



The University of Texas at Austin
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

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THE STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK: MISSION STATEMENT

Through excellence in professional education, research, and service, the University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work provides national leadership to promote social justice, alleviate critical social problems, and enhance human well-being.

Section 1

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Section 1

The Practicum Program: Organization, Structure, and Agency Partnerships

Organization and Structure

The Practicum for social work education provides a practice setting in which students have opportunities to utilize evidence-based practice and synthesize the various knowledge and theories covered in classroom material. Practicum education is presented as a specialized body of knowledge which provides students an educationally directed experiential base on which to develop evidence-based practice.

In addition to furnishing the experiential component of professional education, it is in the practicum that the student's professional identity, professional use of self, and professional ethics and values are fully explored. A significant portion of the student's time is spent in the practicum setting. For the undergraduate, 400 clock hours of the senior year are spent on site in a service-giving capacity. The graduate student does two internships over the course of a 60-hour master's degree program, for a total of 900 hours: 400 in the first practicum experience and 500 in the final practicum internship. Post-BSW may be admitted for the 48-or 42-hour MSSW program and will complete one or two internships respectively.

The educational activities which support the practicum component of the curriculum are the responsibility of the Office of Practicum Education. A key component is the interaction between the community-based practicum sites and the UT Steve Hicks School Social Work Clinical Faculty Liaison who monitors the students' progress in their practicum and supports the agency in the educational partnership.

At the University, the Practicum Program activities are the responsibility of the (1) Assistant Dean for Practicum Education, (2) Clinical Faculty Liaisons, (3) Practicum Education Associate, and (4) other faculty performing the liaison function particularly at the Master's of Science in Social Work final practicum level.

Practicum Education

Practicum Education is a multifaceted professional activity that requires students to engage the dimensions of knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes to support competency development in a complex configuration of activities across a wide range of settings. The practicum serves as a primary link between knowledge presented in the classroom and actual social work practice. It also provides students with an opportunity to build a repertoire of competencies, to practice test those competencies in actual practice settings, and to enhance their sense of identification with the profession. Both Foundation and Concentration practicum instruction are addressed below.

The practicum has historically been one of the key elements in social work education, providing an opportunity for the student to build, integrate, and apply knowledge in work with a client population within an agency setting. Practicum serves as an educational experience for the graduate student as well

as a transition to the professional work world. For all of these reasons, students often report that practicum is one of the most important and challenging parts of the curriculum. The undergraduate and graduate level first practicum internship is based on the generalist perspective to provide a broad and shared foundation experience regardless of students' concentration choice and should integrate an understanding of the micro, mezzo and macro level practice.

The graduate final practicum internship focuses on developing advanced practitioners skills in the students' concentration areas of Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice while maintaining the foundation year's understanding of the intertwined nature of all levels of practice.

The Practicum Partnership

Success of the practicum requires forming and sustaining a partnership between the Office of Practicum Education, Agency, Practicum Instructor, Faculty Liaison and Student. This partnership begins during the placement process and is sustained throughout the practicum. Without the commitment and the dedication of each in the system, the practicum program and practicum will not fulfill its ultimate goal: to assist in the preparation of a social work practitioner who has a strong professional identity and capably engages knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes in building practice competence.

The Office of Practicum Education

The Office of Practicum Education is responsible for supporting student practicum education, the Clinical Faculty Liaison team, agencies and their Practicum Instructors, and practicum-related activities within the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the larger University, and in the local, state, national, and international communities. The OPE is staffed by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education (ADFE), the Practicum Education Associate, and a part-time student employee.

The ADFE reports directly to the Dean of the School of Social Work and has the overall responsibility for directing the practicum program at both the bachelor and master's levels. The ADFE is responsible for:

- The design and implementation of the placement processes and related student orientations;
- The development, utilization, and evaluation of agency settings;
- The development and evaluation of Practicum instructor training;
- Monitoring student progress in Practicum and responding to student standard violations;
- The development, implementation, and evaluation of Practicum policies;
- Chairing the Practicum Education and Community Partnership Development Committees;
- Coordination with Practicum-related training Scholars Programs and grants;
- Representation of the Practicum program in the School, the University, and the local, state, national, and international communities;
- Oversight of the development of databases and reporting systems;
- Evaluation of Practicum program activities; and
- Coordination and evaluation of the Clinical Faculty Liaison team and Practicum Education Associate.

The Practicum Education Associate's primary responsibilities center around the database and reporting systems as well as implementing placement processes, facilitating Practicum Instructor communication, and event planning oversight.

The Agency

In the Practicum partnership, the School assumes central responsibility and leadership for the educational focus of the student's learning experience. However, agencies are a critical resource in a Practicum program and carry significant responsibility for the education of students. The School's selection of agency settings and Practicum Instructors is a crucial part of ensuring the educational focus of Practicum and the overall success of the Practicum program.

Fortunately, the Austin area has a sufficient number of human service agencies representing diverse functions, sizes, and structures, and serving a variety of client populations to meet the School's needs for Practicum placements. The School is affiliated with a broad spectrum of these agencies enabling it to be selective in the choice of appropriate settings. Available agencies differ from year to year due to changes in staffing or their ability to work with students. The School utilizes a variety of agencies in areas of service such as mental health, healthcare, schools, and child welfare, and serves a diversity of client populations including older adults, children, adolescents, and families.

Agencies utilized for the first Practicum experience are generally located in the Austin area and surrounding communities to accommodate the concurrent Practicum plan. This makes liaising manageable for the faculty and keeps commuting for the students to a minimum.

Agencies utilized for the final Practicum experience are also generally located within Austin and surrounding areas. However, students may be placed out-of-town, state or internationally in the advanced final Practicum internship.

Criteria for selection of an agency as a setting for student placement include the following:

1. The availability of necessary learning experiences;
2. The willingness of the agency executive and staff to support the educational goals of the School;
3. The availability of appropriate supervision;
4. A primary purpose of the organization, or the identified program or department within an organization, must be to address human needs. This can include the areas of social policy formulation, administration, evaluation, research, direct service delivery, the workplace, etc.;
5. The agency/organization cannot engage in discriminatory practices in either the hiring of personnel, the acceptance of students or clientele; including requiring a student to sign a statement of faith
6. The agency/organization is committed to the educational goals of the School as demonstrated by the Practicum Instructor's participation in the School's educational program. These activities might include: attendance/presenting at Practicum Instructor workshops, completion of online Practicum instructor training, guest lectures, participation in Steve Hicks School of Social Work committees, etc.;
7. The agency/organization must support the placement and allow sufficient release time for the Practicum Instructor to provide educational supervision to the student;
8. A reasonable stipend for the services of the student is encouraged when possible. This will vary by organization, is not required, and is based on similar programs for student internships within that organization, as well as on hours of service;
9. A Practicum Instructor for BSW interns must have a BSW degree from a CSWE-accredited school at least two year's post-graduate social work experience or an MSSW. For supervision of Master's level students, a Practicum Instructor must have a MSSW degree from a CSWE-accredited school and at least two years post-graduate social work experience;
10. The agency/organization must provide access to necessary administrative resources to sustain and integrate student activities including but not limited to office space, phones, computers, documentation systems, database, administrative support, etc.
11. The agency/organization must provide necessary measures to protect students' safety. This may minimally include training in: policies and procedures for conducting home visits;

interacting with potentially difficult clients; and handling emergencies, as well as appropriate screening of student assignments by Practicum Instructor(s);

12. The agency/organization must have a system of community accountability. This is demonstrated by a representative board of directors; fiscal accountability via the budget review process; or in the case of private-for-profit direct service organizations, be subject to periodic review by an accrediting agency; and
13. The agency must communicate changes in supervision staffing to the Practicum Office as soon as possible in order to make the necessary arrangements for student supervision.
14. The student will be in a practice setting that will expand, enhance and/or introduce new elements into their previous work and educational experiences.
15. The setting will provide a “learning” or “educational” experience for the student, rather than a “work” or “observation” experience.

