

## **Graduate Foundation Curriculum Objectives**

The Foundation Curriculum incorporates the following objectives. Students will in demonstrate both in classroom activities and in field assignments the following:

1. Knowledge of an ecological perspective and its application to understanding the interaction between client system and the social and physical environment and how this interaction influences human growth and development.
2. Understanding of the historical, philosophical, value and ethical base informing social welfare and soci work and to practice accordingly.
3. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional practice.
4. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skill related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race religion, and sexual orientation.
5. Knowledge of the forms and mechanisms of discrimination and oppression and the application of strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
6. Knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective in working with various client systems.
7. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual and family development and behavior across the life span.
8. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand the interaction among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Knowledge of how to establish a helping alliance.
10. Knowledge of and ability to use a problem solving approach.
11. Understanding of group dynamics and the application of group work knowledge in working with group.
12. Understanding of organizational dynamics, the ability to assess organizational functioning and to develop and implement strategies for social change.
13. Knowledge of the influence of historical, political, social and economic contexts on national social welfare policy.

14. Knowledge of how social policy impacts service delivery and organizational structure.
15. The ability to analyze, formulate, and influence state social policy legislation.
16. The ability to evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice and to learn methods to evaluate their own practice.
17. The ability to use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
18. Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.
19. Understanding of and ability to the skills needed for successful professional collaboration.
20. Understanding of the nature of engagement, assessment, work and ending phases of the social work process and their application to various client systems.

Defines coverage of professional foundation EP 4 (4.0-4.7)

## **Clinical Program of Study**

### Concentration Curriculum

The Department has two concentrations—one in Management the other in Clinical. Each Concentration provides a more focused curriculum of knowledge and skills in using particular modalities of intervention (clinical or management), and the application of these modalities within particular settings and with particular populations (specialization). Each of these Concentrations builds on the generalist base provided by the first year foundation.

### Structure of Clinical Curriculum

Students choosing the clinical concentration are required to take the following courses;

Six Credits (6)--Depending on the choice of specialization students are required to take two practice courses within their specialization that focus on particular theoretical orientations, interventions, problems or populations.

Three Credits—One advanced policy course.

Three to Six Credits—Students have the opportunity to choose one elective. They are encouraged to choose courses that are supportive of their specialization.

Twelve Credits---Two semester placement, field seminar and research project. Placement is determined by student choice of concentration and specialization. The research project is

grounded in the placement assignment and is seen as integral to both the articulation of both the concentration and specialization.

Three Credits—One course in Psychopathology

The purpose of Clinical Social Work is to enhance, maintain and restore psychosocial functioning. Informed by an ecological perspective, by which we mean the interdependent, reciprocal relationship between persons and their environment, clinical social work requires the application, by persons trained in social work, of current knowledge of psychosocial development, behavior, psychopathology, unconscious motivation, interpersonal relationships and environmental stress to the evaluation, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of biopsychosocial dysfunction, disability and impairment, including mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, of individuals, couples, families or groups. (This definition of clinical social work was taken from the definition provided by the Department of Public Health in their application material for the LCSW. It differs somewhat from the definition we had originally developed.

Clinical social work focuses on the use of advanced analytic and interactional skills. Clinical social work practice includes advocacy, case management, consultation, crisis intervention, psychotherapy, and psycho-education.

### **Curriculum for Clinical Social Work Practice**

Our curriculum focuses on three broad conceptual categories of skills, knowledge and values:

- The interaction between the social context and clinical practice
- The centrality of the worker/client relationship as the vehicle by which change and growth occur
- The phases of the helping process

These categories are articulated in the following curriculum objectives.

### **Clinical Concentration Objectives**

Based on both classroom activities and in agency based assignments students in the clinical concentration will:

1. Deepen their understanding of the social context of practice to include agency auspices, existing social policy, service provisions and gaps, the means by which resources are accessed, obstacles to access, and how services are organized within the relevant field of service.

2. Be able to develop and implement interventive strategies to assist clients based on client need and a matching of need to resources.
3. Have developed a repertoire of interventive approaches so that choices can be made regarding the most effective approach.
4. To understand the essential aspects of the therapeutic relationship, how it is initiated, developed, maintained and terminated.
5. To deepen the capacity for acceptance and genuineness with clients.
6. To become more open to self exploration and knowledge of self as a means increasing empathy and removing obstacles to effective client-worker interaction.
7. To achieve an advanced degree of professional self-awareness that will allow for the ethical, creative and effective use of self
8. To have developed an understanding of cognitive, behavioral and psychodynamic theories of human behavior and be able to discern the distinctive aspects of each, their particular usefulness in working with particular clients, and the ability to utilize them in integrative ways.
9. Be prepared to function within the generalist practice framework and ecological perspective to establish professional helping relationships with clients at risk and who may differ in social class, race/ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or sexual orientation while engaged in clinical practice.
10. Develop a deepened awareness of the dynamics of socio-cultural diversity, of discrimination and oppression based on these differences, and the implications these factors have on the worker-client relationship.
11. Develop the capacity to assess his/her own needs for continuing professional development, to use supervision proactively, and to seek out opportunities for continuing education and development.
12. Demonstrate leadership ability within the agency and professional context of practice.
13. To be able to apply research-based knowledge and skills in the helping process.
14. To be able to evaluate the effectiveness of one's own clinical practice and to use this evaluation to shape future practice.

