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SW 576.03: Foundation Integrative Seminar I

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Course Description

This is the first Foundation Integrative Seminar in which a student is concurrently placed in a practicum setting. This course provides students with the information necessary to begin to understand and successfully manage the personal, educational, and professional processes that are part of graduate education and professional practice. The first semester of Foundation Integrative Seminar provides an orientation to the profession and the overall practicum experience. The course prepares students for their practicum, helps them understand how the practicum is related to the other components of the foundation curriculum, and guides them through an initial process of integration of theory and practice.

Relation To Other Courses

The Foundation Integrative Seminar builds on all concurrently taken foundation courses and offers the student the opportunity to articulate in a seminar format the interrelationships among courses in human behavior, social work practice, social welfare policy, and research, all while practicing in a specific social work setting. Students are expected to utilize material from concurrent foundation courses in their integrative seminar.

Foundation Objectives That Relate To The Course

1. To apply skills of critical thinking to social work practice.
2. To support and uphold professional values, standards and ethics.
3. To use theoretical frameworks to understand and assess the functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
4. To assess and expand self-awareness and pursue professional growth and development.
5. To apply knowledge and skills of the generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes and to a variety of client populations.
6. To use research (information and skills) in problem formulation, data collection, data analysis and interpretation of results, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
7. To apply knowledge of the bio-psycho-social-cultural and spiritual variables that effect individual, group, and community development and behavior.
8. To use communication and helping skills differentially with a variety of client populations, colleagues, and members of the community.
9. To demonstrate professionalism in practice.
10. To justify interventions on the basis of empirical theoretical and experimental knowledge and social work values.
11. To demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social and economic justice in aspects of professional practice.

Course Objectives

Students will:

1. Demonstrate an appreciation for an understanding of the dynamics of group process through attendance, contributions to professional discussions, and providing support to other students.
2. Complete a self-assessment of professional knowledge, skills, and values in preparation for the practicum experience.
3. Complete a self-assessment of one’s own learning style in order to maximize the integrative learning opportunities available in the practicum experience.
4. Identify personal safety issues in the practicum setting.
5. Identify legal issues in the practicum setting.
6. Design individualized, measurable learning objectives for the practicum setting.
7. Describe the practicum agency in terms of structure, mission, history, function, services, funding and client group.
8. Identify conceptual and theoretical frameworks guiding practice in the setting.
9. Develop an effective supervisory relationship with both the Agency Supervisor and the Faculty Supervisor.
10. Identify ethical issues related to the practice setting and articulate the core values of the social work profession as they relate to the practicum setting.

Grading

The Foundation Integrative Seminar is graded pass/fail. Students will successfully pass the course based on their attendance and participation, their contributions to the group process and the professional development of student peers, and their ability to integrate the academic content with the actual practicum experience.

Required Reading List


On Reserve:
Course Outline

September 4  Overview of Practicum, Practicum Seminar and Portfolio

September 11  Social Work Professionalism: Challenges, Differences, and Diversity

September 18  Ethical Values and Dilemmas

September 25  Learning Objectives

October 2   Contexts of Practice

October 9   Assessment of Self in the Social Work Profession

October 16  Assessment of Organizational Context

October 23  Connecting Theory and Practice

October 30  Utilizing Supervision for Professional Development

November 6  Professional Issues: Legal, Ethical and Safety

November 13  Professional Issues (Continued)

November 20  Linking Policy and Practice

December 4  Portfolio

December 11  Evaluation, Reflection, and Celebration