These criteria represent the basic elements for safeguarding the educational nature of the Practicum experience. In addition, the MSSW first Practicum placement for each student is chosen with the following goals:

1. The placement will support the generalist perspective in social work.
2. The agency will be able to provide the student with four basic requirements addressing micro, mezzo and macro level practice: individual cases, intake/assessment, a group experience and an administration and/or planning experience.

The MSSW final Practicum placement for each student is chosen with the following goals:

1. The placement will support the student’s concentration focused learning: either Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice.
2. The agency will respect the advanced student status and provide educational challenges sufficient to their standing as a final Practicum student and emerging professional.

The Practicum Instructor

The Practicum Instructor remains at the center of Practicum education and is the key to the quality of the Practicum experience for an individual student. Potential Practicum Instructors are identified in conjunction with the agency but approval rests with the Practicum Office. Criteria for the selection of Practicum Instructors include the following:

1. The primary Practicum Instructor of record for a BSW intern must have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited school of social work and at least two years post-graduate experience or an MSSW. The Practicum Instructor of record for an MSSW intern must have a Master’s degree from an accredited school of social work and least two years of post-graduate experience. For international Practicum, cultural competence and global realities require a broader understanding of professional social work preparation around the world, but comparable Practicum Instructor ability to support student education is always sustained.
2. The Practicum Instructor must be recommended by the host Agency as competent in the profession and capable of student instruction. The Agency must also agree to support the Practicum Instructor in the educational role.
3. The Practicum Instructor must agree with the learning goals of professional Social Work education and be committed to quality education for the student.

4. The Practicum Instructor is required to work closely with the School in the assignment of case material and is responsible for providing timely feedback to the School on the progress of the individual student through the Faculty Liaison.
5. The Practicum Instructor is expected to participate in the ongoing mutual exchange of ideas with the faculty. One arena for this is in the seminars and workshops that are held during the year.
6. The Practicum Instructor is expected to attend orientation sessions, complete online training modules available through the School's website and/or be available for individual orientation by the Faculty Liaison.
7. The Practicum Instructor is expected to submit their resume to the OPE and create and maintain an individual profile in the Practicum database for communication and data integrity.
8. The Practicum Instructor for out of town or state placements must be on-site and licensed in accordance with that state's requirements.
9. The Practicum Instructor must be willing and able to contribute to the evaluation of the student through written documents including: process recordings, learning contract, and the student evaluation instrument.
10. The Practicum Instructor should have been employed at the agency for at least six months prior to supervising interns. This requirement may be reviewed and exceptions approved by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education (ADFE) under compelling circumstances, especially if the Practicum Instructor is a known partner.

Although an onsite Practicum Instructor provides the preferred method of supervision, due to the movement of social work into non-traditional settings, this is not always feasible. When an approved agency is unable to provide a full time Practicum Instructor to work with the student, the following options are available with final approval resting with the UT Office of Practicum Education:

1. Supervision by a part-time employee who meets the CSWE eligibility degree and experience requirements to supervise students at the different programmatic levels.
2. Supervision by an equally eligible BSW or MSSW in another division of the same agency, with approval of the administrators in each division.
3. Supervision by an equally eligible BSW or MSSW hired or otherwise engaged by the agency for the specific purpose of providing student supervision. This must be supplemented by an administrative supervisor who is onsite and can oversee the day-to-day work of the student. The MSSW and administrative supervisor need to work closely together in the matter of assignments, agency policy and other matters that would impact on the student's achievement of the course objectives. In rare cases an MSSW who is either on the board of the agency, connected with the agency in some other way, or in practice somewhere else in the community may volunteer the time necessary for supervision. In those cases, the School will need to ascertain the level of commitment on the part of the volunteer, in order to assure the student will receive the time commitment necessary to achieve quality supervision. Like all approved supervisors, external Practicum Instructors are also required to provide a copy of their resume to the OPE and to complete new Practicum instructor training either in-person or online.

The approved Practicum Instructor's primary role, in relation to the student and the School, is as an educator. The Practicum Instructor is viewed as the primary teacher who creates and protects a positive educational climate to facilitate student learning and engages the student in knowledge, value, and skill development related to social work practice and the service-giving assignments in the agency. Other responsibilities of the Practicum Instructor are:

1. To orient the student to the setting. This includes all relevant personnel, policies and procedures, meetings, dress code, record keeping and agency documentation, confidentiality and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) regulations, intake, referral, transfer and termination, special auspices, etc.;
2. To establish a learning contract with each student;
3. To provide the necessary experiences to meet the educational goals;
4. To teach the appropriate use of supervision including when and how it is utilized and to what purposes;
5. To serve as a professional role model;
6. To help the student understand and appropriately use the network of human services available to the agency and the clients;
7. To evaluate with the student and the Faculty Liaison the progress of the student throughout the internship;
8. To provide regularly scheduled and uninterrupted supervisory conferences for the purpose of enhancing the student's educational learning and practice skills;
9. To provide necessary training and monitoring of students' compliance with safety policies and procedures;
10. The Practicum Instructor and Intern commit to uphold and advance the National Association of Social Workers 10 Standards and Indicators of Cultural Competence found at <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>.
11. To notify the Faculty Liaison as soon as possible should challenges regarding the student arise in the Practicum setting. The Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor will confer with the ADFE and make decisions regarding the student as needed;
12. To participate with the School in a continuing mutual effort to upgrade and enhance the Practicum Program and to attend School workshops for Practicum Instructors;
13. To participate in the School whenever possible by sharing expertise in specific areas; and
14. To communicate to the Practicum Office any planned or unexpected changes that would impact current or future supervision of students.

Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons are expected to share information freely in service of the student's education. Students sign a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) waiver acknowledging the need to share educational information between the School and the internship staff. Similarly, every time Practicum Instructors request interns from the School, they sign an acknowledgement of their responsibility to share FERPA related information within the agency and with internship-related staff solely for the purposes of administering student internships, protecting client well-being, and reviewing student performance.

The Faculty Liaison

The Faculty Liaison integrates curriculum into Practicum and develops the connection between the agencies and the School through regular communication and feedback with all internship related parties including the intern, Practicum Instructor, additional agency-based staff, and the Office of Practicum Education. Students are assigned to a Faculty Liaison based upon agency placement, student scheduling

needs, and the expertise and interests of the students and Faculty Liaison. In the first Practicum placement, graduate students have access to their Faculty Liaison on a weekly basis in the integrative seminar, during liaison visits, via phone and email and by scheduling office appointments as needed. In the final Practicum placement, students have access to their Faculty Liaison over the course of the semester during liaison visits, via phone and email, and by scheduling appointments as needed.

A brief list of the responsibilities of the Faculty Liaison in relation to monitoring of student placements includes the following:

1. Conduct liaison visits at designated times during the semester to confer with the Practicum Instructor and the student about the student's professional development in relation to the educational objectives and competencies;
2. Participate with the Practicum Instructor and student in the assessment of the student's learning needs and help identify goals and educationally substantive assignments;
3. Attempt to identify early possible challenge areas with individual students and act to assist both the student and agency to meet educational needs and resolve conflicts;
4. Aid in the growth and training of Practicum Instructors in their educational role;
5. Provide feedback and evaluation of student performance using weekly journals, a learning contract, process recordings and midterm and final evaluation tools;
6. Ongoing problem solving around placement issues with students and Practicum instructors including moving students to different placements as needed;
7. Gatekeeping through initiation and follow through with students in level review process in adherence with the UT-SHSSW Standards for Social Work Education; and
8. Assign the grade for first Practicum or course credit for final Practicum students.

Faculty Liaisons and agency-based Practicum Instructors work jointly to foster individualized student learning and to monitor and evaluate student progress in meeting Practicum objectives and demonstrating competencies. Faculty Liaisons schedule and make visits with students and Practicum Instructors in the Austin area at least twice a full-length semester, with at least one additional visit in the summer semester for extended final Practicum placements. Domestic long distance final Practicum students – 60 miles or more outside Austin – typically receive one in-person liaison visit over the course of their internship with additional phone and email contact. The University has a commitment to make additional Practicum visits on an as needed basis.

Visits are conducted to establish learning contracts, review progress, and evaluate student performance.

Liaison visits are defined as a scheduled meeting with at least the Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor and intern for at least 30 minutes and may include additional staff/supervisors. Liaison visits may be in-person (typically onsite at the agency) or via video- or audio-conference call, with the preferred option being video-conference due to the value of additional non-verbal communication.

The Clinical Faculty designation is a non-tenure track faculty position within the Steve Hicks School of Social Work. In the Practicum program, Clinical Faculty members act as Faculty Liaisons to the practicums, providing instruction, monitoring, and evaluation of the Practicum experiences of students within the bachelor of social work and master of science in social work programs. The position also carries professional advising responsibilities in the Practicum Program in order to enhance the quality of School/agency/student interaction. The Faculty Liaison links the School and the professional community with a special focus on assisting students with integration of theory and practice and with enhancing agency-based Practicum instruction.

It should be noted that Clinical Faculty title is a University designation for non-tenure track faculty and is

separate and apart from the Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice concentrations within the School. Clinical Faculty are chosen, trained and knowledgeable in generalist foundation education as well as advanced Clinical and APP concentration specific social work.

The Student

The primary responsibility of the student in Practicum is to demonstrate the competencies of Practicum and as an active adult learner in the practice setting and in the Practicum seminar. Since students are providing services to clients who are often vulnerable and in need of assistance in problem solving, it is important that students make a commitment to actively pursue the knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes necessary to accomplish this. Students are not expected to already possess this knowledge base and skills, but instead, to take on the responsibility to involve themselves in the learning process. This includes remaining open to and acting on feedback from the Practicum Instructor and agency staff, coming prepared to meetings and supervision, being willing to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and sharing this with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor.

Supervision

Students are supervised in the Practicum by a person with a BSW or MSSW degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program and at least two-years, post-graduate experience. BSW students may also be supervised by an MSSW with less post-graduate experience. This person is vetted and approved by the School as the Practicum Instructor after submitting credentials to the OPE, and is required to complete the new Practicum instructor training either in person at the bi-annual Practicum Instructor Development Institute or online at <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1238449>.

Every student in Practicum requires a minimum of one hour of supervision per 16 hours in Practicum. One hour of this must be individual educational supervision with the designated Practicum Instructor. The additional hour may include individual supervision, group supervision (with other students and/or staff), or specialized supervision by an expert in the agency or a consultant, e.g., a skilled fellow staff member, administrator, or professional from another discipline

Students should not be left alone in the agency without professional staff. Leaving students alone on the premises or otherwise in charge during staff retreats, conferences, etc. is not an appropriate use of students. Students, no matter how competent or skilled, are not in position to take on those types of staff responsibilities.

Supervision is expected to be both administrative and educational in nature. Administrative supervision includes topics such as a description of policies of the agency, assignment of work and coordination of staff efforts. Educationally-focused supervision includes an emphasis on theory and helping the student connect agency assignments to the educational objectives of the placement. In supervision, students engage with knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective process in mastering the required competencies. The Practicum instructor teaches knowledge and skills, for example, through discussion of applying theoretical frameworks applicable to the client population and setting. Supervision sparks use of critical thinking skills and exercise of judgment, through discussion of ethical dilemmas and assessment data. The student's affective processes come into play in supervision as well, through increased self-awareness and self-regulation are modeled and encouraged by the supervisor. Both types of supervision are important and should be a part of the practicum experience.

Students are expected to play an active role in supervision. This includes being prepared and on time for the supervisory session. Although the Practicum Instructor will have topics selected for discussion, the expectation is that students will also have any topics identified that need to be covered.

One of the most important areas for growth during Practicum is the student's understanding of the need for a commitment to life-long learning and self-evaluation as a beginning practitioner. Learning how to prepare for and use supervision may be a new experience for students. Planning is very important in making productive use of supervision. Students are encouraged to keep lists throughout the week of issues to be discussed. Another tool for supervisory sessions is the learning contract. The goals stated in the contract may be used as a guide for the supervisory session.

Other ways to use supervision productively include:

1. Using supervision to identify strengths as well as gaps related to the competencies;
2. Discussing process recordings in supervision;
3. Reflecting on the dimensions of knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes;
4. Requesting feedback on performance and skills;
5. Seeking additional readings and resources to improve practice effectiveness;
6. Using supervision as a vehicle for examining the impact of the Practicum experience on the development of professional use of self; and
7. Acting on feedback from supervisor.

Teaching Methods

Each Practicum Instructor is unique in their approach to Practicum education. However, the following methods have proven useful over a variety of settings and Practicum Instructor teaching styles. Some are required by the School. Others are simply suggestions.

However, it is expected that an appropriate mix of suggested methods will be utilized, depending on availability in the agency setting and the educational needs of the students.

1. Process recordings (required)
2. Review and discussion of case documentation (required)
3. Direct observation of student's work
4. Student observation of Practicum Instructor at work
5. Audio recordings
6. Video recordings
7. Role plays
8. Discussion of events and experiences
9. Practicum trips
10. Interdisciplinary simulations
11. Visits to other service providers for comparison/contrast
12. Group discussion with other students/staff
13. Pertinent videos
14. Additional readings in appropriate areas
15. Attendance at relevant trainings and/or conferences
16. Student presentations
17. Online training and webinars

Service Provision and Educational Assignments

The service provision and educational assignments of Practicum provide the experiential base on which a

student realistically moves toward completion of the objectives of the Practicum sequence, demonstrating the core competencies, and becoming a professional social worker. Assignments are identified by the Practicum Instructor with consultation from the Faculty Liaison and are based on the educational objectives and core competencies. Students are given a minimum set of assignments, regardless of agency setting, but these are individualized for every student. The learning contract links specific assignments to the learning goals of the practicum. The underlying principle in the delineation of service-giving assignments is that these provide meaningful learning experiences. Assignments are geared toward engaging the student's knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes in demonstration of the competencies of the Practicum experience, to support a generalist approach to practice within the social work domain.

Furthermore, assignments are chosen for their usefulness in assisting the student to transfer competencies from the Practicum to other settings in the future.

Service-giving assignments also encompass opportunities to perform a variety of social work roles in practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities including: outreach, enabler, broker, advocate, teacher, planner, researcher, evaluator, etc. Both direct and indirect assignments are required during the practicum.

Student assignments include opportunities to work with individuals and families with a wide variety of needs and concerns. Experience involving the entire problem-solving process from engagement to evaluation is required. Over the course of the placement, students have opportunities to perform intake duties, to complete assessments, to work with collateral contacts, and to carry ongoing cases. Students carry some cases from intake through termination while others are referred to them from within the agency. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for screening and assigning cases for the student. In addition, cases are selected in order to give the student an understanding of the richness of human diversity and thus represent differences in age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic levels. All students must have an opportunity to work with disadvantaged populations, providing opportunities to impact social, economic, and environmental justice concerns. Emphasis on assessment and linkage with appropriate referrals in the community is another aspect of the students' work. Case documentation of work with individuals and families is also required. Students must submit process recordings, assessments, ongoing case recordings, and other forms of recording for review by the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison.

Students are also given assignments to work at the group level during their placement. All students are expected to co-plan and co-facilitate a group during their internship experience. This entails responsibility for planning for the group, curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation of the group experience. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for assisting the student in the identification of an appropriate learning experience in this area. Generally, opportunities for group work center around psychoeducationally-focused groups such as parenting skills training, independent living skills training, development of problem-solving skills, etc.

Students are also expected to carry out an administrative/planning/research assignment, under supervision, as part of their Practicum experience. Responsibilities in this area include: the identification of a need within the agency or community; consideration of policy implications of the project; consideration of alternative approaches to addressing the need; delineation of a plan to address the concern including methods to be used and needed resources; implementation of the plan; coordination of the action systems involved; and evaluation of the process and outcomes. Projects that are identified must be within the normal duties of the professional staff within the agency and must have agency sanction. A part of this assignment may also entail an oral presentation of the project to the staff and/or Board of Directors of the agency.

Students must also be given opportunities to engage in a number of other indirect service activities in the placement. Students are expected to attend staff meetings, case reviews, and other staff development opportunities within the agency. Attendance at staff meetings is a critical part of the student's ability to integrate himself/herself into the agency setting. In addition, students may attend meetings of the agency's Board of Directors or other policy-making group during the year. This experience is processed within supervision with the Practicum Instructor and is discussed in the integrative seminar. Students are also encouraged to visit other agencies and attend other community meetings including inter-organizational meetings, NASW chapter meetings, and meetings of other city, county, state, and federal policy-making bodies. In particular, students are encouraged to observe and participate in the legislative process during state legislative sessions and to attend Social Work Advocacy Day and/or Social Work Students' Day at the legislature as offered.

Emphasis is placed on the student's carrying a manageable and sequenced load in the Practicum. This is supported in the agencies by the Practicum Instructors. Although care is taken to structure and sequence the student's learning as much as possible, the reality of the agency-based Practicum model implies that, at times, students will feel unprepared to take on some service-giving assignments. Reflections on this in supervision with the Practicum Instructor and with the Faculty Liaison in the Practicum log and during integrative seminar are helpful ways of processing these experiences.

Educational Tools

A variety of educational tools are available to support student learning and accountability for interns, Practicum Instructors, and Faculty Liaisons. Among the most essential formal tools are the learning contract, journals, time sheets, process recordings, midterm and final evaluations, and self-reflective narratives.

Students develop learning contracts in consultation with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. The learning contracts identify educational goals, learning opportunities, and responsibilities appropriate to the needs of the clients and constituencies of the internship setting that allow the students to develop and demonstrate the competencies. Learning contracts are developed at the beginning of each semester and are amendable documents based on the evolving needs of the student and the agency. Learning contracts are submitted to the Faculty Liaison within the first third of the student's internship semester. Forms and further instruction may be found in Section 7: Forms.

In generalist Practicum, students submit weekly journals detailing their understanding of the integration of practice and theory, ethical issues, and their growing identity as professionals. The faculty liaison reviews and responds to the student's experience, using this tool to reinforce the values, knowledge, skills, and affective and cognitive processes. In advanced, specialized concentration specific Practicum, the OPE requires journals for international Practicum interns only but Practicum Instructors may employ journals as an educational tool if appropriate to the placement.

Students are expected to use timesheets to document their time in Practicum and to have those signed by their Practicum Instructor. Students are encouraged to use the agency timesheets and are not required to use the timesheets provided at the agency exclusively but may also use the form available in Section 7: Forms.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved, the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to that interaction, and the Practicum Instructor's written feedback. Process recordings should be submitted to the Faculty Liaison in accordance with the guidelines below but are to be spread out over the internship to allow comparison between different points in time and

potentially student development. More information is provided to the student by the Faculty Liaison. Midterm and final evaluations provide a teaching tool and formal structure for assessing student progress on the competencies and outcomes. The student and Practicum Instructor collaborate to rate, document, and evaluate the intern's progress toward the CSWE Educational Policies and Academic Standards' educational competencies using outcomes and help determine priorities for the remainder of the semester. Electronic midterm evaluations are to be submitted online by the Faculty Liaison, who communicates specific due dates, midway through the internship for the OPE.

Midterm evaluations serve as a first draft of the final evaluation. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the content of the final evaluation. The final evaluation is a permanent part of the student's educational record and may be requested for release to state licensing boards, Doctor of Philosophy programs, and/or governmental security clearance applications. Evaluations are submitted electronically using a link sent out by the Faculty Liaison. Final evaluations are due to the OPE when the student completes their internship. Examples of the different evaluation tools for each level are available in Section 7: Forms for use in supervision and reference .

The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of each semester of Practicum and is a guided reflection of the student's experience over the course of the internship. It allows the student to demonstrate the ability to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

All Practicum forms are available online at <http://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>.

Becoming an Approved Practicum Setting

The initiative for instituting a Practicum internship in a given organization may originate either with the School or the Agency.

Initial inquiries for how to get started moving toward approval as a UT-SHSSW Practicum site should be sent to the Director of Student and Community Affairs Ramón Gómez at ramon-gomez@austin.utexas.edu or the OPE at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu.

Agency representatives will be sent step-by-step directions on how to enter initial information about their agency and internship needs and opportunities. Questions related to navigating the database should be addressed to ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu.

Members of the Community Partnership for Development Committee will review the submitted materials and two volunteers – one community-base and one UT - will commit to schedule a site visit. The CPDC consists of volunteers from the community and staff and faculty at the SHSSW who are invested in developing new internship partners.

The proposed Practicum Instructor, other agency staff, and CPDC members will meet to explore and review internship expectations for both the agency and the School. The Practicum Placement Expectations form used in this meeting may be found in Section 7: Forms. This is the same form that students and Practicum Instructors sign at the beginning of each new internship. CPDC members will also educate the agency staff regarding the need to request students each cycle.

If the proposed placement is out of town, the ADFE will conduct the exploration and review of expectations over the phone. The agency will receive the Practicum Placement Expectations form for discussion as well.

The CPDC representatives will present their findings in the committee setting for discussion and possible approval. Typically, it becomes clear to both parties in the site visit if an agency is prepared to host interns and at what level, whether generalist or advanced and concentration specific. Agencies deemed not currently suitable for hosting Practicum students will receive feedback about ways to strengthen a subsequent bid for approval and/or referred for other service learning possibilities and partnerships within the School.

The approval process for an agency request may be expedited by temporary approval from the ADFE if the placement process for interns is actively underway and it becomes important to get requests out to the students by a pressing deadline. However, the CPDC will still review and provide final approval on the internship site itself.

Criteria for Selection of Practicum Instructors

It is an acknowledged part of education in Social Work that the Practicum experience is an extremely valuable component in social work education. In fact, the Council on Social Work Education has termed Practicum the "signature pedagogy" of social work. Therefore, the choice of a Practicum experience and the quality of the on-site educational supervision are of utmost importance. Practicum instruction is provided by a social work practitioner within an agency setting. The following are criteria established for the selection of an agency-based Practicum Instructor.

General Duties of All Practicum Instructors

Practicum instructors are vital in the provision of administrative and educational supervision for each student and are involved in the development of Practicum assignments, coordination with faculty liaisons and in participation in Practicum instructor workshops. Once the student arrives at the agency, the Practicum instructor coordinates the student's orientation to the agency and the initiation of Practicum assignments. Regular supervisory conferences, held on a weekly basis, may be supplemented with additional brief supervisory contacts, depending on the student's needs. Scheduling of faculty liaison visits to the agency will be the responsibility of the faculty liaison; however, coordination of students' and staff schedules within the agency for these visits is the responsibility of the Practicum instructor.

Educational issues, as well as administrative issues, encountered in the supervision of students must be identified as early as possible. Whenever the Practicum instructor is uncertain about the gravity of his/her observations, deliberation with the faculty liaison must be carried out as soon as possible. Unethical conduct on the part of the student should be reported immediately. (Please refer to policy on removal of students from Practicum placement: Section 2.)

Specific Practicum Instructor Duties:

1. To orient the student to the setting. This includes all relevant personnel policies and procedures, meetings, dress code, record keeping and agency documentation, confidentiality and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) regulations, intake, referral, transfer and termination, special auspices, etc.;
2. To establish a learning contract with each student;
3. To provide the necessary experiences to meet the educational goals and have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the competencies
4. To teach the appropriate use of supervision including when and how it is utilized and to what purposes;

5. To serve as a professional role model;
6. To help the student understand and appropriately use the network of human services available to that agency and the clients;
7. To evaluate with the student and the Faculty Liaison the progress of the student throughout the semester;
8. To provide regularly scheduled and uninterrupted supervisory conferences for the purpose of enhancing the student's educational learning and practice skills;
9. To provide necessary training and monitoring of students' compliance with safety policies and procedures for conducting home visits, interacting with potentially difficult clients, and handling emergencies. Students and Practicum instructors should work out a plan in advance for what to do and how to get help if a student feels unsafe;
10. To notify the Faculty Liaison as soon as possible should problems regarding the student arise in the Practicum setting. If necessary, the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor might then confer with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education and make decisions regarding the student.
11. To participate with the School in a continuing mutual effort to upgrade and enhance the Practicum Program and to attend School workshops for Practicum instructors;
12. To participate with the School whenever possible by sharing their expertise in specific areas; and
13. To communicate to the Office of Practicum Education any planned or unexpected changes that would impact actual or future supervision of students.

Annual Practicum Instructor Award

Each year, one Practicum instructor is selected to receive the Practicum Instructor of the Year award. This award recognizes outstanding Practicum instruction and a long-term commitment to social work education. Effective 2008-2009, this recognition comes with a small cash stipend supported by the Jane Addams Practicum Education Endowment. The Practicum Instructor of the Year award is determined by members of the Practicum Education Committee which consists primarily of clinical faculty liaisons.

The Practicum Instructor of the Year must:

- have been approved for three years or more;
- participate in Practicum instructor workshops;
- have supervised interns within the last three years;
- take an active role in other areas of the School, i.e., guest lecturing; and
- be actively seeking or supervising students currently.

Procedures for Establishing Affiliation Agreements

The University of Texas System has developed standard forms for use by component schools (including schools of social work, nursing, pharmacy and others) to establish educational affiliations. The SHSSW does not routinely require affiliation agreements which are typically long legal contracts between institutions. However, it is important that new community partners for Practicum practice notify the Office of Practicum Education if your agency or program requires an affiliation agreement, we will be happy to coordinate between our Business Contracts office and your agency's correlated office.

Instructions for the process of establishing Affiliation Agreements

1. Contact the Office of Practicum Education to initiate the Affiliation Agreement process (ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu).
2. The University of Texas at Austin can provide your agency with an electronic standardized affiliation agreement form or your agency can provide The University with your system's form.
3. Once received in the OPE, the proposed and/or signed affiliation agreement is reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education and Practicum Education Associate.
4. Pending agreed upon revisions between the OPE and the agency as needed, the affiliation agreement then moves to Business Contracts office for review, revision(s), and approval
5. Once the agency or institution and The University of Texas at Austin are in agreement, all parties including those authorized at the agency/institution and the Business Contracts office representatives sign approval. This process can take up to five months.
6. Once signed, an electronic copy of the fully executed document should be emailed to the OPE at: ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu

If you have any questions about the forms or procedures, please contact the Practicum Education Associate in the Practicum Office at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 471-6207.

These agreements will legally establish a working relationship between your facility and The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Section 2

BSW and MSSW Foundation Placements, Processes and Practicum Expectations

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Section 2

BSW and MSSW Foundation Placements, Processes and Practicum Expectations

Organization of the Foundation Practicum Experience

A generalist approach is the underlying foundation of the undergraduate and first Practicum graduate sequences. This approach is seen as encompassing the eco-systems, developmental, and transtheoretical framework where students learn the importance of the interaction between the person and the environment in order to understand and better enhance the developmental and problem-solving capacities of clients, especially vulnerable populations. Students learn to identify and prioritize a wide range of needs of their client systems and to link clients with appropriate resources when needed. Within the generalist approach the student is also encouraged to consider the broader implications of client problems, to work to contribute to the improvement of human service systems and policies, and to identify needed resources for clients in order for them to reach their potential. The problem-solving approach to intervention at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels is also emphasized. Students learn to apply the problem-solving approach including the principles of data collection, problem identification, assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation to systems of various sizes. Students also learn the importance of research in the acquisition of practice knowledge, evaluation of systems, and evaluation of their own practice. Additionally, students learn evidence-based practice at the micro, mezzo and macro levels. The practicum occurs within the organizational context of an approved human service agency or program and includes both direct and indirect service assignments that are supervised by the Practicum Instructor, in consultation with the Faculty Liaison.

These Faculty Liaison instructors teach the one-hour/week Practicum seminar as well. Students use the seminar to discuss and explore their attempts in Practicum to make use of the learning they have acquired throughout the curriculum and in practice. The overall goals of the seminar are to assist the student with the Practicum experience and strengthen the relationship between the classroom content and Practicum. Another contribution of the seminar is to help socialize the student into the profession by discussion of common social work issues and sharing insights and experiences. The seminar assists students in problem solving around Practicum issues by helping to identify and clarify broad practice issues such as client progress and worker responsibility, the connection between micro and macro practice, client self-determination, and worker's influence, etc.

The BSW Integrative Seminar and Practicum I and II Practicum objectives align with the CSWE competencies and are expanded upon and operationalized in Section 4: Practicum Objectives and in the Practicum evaluation forms in Section 7: Forms. Students are assigned to the Practicum classes by the ADFE. Students are grouped in seminars depending on their agency assignment and student scheduling considerations. Usually a variety of agencies and client populations are represented in each seminar, with an emphasis on a cluster of agencies dealing with a particular practice area or population such as child welfare, women's services, health, mental health, etc. This model allows students to become familiar with a variety of agencies and client populations, while also being exposed to more in-depth content in one specific area. Students benefit from this exposure to various agencies and populations and learn from each other.

Having the same instructor teach practice, seminar, and liaison to the placement facilitates the linkage between the classroom and Practicum and allows the Faculty Liaison to have extensive contact with the student and build knowledgeable working relationships.

Policy Statement on Agency Selection

Generalist Practicum settings for BSW and first Practicum MSSW students are chosen with the following goals:

1. The student will have a Practicum experience that supports the generalist approach as the underlying foundation for the Practicum sequence.
2. The student will be in a practice setting that enhances their understanding of practice within the social work domain.
3. The agency will provide a real learning or educational experience for the student, rather than a work or observation experience. The student will have in-person contact with clients during their internship.
4. The agency will provide appropriate supervision for all BSW and first Practicum MSSW student activities including the screening and selection of assignments geared to a beginning level student and regular ongoing feedback.

For more information on agency selection, see Section 1: Agency, and Becoming an Approved Practicum Setting as well as the Section 7: Practicum Expectations Checklist.

Required Responsibilities

The following are minimal expectations for the generalist placement:

1. Each student, with the assistance of the Practicum Instructor, will create a learning contract that will be reviewed by the Faculty Liaison during the first visit.
2. Each student will carry approximately three to six individual ongoing cases each semester as the setting allows. This is intended as a guideline and may vary based on agency and internship structure, e.g., where primary responsibilities center around intake and assessment or crisis intervention. Placements are expected to provide in-person client opportunities and to consult with the Faculty Liaison and support the student in activities beyond the agency if client services are primarily provided remotely.
3. The agency should provide opportunities for intake/assessment.
4. Each student must have a group experience. The student will take part in planning, implementing, and co-facilitating a group during their placement. Students should bring and/or receive adequate support from the Practicum Instructor and training to facilitate or co-facilitate at least one multi-session group. Practicum Instructors should consult with the Faculty Liaison and support the student in activities beyond the agency if group opportunities are limited within.
5. Each student must have an APP (Administration and Policy Practice) macro assignment during the course of the year. This should be something that benefits the agency and is accomplished with the cooperation of the staff. That assignment has several phases, such as:
 - a. identification of a need within the agency or community;
 - b. consideration of policy implications of the project;
 - c. consideration of alternative approaches;
 - d. delineation of a plan, including methods and resources;
 - e. implementation of the plan;
 - f. coordination of the systems involved; and/or
 - g. evaluation of the process and outcomes.

Bachelor in Social Work Practicum Placements

The BSW Practicum sequence consists of the Practicum practicum SW640/SW641 and the integrative seminar SW444. The Practicum sequence is typically undertaken in the student's final or final two semesters of their social work degree and entails 32-35 hours in Practicum per week for one semester or 16-18 for two, for a total of 400 hours. The integrative seminar meets four hours weekly during the first semester of the BSW student's internship.

The BSW Practicum Placement Processes

The BSW Practicum placement is determined in the following manner:

1. The folders of students approved by the BSW Program for Practicum are reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education (ADFE).
2. Students receive a Practicum questionnaire the long academic semester prior to their planned internships requesting specific information regarding past work experiences, volunteer activities, limitations or specific challenges regarding participation in Practicum (transportation, personal factors, etc.), and areas of interest. A Practicum file is established incorporating this data plus pertinent material from the admission to the major process. Clinical Faculty assigned to teach SW444 and Practicum review all of the materials.
3. Approved agencies are surveyed for the upcoming semester and submit requests for interns with specific internship descriptions including specifics related to responsibilities, location, and stipends. The Office of Practicum Education (OPE) solicits agencies and Practicum instructors for requests for BSW interns in February and August.
4. Students are oriented to the placement process, meet in small groups for advising with Clinical Faculty dedicated to the BSW Practicum program, and submit their top seven choices for Practicum agency placements online. The OPE works before and during the placement process to develop and secure appropriate BSW level internships at a variety of human service agencies and programs.
5. BSW designated Clinical Faculty Liaisons, the Practicum Education Associate and the ADFE meet to match students with their top choices based on input from students via the online agency selection, advising, the Practicum questionnaire, and student submitted resumes.
6. The student is matched with an agency, Practicum Instructor, Faculty Liaison and corresponding seminar through a collaborative meeting with the Faculty Liaisons who advised the students, the ADFE, and Practicum Education Associate. Typically, the Faculty Liaison and seminar leader is the same person.
7. The OPE emails confirmation of the placement to the student, the agency-identified Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison confirming the student's name, weekly schedule, and dates of placement. To finalize the placement, the student meets with their assigned Practicum Instructor the semester prior to interning and collects signed Practicum Placement Expectations form (see Section 7: Forms).
8. At orientation the student is assigned to a Practicum seminar and the OPE collects malpractice insurance.
9. An orientation to Practicum is conducted by Clinical Faculty Liaison assigned to the intern generally at the beginning of the first week of classes.
10. Practicum typically begins the first week of classes. Students may not begin accruing Practicum hours until they have submitted their malpractice insurance payments, of why they are notified at least one month prior to the start of Practicum.