## **Social Service Management Concentration**

### **Program of Study**

The Social Service Management concentration is a specialized program of study designed to prepare students for a broad range of leadership roles in the design, planning, implementation, and ongoing development and evaluation of social service agencies. Students learn managerial and program development skills to successfully impact on public and voluntary social welfare organizations, including local, state and federal government, as well as private organizations and community organizations. The program seeks to attract students capable of making important contributions throughout their professional careers in human service organizations and other social interventions that enhance individual, family, and societal well-being.

## **Our Students**

Our students come from a broad range of organizational settings. Some of our students bring to the program experience as mid level supervisors interested in career advancement while others are seasoned program directors from small to mid size social service organizations interested in the enhancement of their managerial practice skills. Many of our graduates have graduate are now high level public sector commissioners and clinical services managers in both the public and non profit sectors. Our students are energetic and committed to becoming leaders in the field of Social Welfare Management.

Social Service Management students are prepared during the first year for social work practice with individuals, families, small groups, communities and organizations. During the foundation year, professional preparation for a broad range of professional roles, tasks, and processes is emphasized, with particular emphasis placed on social work values and ethics, culturally competent practice, foundation practice knowledge, professional roles, skills, and tasks

In addition, Social Service Management students learn about and experience workplace diversity, organizational change and innovation. Students study service utilization issues including access to service, program monitoring and continuous quality improvement. Students also explore the development of service models that take into account cultural differences, so that more culturally competent programs can be developed.

## **Program Curriculum - Social Service Management Concentration Objectives**

Based on both classroom activities and in social service management social work practice Assignments in agency-based field instruction, students in the concentration will:

1. Be prepared to function within the generalist practice framework and ecological perspective to establish professional helping relationships with clients at-risk and who may differ in social class, race/ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or sexual orientation while engaged in organizational and community practice.
2. Develop an awareness of the dynamics of socio-cultural diversity, and of discrimination and/or oppression based on those differences, and their implications for instituting effective change in organizational environments.
3. Achieve an advanced degree of professional self-awareness that will allow for the ethical,

creative and effective use of self at any phase of the helping process while with diverse client populations in organizational practice roles.

4. Develop the ability to identify organizational impediments to effective social work practice and within an ethical and value based framework influence and change agency policies and procedures.
5. Be able to identify gaps or barriers in social policies that impede effective social work practice or economic and social justice and to modify or to initiate policies on both the community and organizational levels.
6. Develop the capacity to assess her/his own needs for continuing professional development, to use supervision proactively, and to seek out opportunities for Continuing education and development.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of a wide variety of macro intervention strategies and methodologies that are designed to relieve distress among individuals and to improve the functioning of agencies and organizations.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the procedures necessary for knowledgeable decision-making in program development and design.
9. Be able to successfully apply policy development and planning skills to "real world" conditions.
10. An ability to assess the adequacy of policy in relation to addressing poverty and social oppression issues and human needs.
11. Demonstrate leadership ability when engaged in the use of planned action to develop and influence organizational change in both the private and public social welfare sectors.
12. Demonstrate sensitivity to working effectively with diverse individuals and cultural situations in organizational environments.
13. Demonstrate appreciation of the complexities involved in entering into an organizational system for purposes of conducting evaluative research.
14. Be able to apply research-based knowledge and skills in the helping process and to evaluate one's own practice and the programs of one's agency, the social work department and the larger community.
15. Demonstrate the ability to take engage in program evaluation and organization studies through research, scholarship and community activities.
16. Be able to apply the evaluation process as a tool for decision making.

17. Demonstrate the capacity to use community resources creatively.

### **The First Year**

The first year of the MSW program offers the same core/foundation courses to students in both the Social Service Management and Clinical Practice concentrations. Social Service Management students take three social work practice courses (individuals, families, and groups), two HBSE courses, two courses or semesters of generalist social work field practice, one introductory social policy course, and a research evaluation course.

### **First Year Foundation Curriculum in Social Service Management Foundation Year (30 credits)**

SWK 510- Social Welfare Policies and Delivery Systems

SWK 532: Theory and Practice I – The Life Model

SWK 533: Theory and Practice II - Groups

SWK 534: Theory and Practice III – Organizations & Communities

SWK 570/571: Social Work Practicum I and II

SWK 521: Social Work Practice with Chemically Dependent Individuals and Families

SWK 529: Social Work Practice with Culturally Oppressed Populations

SWK 550: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I

SWK 561: Evaluation of Clinical Social Work Practice

### **The Second Year**

The focus of the second year is preparation for advanced practice with an emphasis on Social Service Management. The second year prepares students for advanced managerial practice in social work. Expertise is developed in policy analysis, program design and development, strategic planning, supervision and personnel management, program evaluation, fiscal management, and management information systems. Attention is given to continued rapid social change, racism, sexism, and the pervasive social and economic problems which have accelerated the distress within client communities and the organizational capacity of human service organizations serving these families.

The second year Field Practicum (SWK 572/573) emphasizes demonstrated competence at a sophisticated level and specialist expertise in social service management interventions with individuals, groups and families. Students are trained in a wide variety of macro intervention strategies and methodologies that are designed to relieve distress among individuals as a result of improvements to the functioning of social agencies and community based organizations. Advanced Practice Curriculum: (30 credits)

**Students select three for the following list of Advanced Policy Courses:**

SWK 515 Family Policy

SWK 516 Social Welfare Policy: The Aged SWK 517 Health Policy for Social Work Practice  
SWK 518 Social Welfare Policy: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

**The following are required courses:**

SWK 536 Social Welfare Management I (Program Design) SWK 572/57 Social Work Practicum  
III and Research Proposal SWK 537 Social Welfare Management II  
(Supervision) SWK  
SWK 538 Social Welfare Planning  
(even years)  
SWK 584 Non-Profit Fiscal Management  
(even years)

