

SUNY Fredonia Social Work Program

Learning Contract

Student: _____

Field Instructor: _____

Agency: _____

Faculty Liaison: _____

Date: _____

The SUNY Fredonia Field Practicum is "one experience spread over two semesters" and is consistent with our developmental curriculum plan which supports integrated generalist practice that builds in knowledge and skill level each semester. This Field Contract gives structure to the social work student's field education experience and yet is designed to be flexible. Students need to have problem solving (engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, monitoring, evaluating and termination) experiences with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Policy practice experience is also needed.

Directions:

1. For each area listed, please list the experiences the student will have during the entire academic year. Please be specific when you know there are tasks/projects the student will be assigned but also feel free to be broad in your descriptions of experiences, such "as attend trainings as schedule allows", etc.
2. While thinking about experiences, please keep an eye on the Field Evaluation form. This is the form used for grading student competency at the end of the Spring semester. (Students will be graded S/U for the Fall semester). The grade assigned to the Field Evaluation is a significant part of the student's grade for Practicum-- so all the experiences should help the students gain these competencies. It is assumed that one experience helps students master competencies in several areas. You do not need to tailor your lists of experiences to be a task list to meet an outcome.

If it becomes apparent that the experiences listed will not help the student meet the competencies, please amend the contract by attaching an addendum. Because we see this as a mutual process, we ask that both the Field Instructors and the student initial changes to the contract. Also, the student will provide the SUNY Fredonia Field faculty with the working copy in the beginning of the Fall semester. We will review with the student and Field Instructor/Task Supervisor at the beginning of each semester. Faculty will amend their copy when appropriate.

3. Students should have the experience of working with cases independently, under supervision, at least in the second semester. They need to arrive at this level to meet competencies and to meet the goal of Field Education. Student caseloads can be micro, mezzo, or macro systems, preferably a combination. Agency field Instructors and task supervisors choose the timing to make caseload assignments based upon their assessment of student's abilities vis-a-vis client strengths/needs, agency needs/tolerances and all other ethical and practice issues that come into play for such an assignment.

4. For the Fall Field Site Visit, please type the Learning Contract and provide all meeting participants with a copy. After the meeting, if there are revisions, please make all revisions and submit within one week to the assigned Faculty Liaison.

Agreed upon Experiences

Competency-based education is an outcome performance approach to curriculum design. Competencies are measurable practice behaviors that are comprised of knowledge, values, and skills. The goal of the outcome approach is to demonstrate the integration and application of the competencies in practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Competency (COMP) 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant policies, laws, and regulations that may affect practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand that ethics are informed by principles of human rights and apply them toward realizing social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in their practice. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision making and apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize and manage personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. Social workers understand how their evolving worldview, personal experiences, and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers take measures to care for themselves professionally and personally, understanding that self-care is paramount for competent and ethical social work practice. Social workers use rights-based, antiracist, and anti-oppressive lenses to understand and critique the profession's history, mission, roles, and responsibilities and recognize historical and current contexts of oppression in shaping institutions and social work. Social workers understand the role of other professionals when engaged in interprofessional practice. Social workers recognize the importance of lifelong learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure relevant and effective practice. Social workers understand digital technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Social workers:

- a. make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics within the profession as appropriate to the context;
- b. demonstrate professional behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
- c. use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
- d. use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights. Social workers are knowledgeable about the global intersecting and ongoing injustices throughout history that result in oppression and racism, including social work's role and response. Social workers critically evaluate the distribution of power and privilege in society in order to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice by reducing inequities and ensuring dignity and respect for all. Social workers advocate for and engage in strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social resources, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Social workers:

- a. advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels; and
- b. engage in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 3: Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in practice

Social workers understand how racism and oppression shape human experiences and how these two constructs influence practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels and in policy and research. Social workers understand the pervasive impact of White supremacy and privilege and use their knowledge, awareness, and skills to engage in anti-racist practice. Social workers understand how diversity and intersectionality shape human experiences and identity development and affect equity and inclusion. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of factors including but not limited to age, caste, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, generational status, immigration status, legal status, marital status, political ideology, race, nationality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand the societal and historical roots of social and racial injustices and the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. Social workers understand cultural humility and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, racial, technological, and cultural exclusions, may create privilege and power resulting in systemic oppression.

Social workers:

- a. demonstrate anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, community, research, and policy levels; and
- b. demonstrate cultural humility by applying critical reflection, self-awareness, and self-regulation to manage the influence of bias, power, privilege, and values in working with clients and constituencies, acknowledging them as experts of their own lived experiences.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- Direct observation
- Feedback from agency professional
- Communication (verbal or written)

- Community/Client feedback
- Other

Competency (COMP 4): Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Social workers use ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive approaches in conducting research and building knowledge. Social workers use research to inform their practice decision making and articulate how their practice experience informs research and evaluation decisions. Social workers critically evaluate and critique current, empirically sound research to inform decisions pertaining to practice, policy, and programs. Social workers understand the inherent bias in research and evaluate design, analysis, and interpretation using an anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspective. Social workers know how to access, critique, and synthesize the current literature to develop appropriate research questions and hypotheses. Social workers demonstrate knowledge and skills regarding qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis, and they interpret data derived from these methods. Social workers demonstrate knowledge about methods to assess reliability and validity in social work research. Social workers can articulate and share research findings in ways that are usable to a variety of clients and constituencies. Social workers understand the value of evidence derived from interprofessional and diverse research methods, approaches, and sources

Social workers:

- a. apply research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and programs; and
- b. identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases for use in quantitative and qualitative research methods to advance the purposes of social work.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers identify social policy at the local, state, federal, and global level that affects wellbeing, human rights and justice, service delivery, and access to social services. Social workers recognize the historical, social, racial, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. Social workers understand and critique the history and current structures of social policies and services and the role of policy in service delivery through rightsbased, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist lenses. Social workers influence policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation within their practice settings with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers actively engage in and advocate for anti-racist and anti-oppressive policy practice to effect change in those settings.

Social workers:

- a. use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services; and
- b. apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate. Social workers:

- a. apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
- b. use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

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Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as interprofessional conceptual frameworks, and they critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in culturally responsive assessment with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Assessment involves a collaborative process of defining presenting challenges and identifying strengths with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to develop a mutually agreed-upon plan. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and use interprofessional collaboration in this process. Social workers are self reflective and understand how bias, power, privilege, and their personal values and experiences may affect their assessment and decision making.

Social workers:

- a. apply theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as other culturally responsive and interprofessional conceptual frameworks, when assessing clients and constituencies; and
- b. demonstrate respect for client self-determination during the assessment process by collaborating with clients and constituencies in developing a mutually agreed-upon plan.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice. Social workers understand theories of human behavior, person-in-environment, and other interprofessional conceptual frameworks, and they critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in selecting culturally responsive interventions with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing, and implementing evidence-informed interventions and participate in interprofessional collaboration to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers facilitate effective transitions and endings.

Social workers:

- a. engage with clients and constituencies to critically choose and implement culturally responsive, evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals; and
- b. incorporate culturally responsive methods to negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of clients and constituencies.

Tasks

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Competency (COMP) 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with and on behalf of diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers evaluate processes and outcomes to increase practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers apply anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspectives in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as interprofessional conceptual frameworks, critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers use qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness.

Social workers:

- a. select and use culturally responsive methods for evaluation of outcomes; and
- b. critically analyze outcomes and apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Task

Activity	Micro	Mezzo	Macro

Method of Evaluation/Outcome (check all that apply)

- ☐ Direct observation
- ☐ Feedback from agency professional
- ☐ Communication (verbal or written)
- ☐ Community/Client feedback
- ☐ Other

Signatures:

Student Date_____

Field Instructor Date_____

Task Supervisor (if applicable) Date_____

Faculty Liaison Date_____