Atypical Placement Processes

The majority of students will be placed using the regular placement procedures. A minority, however, will find placements using an atypical placement process, either work-based or domestic long distance (DLD). Neither of these is encouraged but students are allowed to apply for work-based or DLD when circumstances are compelling, e.g., the need for ongoing income or to return home to care for an ailing

parent. Work-based and DLD placements at the BSW level both require that the student initiate the matching process 1) as a practical matter for identifying options beyond the School's established intern site relationships and 2) as a part of the screening process for students since the ability to initiate, navigate, and establish new internships demonstrates a level of independence desired in atypical internship arrangements.

MSSW first Practicum students are not eligible for DLD internships despite their status as foundation interns. MSSW first Practicum interns may apply for work-based placements under compelling circumstances but are only allowed one work-based placement during their program of study.

Work-Based Placements

Rationale for Policy

With decreasing financial aid for students and increasing educational costs, the need to utilize the work setting as a Practicum placement may be an option to be considered on an individual basis. CSWE's standards address the need to maintain the educational focus of the Practicum experience and to ensure the uniformity of administration and utilization of Practicum placements throughout the Bachelor's and Master's programs. In addition, the Council's standards stress that such agencies commit the necessary resources to facilitate the student's progress in the educational program even though the student may also be an employee. CSWE standards also require that addressing educational competencies for Practicum be the foundation of decisions around a student's practicum experience.

Work-based placements may overlap with existing employment responsibilities but at least 50% of the internship hours must provide new and different learning experiences beyond existing employment responsibilities. As examples, for a student required to complete 240 hours/semester in Practicum, 120 must be within the employment agency but separate and apart from existing employment responsibilities. For 500 hours in Practicum, 250 hours must provide new and different experiences.

The purpose of the 50% overlap is to acknowledge and deepen the learning available in existing employment responsibilities while simultaneously opening new opportunities beyond the scope of the job position. Examples of new and different responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attendance at task group meetings, e.g., Board meetings, Community Networks, etc.;
- Group planning and facilitation;
- Specialized trainings and instruction; and/or
- Practice responsibilities in a different agency program.

In addition, students are required to have a new and different educational supervisor as their dedicated Practicum instructor. Special attention is given to protecting the learner's role and navigating and minimizing the potential conflicts of interest associated with dual relationships. Students are allowed one work-based placement over the course of their enrollment at the SHSSW to allow a broader base of educational experience.

Work-based placements must provide new and different learning experiences with a new and different supervisor. Special attention is given to protecting the learner's role and navigating and minimizing the potential conflicts of interest associated with dual relationships.

Processing the Request

The student interested in a work-based placement is required to:

- 1) Meet with the ADFE to discuss options for initiating a work-based placement and to review the requirements outlined in the Work-Based Proposal form (see Section 7: Forms) as soon as possible in the semester prior to the internship.

- 2) Meet with the current employment supervisor and proposed Practicum instructor to review and complete the Work-Based Proposal form.
- 3) Submit an unsigned draft of the proposal to the ADFE for review and feedback.
- 4) Submit revised and signed proposal to the ADFE for final approval.

Once the draft proposal is submitted to the Office of Practicum Education, the ADFE reaches out to the proposed agency staff to review the expectations for the internship. The ADFE review may take up to 30 days to connect with the agency. This process is time-consuming for the student, for the agency considering such a proposal, and for the OPE. Every effort should be made to initiate work on the proposal as early as possible.

If the agency is new to the OPE, the agency will need to complete the regular placement approval process including a site visit from members of the Community Partnership Development Committee. If approved, the Practicum instructor will need to complete the requisite Practicum instructor training either in person prior to the semester's start or online as directed by the OPE.

Students will be expected to follow the steps in the placement process, including attendance at informational and orientation meetings, until proposals are complete and approved. Students whose internships are finalized for a work-based placement are not eligible for offerings through the regular placement process. See Section 7: Forms for more information.

Domestic Long Distance Practicum Placements

Rationale for policy

For a social work student's first internship, the SHSSW seeks first to place students in established internships in the central Texas area where Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and Agency resources are most readily available and the strength of the placement is best known and supervised. Under compelling circumstances as deemed by the ADFE, an undergraduate student may petition for support to initiate a domestic long distance (DLD) internship beyond 60 miles of the University and within the contiguous U.S.

For placements in the central Texas area, students are required to work through the OPE to allow the OPE to explore new options. For DLD placements, it is just the opposite; students are required to take the initiative to set up their own placements in coordination with the OPE. In fact, a student's ability to do so is in itself a screening tool for student appropriateness for a DLD placement.

Students considering a Domestic Long Distance Practicum placement are required to:

1. Meet with the ADFE to discuss the possibility of a DLD placement to determine if the circumstances warrant approval;
2. Submit the required two letters of recommendation found in the back of the BSW Undergraduate Guide to Practicum. The additional standard of proof is because the student will be further beyond many of the School's resources in case the need for additional support arises;
3. Select potential placement agencies and determine their openness to hosting a UT-SHSSW intern. Students will need to meet the educational objectives and demonstrate the competencies outlined in their Practicum syllabus. The syllabus is available on the School website <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/> and it is the student's responsibility to provide this to the agencies.
4. Once the potential agency contacts have been solidified, students should email their contact information to the ADFE who will follow up with the requisite paperwork to determine the

- agency and the placements' ability to support the placement. Affiliation agreements with medical institutions can take up to five months to finalize and students are therefore encouraged to initiate contact as early as possible in the semester prior to Practicum;
5. Understand that placement choices will be limited based on available approved agencies locality. Placements in some areas may not be feasible due to limited resources and availability of approved agencies;
 6. Understand that if the DLD placement option fails to solidify, the student is subject to the regular placement process and may have to deal with the consequences of a late start due to the DLD pursuit;
 7. If a DLD placement falls through, the student on location bears the primary responsibility for securing a new placement in coordination with the Faculty Liaison and ADFE; and
 8. Understand that all DLD placements are held to the same standards as those in the central Texas area and the decision for final approval rests solely with the ADFE.

The OPE may consult with students and agency contacts via phone or in person and will communicate decisions via email with both the student and the agency. The ADFE will assign a Faculty Liaison prior to the start of the Practicum semester. The Faculty Liaison will be a resource, support and source of accountability via phone and email and will typically visit the student once during the course of their internship.

Eligibility

Students must be in good standing with the School in order to be approved for DLD placements. Students cannot be in the midst of an unresolved official level review process unless they have the explicit permission of their review members. Students are required to submit two letters of recommendation from UT-SHSSW faculty members as evidence of their potential to successfully complete a DLD placement. Reference forms can be found in section eight of this guide.

The additional standard of proof is because the student will be further beyond many of the School's resources in case the need for additional support arises.

Recommendations for finding potential domestic long distance placement agencies

First, students should select a target area that matches their interest. This may be an area of practice, i.e., wilderness camps, or a geographic area, i.e., a student's home state. To find agencies in the determined target area, students are encouraged to start broad. Use the United Way website for that community and other internet resources or contact members in professional networks in that area like the National Association of Social Work local branch. Students may email the Practicum Education Associate at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu and they will provide a list of agencies in that area that OPE has used before if UT-SHSSW students have interned in that area. Please know that these are not active placement sites, but leads to assist students getting started. Contacts often change and the School's relationships with long distance agencies are typically less current than local ones. The Director Career Center can also be a good resource to help students get started due to that office's extensive social service agency connections around the nation.

