I. CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

543-6 Social Work Practicum III. On-site concentration specific field practice in an approved agency with appropriate supervision. Practicum is equivalent to 20 hours per week for 15 weeks with a concurrent seminar. Credit based on time spent in the agency. Six credit hours of practicum will be equivalent to 304 site hours. Field practicum requirements may be met through two consecutive semesters or one block field placement. The practicum and practicum seminar focus on the application of advanced generalist theory, knowledge and skills covered in the curriculum. Prerequisites: completion of foundation course or advanced standing and SOCW 502, 512 & 522.

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

SOCW 543 and SOCW 544 provide the student with an opportunity for specialized experiential learning in Social Work Practice through placement in selected human services agencies. This placement reflects cooperative planning with students for an educational experience which will best prepare them to meet their specialized career goals. The purpose of the course is to provide a context within which the varied elements of advanced level generalist social work practice, including specialized competencies, developed in students' second year concentration, are integrated into an educationally directed, summative, advanced level practice experience. The student is expected to assess, deliver, and evaluate social services over all levels of practice at an advanced level of competency. They must understand the patterns of social service delivery in rural areas, and know how to promote positive change to meet the needs of rural populations, especially those of oppressed groups. This final practicum experience provides students with an opportunity to focus their training into specialized areas of professional interest and it supports the educational objectives of their chosen emphasis area or elected certification, i.e., Health/Mental Health, Children, Youth, and Families, or School Social Work Certification.
III. PLACE OF THE COURSE IN THE PROGRAM

Field Instruction (SOCW 543-6 and SOCW 544-6) is an integral part of the second year MSW Program. Through advanced level field instruction, students are able to build upon foundation level social work knowledge and practice skills and integrate the specialized knowledge and competencies developed in their second year emphasis area with practice experience. They are able to use theoretical and intellectual understanding of advanced level social work practice, social policy, social work values and ethics, and communication skills to guide practice interventions. They are able to use advanced level research knowledge and techniques to assess and evaluate interventions on all levels of social work practice. The course serves as the summative specialized practice experience.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

General Objectives for Second Year Practicum

Upon successful completion of SOCW 543-6, the student will be able to meet the following general objectives by demonstrating on an advanced practice level:

I  understanding of self and a movement toward value laden, self-critical, evaluative autonomous social work practice;

II  ability to analyze critically theory and knowledge of systems, human behavior and interventions from a strength perspective and apply it to social work practice;

III  ability to use research to evaluate practice over all practice levels;

IV  ability to use professional supervision;

V  ability to function as a professional in the agency setting;

VI  ability to work at an advanced level of expertise with culturally diverse and/or oppressed populations;

VII  skill in meeting the challenges and opportunities of delivering advanced level generalist social work practice in rural areas; and,

VIII  the completion of all specific objectives for his/her specialized area of study.
**Second Year Practicum - Specific Objectives for Health/Mental Health Concentration**

Upon successful completion of the second year field practicum Health/Mental Health emphasis area, students will demonstrate advanced level:

1. knowledge of the laws, policies, and programs relevant to social work practice in health/mental health settings, especially in rural areas;

2. understanding of the impact of physical and mental handicapping conditions on the coping strategies of individuals, families, and communities;

3. application of appropriate intervention modalities using a strengths perspective to meet challenges resulting from physical or mental illness with a special awareness of informal resources of care and treatment in rural settings;

4. appropriate use of concentration specific supervision for continued professional development;

5. skills in professional functioning as an agency, interagency, or interdisciplinary team member;

6. knowledge and skills to assess, implement, and evaluate health and mental health services over all population levels;

7. identification with the philosophy, values, and ethics of advanced level generalist social work practice as applied to health/mental health service delivery;

8. understanding of the impact of discrimination on persons with mental and/or physical challenges because of condition, class, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic and/or age; and

9. conscious use of self as a professional health/mental health advanced level generalist social work practitioner.

**Specific Objectives for Second Year Practicum Children, Youth, & Families**

Upon successful completion of the second year field practicum Children, Youth, and Families emphasis area, student will demonstrate advanced level:

1. knowledge of the laws, policies, and programs relevant to social work practice with Children, Youth, and Families, particularly in rural area;

2. appropriate use of concentration specific supervision for continued professional development;
3. conscious use of self as a professional Children, Youth, and Families advanced generalist social work practitioner;

4. identification with the philosophy, values, and ethics of advanced level generalist social work practice with Children, Youth, and Families;

5. knowledge about theories and models of intervention with Children, Youth, and Families over all practice levels;

6. skill in critically analyzing and applying models of practice using a strengths perspective to assess, intervene, and evaluate services to Children, Youth, and Families;

7. skill in professional functioning as an agency, interagency and/or interdisciplinary team member; and,

8. understanding of the impact of discrimination on Children, Youth, and Families because of condition, class, gender, sexual orientation, and/or ethnicity.

**Specific Objectives for Second Year Practicum Certification in School Social Work**

Upon successful completion of field education in school social work, students will demonstrate:

1. the ability to employ selectively, models of practice for intervention with students and parents across all practice levels;

2. the ability to apply knowledge and skills in assessing the educational needs of children of different racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds and/or children with physical, or mental, challenging conditions;

3. knowledge of the laws and regulations which shape school social work practice in Illinois and the nation;

4. an appreciation of the dynamics of the school as a system, the rules and regulations under which it fulfills its societal mandate, and the unique contributions of social work and other professions in that setting; and,

5. the ability to identify with the philosophy, values, and ethics of social work practice as applied in school settings.
VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Second year students are placed in concurrent placement. They are in their field placement three days each week during the Fall and Spring semesters. During year two, a total of 607 hours in field education are required. A field learning plan (contract) must be developed by the student during the first three weeks of placement each semester which incorporates both the general and the specific learning objectives for the student's chosen area of concentration. Weekly conferences with field instructors are required. Field Instruction for the second year MSW practicum is supported by weekly integrative field seminars.

VII. GRADING

Based on their own evaluation of the student performance, as well as on recommendations of the field instructor and field liaison, the field seminar instructor confers the student’s practicum grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

VIII. COURSE EVALUATION

Students evaluate their field practicum experience by completing the School of Social Work Assessment of the Field Learning Experience form. Students will also be invited to provide on-going and specific feedback on how seminar meets stated objectives.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE/REQUIREMENTS

The sequencing of learning activities will vary with the clientele, format, and needs of the individual's practicum. The primary clinical teaching/learning vehicle is the student-instructor conference. Additional inputs are used as available in the agencies, including but not limited to staff meetings, audiovisual recordings, process recordings, direct observation, modeling, in-service training, and formal case presentations.

The student learning plan, developed by the field instructor and the student, defines the focus, goals, objectives and sequencing of student learning. In addition to the learning plan, two process recording, and weekly supervision conferences, students will take the role of leader in seminar to demonstrate understanding of specific course work and practice skills by making a presentation to the seminar group on an assigned topic. A "journal" will be turned in at the beginning of each seminar to facilitate class review and discussion of placement happenings.

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY


