-making process. For more information, visit the UNO Speech Center in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 183 and 185.

STUDENT SAFETY

A variety of resources are available to support student safety and security. Students have experienced or are experiencing a difficult personal situation, should consult the resources available through the [Division of Student Success](#).

OUTCOMES MAP AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Competencies

The student learning outcomes for this course are built upon the following nine social work core competencies set forth by the CSWE's 2015 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) which is required for all accredited social work programs.

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
2. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
3. Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
5. Engage in policy practice.
6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This map is intended to show how course topics, content, and activities align to the student learning outcomes outlined above. Course objectives are italicized to distinguish them from the core competencies set forth by the CSWE's 2015 EPAS.

Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	EPAS Competency	Practicum Task	Dimension*
4. Examine, interpret and demonstrate skill in applying social work values and ethics as they relate to social work	1	5. Network with/contact other agencies and professionals. 7. Practice oral communication with co-workers, supervisor, and other professionals.	K, S, V, and CAP



Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	EPAS Competency	Practicum Task	Dimension*
<p>practice, adhering to the NASW Code of Ethics.</p> <p>5. Practice and use effective oral and written communication within the agency system, including knowledge of and use of computer technologies.</p> <p>6. Utilize supervision to advance knowledge of social work theories and skills and as an opportunity for self-understanding in relationship to the client, agency and community.</p>		<p>8. Practice written communication with co-workers, supervisors, and other professionals (PT 8).</p> <p>9. Maintain client records/files in accordance with agency standards.</p> <p>26. Examine and apply the NASW Code of Ethics to the practicum setting.</p> <p>27. Handle stress effectively by using supportive appropriate self-care and developing supportive relationships with colleagues, peers, and others.</p> <p>28. Discuss with supervisor personal issues/obstacles that impact the student's agency performance.</p> <p>29. Exhibit knowledge of how one's values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions and past experiences affect thinking, behavior, and relationships.</p> <p>30. Show willingness to receive and accept feedback and supervision in a positive manner, as well as use such feedback to enhance professional judgment.</p> <p>32. Discuss all cases with supervisor/participate in supervisory sessions.</p> <p>35. Exhibit sufficient knowledge of social work and clarity of thinking to process information and apply it to appropriate situations in the practicum setting.</p>	
<p>3. Recognize and examine cultural issues in social work practice, demonstrating skill in working with diverse populations across the lifespan.</p>	2	<p>4. Analyze policies, procedures, and social justice issues that affect populations served by the agency.</p> <p>13. Adapt interviewing methods to assess client's pertinent areas of diversity (cultural, ethnic, racial, class, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, lifestyle).</p> <p>19. Work with diverse clients (cultural, ethnic, racial, class,</p>	S and CAP



Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	EPAS Competency	Practicum Task	Dimension*
		religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, lifestyle). 20. Advocate on behalf of clients with agencies and other professionals to help clients obtain quality services.	
7. Identify and critically analyze social policies, social justice and social change issues as they relate to social work practice with individuals, families and communities.	3	4. Analyze policies, procedures, and social justice issues that affect populations served by the agency. 19. Work with diverse clients (cultural, ethnic, racial, class, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, lifestyle). 20. Advocate on behalf of clients with agencies and other professionals to help clients obtain quality services.	S and CAP
1. Define, compare and contrast social work theories, and concepts in social work practice and its changes in application over time.	4	21. Participate in research/program evaluation project(s). 23. Identify and read professional literature pertinent to client and services, and apply to practicum experience. 24. Read and understand agency statistics and reports on clients served, services provided, and/or outcomes. 25. Identify, examine, and/or evaluate measurement tools utilized by the agency. 31. Read and discuss with the supervisor relevant articles, journals, or books that apply to the practicum setting. 34. Discuss theories of intervention with supervisor.	K, S, and V
7. Identify and critically analyze social policies, social justice and social change issues as they relate to social work practice with individuals, families and communities.	5	1. Understand and follow agency orientation materials and relevant sections of the agency's policy and procedure manual. 2. Attend and participate in agency staff meetings.	K, S, and CAP



Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	EPAS Competency	Practicum Task	Dimension*
		3. Identify, engage in, and document indirect services on behalf of clients (brokering, advocacy, systems change, planning, etc.). 4. Analyze policies, procedures, and social justice issues that affect populations served by the agency.	
2. Apply and practice the generalist social work perspective and skills when working with clients and families across the lifespan, within the agency structure and the community.	6	3. Identify, engage in, and document indirect services on behalf of clients (brokering, advocacy, systems change, planning, etc.). 6. Practice communication with clients. 10. Use empathy and nonjudgmental interviewing skills to assess social functioning and social support. 19. Work with diverse clients (cultural, ethnic, racial, class, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, lifestyle). 33. Discuss theories of human behavior and integration of classroom course content to practicum experiences with supervisor.	K, S, and CAP
2. Apply and practice the generalist social work perspective and skills when working with clients and families across the lifespan, within the agency structure and the community.	7	10. Use empathy and nonjudgmental interviewing skills to assess social functioning and social support. 11. Conduct initial intake, screening, assessment interviews with clients. 12. Utilize the results of a multidimensional assessment to match client's needs to agency services. 13. Adapt interviewing methods to assess client's pertinent areas of diversity (cultural, ethnic, racial, class, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, lifestyle). 14. Be aware of standardized assessment and diagnostic tools that are appropriate for the client population.	K, S, and CAP



Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	EPAS Competency	Practicum Task	Dimension*
		15. Develop clear, timely, and appropriate service or care plans with measurable objectives.	
2. Apply and practice the generalist social work perspective and skills when working with clients and families across the lifespan, within the agency structure and the community.	8	3. Identify, engage in, and document indirect services on behalf of clients (brokering, advocacy, systems change, planning, etc.). 6. Practice communication with clients. 12. Utilize the results of a multidimensional assessment to match client's needs to agency services. 16. Implement case management services with clients. 17. Provide direct services to individuals, or families, and groups/maintain caseload. 18. Provide direct services to groups with a treatment, educational or developmental purpose.	S and CAP
8. Analyze, evaluate, discuss and apply research as it pertains to agency activities and/or projects.	9	21. Participate in research/program evaluation project(s). 22. Evaluate the effectiveness of practice and programs in achieving intended outcomes for the clients. 24. Read and understand agency statistics and reports on clients served, services provided, and/or outcomes. 25. Identify, examine, and/or evaluate measurement tools utilized by the agency.	K, S, and CAP

*Dimensions Key:

K = Knowledge

S = Skills

V = Value

CAP = Cognitive and Affective Processing



REFERENCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

References

- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). (2020). *Path to licensure*. Retrieved from <https://www.aswb.org/educators/path/>
- American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders*. (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Association.
- Baird, B. (2016). *Internship, practicum, and field placement handbook* (7th ed.). Old Tappan, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). (2015). *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards*. Retrieved from https://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS_Web_FINAL.pdf.aspx
- Glassman, U.E. (2016). *Finding your way through field work a social work student's guide*. Washington, .C.: Sage Publications.
- Larkin, S. (2018). *A field guide for social workers: Applying your generalist training*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW). (2017). *Code of ethics of the National Association of Social Workers*. Washington, D.C.: NASW Press.
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- Ward, K & Mama, R.S. (2020). *Breaking out of the box: Adventure-based field instruction*. (4th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