After researching the agency in general, initial student contact is often via email with a phone follow up. Based on that communication, a student may follow up with a hard copy cover letter and resume (supplementing one that may have been sent electronically) and/or interview plans.

Students should narrow down agency options to a reasonable number. Students should not interview at a large number of agencies since this takes agency resources and can erroneously lead agencies to expect the interns' services when the student may still be in the "shopping" phase of the search. Interviews should be reserved for serious inquiries only.

Liaison Activities

A liaison visit is a scheduled meeting with at least the Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor and intern for at least 30 minutes and may include additional staff/supervisors.

A liaison visit can happen in three different ways:

1. Site visit = in person, face-to-face, any agreed upon location
2. Remote video conference visit
3. Remote audio conference visit

The default option for a conference visit is video due to the value of the additional non-verbal communication included. Audio is a secondary option.

Liaison visits, assignment due dates for Full Block: Fall or Spring, 400 hours in one semester: Three liaison visits, two site and one conference, one each per third of the semester coinciding with the midterm and final evaluation due dates.

1. Weeks 1-5: Learning contract collected
2. Weeks 6-10: Midterm evaluations collected by the OPE.
3. Weeks 11-15: Final evaluation and self-reflection narrative submitted to the OPE

Liaison visits, assignment due dates for Extended Block: Fall/Spring and Spring/Summer, 400 hours over two semesters: Three liaison visits, two site and one conference, one each per third of the internship coinciding with midterm and final evaluation due dates.

1. Weeks 2-8: Learning contract collected
2. Weeks 12-20: Midterm evaluations collected by no later than the first day of summer session.
3. Weeks 22-30: Final evaluation and self-reflection narrative submitted to the OPE.

For full-block, midterm falls in October and March. For extended, midterm falls in November/December or April/May.

Any of the parties (student, Practicum Instructor, Faculty Liaison) may request additional liaison visits including site visits. The Faculty Liaison may also choose to conduct a third site visit in-persons especially if it is a new placement, new Practicum Instructor, or if there are other compelling reasons. The Faculty Liaison will determine the ordering of site or conference liaisons visits with input from the Practicum Instructor and the intern.

Process recordings

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review pre-and post mid-internship. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor. Two PR total.
3. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
4. May require additional PRs as needed.

Midterm evaluations are collected midway through the internship. Final evaluations are submitted using the online evaluation links at the end of the internship. For full-block, midterm falls in October and March. For extended midterm falls in November/December or April/May.

Self-reflection narratives are collected at the end of the internship for full and extended block and are designed to be shared among the intern, Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison.

The Faculty Liaison should review intern timesheets at the liaison visits and collect them at the end of the internship.

If the intern fails to submit a signed final evaluation, self-reflection narrative, or timesheets before grades are due, the Faculty Liaison may assign an incomplete or a grade earned depending on the circumstances around the delay.

More information about each of these educational tools is available in Section 1 and Section 7 of this guide.

Master of Science in Social Work First Practicum Placement

The first Practicum placement occurs in the first year for full-time students and in the second year for part-time or full-time extended students. Practicum is taken on a concurrent plan that provides Practicum instruction activities 16-20 hours per week during both semesters for a total of 400 hours. In addition, students take a three- hour practice class and spend an hour weekly in a Practicum seminar held at the School. It is felt that the concurrent Practicum plan best addresses the need of beginning social work students in these ways:

1. It provides the maximum potential for coordination between class and Practicum instruction, emphasizing the relationship between knowledge and practice.
2. It provides an early opportunity for students to relate theory and apply evidence-based practice in professional social work settings with varied populations.
3. It is a format within which students have a great opportunity to develop interactional and analytical skills by virtue of having a Practicum placement of longer duration, covering two semesters.
4. It allows students new to social work time and opportunity to understand and develop a social work identity.

The First Practicum Placement Processes

The first Practicum placement is determined in the following manner:

1. The application materials of incoming students are reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education (ADFE).
2. After acceptance into the program, students receive a practicum questionnaire requesting specific information regarding past work experiences, volunteer activities, limitations, or specific challenges regarding participation in practicum (transportation, personal factors, etc.), and areas of interest. A practicum file is established incorporating this data plus pertinent material from the admissions process. Clinical Faculty reviews all of the materials.
3. Approved agencies are surveyed for the upcoming semester and submit requests for interns with specific internship descriptions including specifics related to responsibilities, location, and stipends. The Office of Practicum Education solicits agencies and practicum instructors for requests for MSSW first practicum interns in May.

4. Students are divided into class cohorts and a Faculty Liaison is assigned the students' files. During the match process, the ADFE and Faculty Liaisons are responsible for reviewing the students' materials and advocating for the best internship match and diverse cohort makeup allowable given the constraints of placements available and student body makeup.
5. A match is made with the agencies that best seems to meet individual student's learning needs based on prior experience, interests and selected concentration.
6. The Faculty Liaison assigns the student to an agency and Practicum Instructor. The Faculty Liaison and seminar leader typically is the same person
7. The placement is finalized with the agency confirming the student's name, weekly schedule, dates of placement, and Faculty Liaison.
8. Once the agency has confirmed the internship, the Faculty Liaisons notify the students of their placement, typically two-four weeks prior to the start of Practicum.
9. The Faculty Liaisons assigned to the interns conduct a two-day Practicum Engagement Seminar after MSSW orientation and prior to classes in which the students are oriented to practicum.
10. Practicum typically begins the first day of classes. Students may not begin accruing practicum hours until they have submitted both their signed Practicum Placement Expectations form see Section 7: Forms and their malpractice insurance payments.

Liaison Activities

A liaison visit is a scheduled meeting with at least the Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and intern for at least 30 minutes and may include additional staff/supervisors.

A liaison visit can happen in three different ways:

1. Site visit = in person, face-to-face, any agreed upon location
2. Remote video conference visit
3. Remote audio conference visit

The default option for a conference visit is video due to the value of the additional non-verbal communication included. Audio is a secondary option.

Liaison visits

Fall semester: Two site visits, one each per the first two-thirds of the semester. The final liaison visit will typically be via remote video/audio conference. Practicum Instructor may request a site visit.

Faculty Liaisons may also choose to conduct a third site visit especially if it is a new placement, new Practicum instructor, or if there are other compelling reasons.

1. Weeks 1-5: Learning contract collected.
2. Weeks 6-10: Mid-term evaluation collected and submitted to OPE no later than October 31.
3. Weeks 11-15: Final evaluation for semester collected and submitted to OPE no later than first day of spring semester.

Spring semester: Two site visits, one each per half of the semester.

1. Weeks 1-8: Learning contract collected.
2. Weeks 9-14: Mid-term evaluation collected to the OPE no later than March 31.
3. Final evaluation and self-reflective narrative submitted to the OPE no later than the first day of the summer semester.

Process recordings

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor.
3. Total of six over the fall and spring semesters.
4. Fall: two-four due to Faculty Liaison.
5. Spring: two-four due to Faculty Liaison.
6. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
7. May require additional PRs as needed.

Self-reflection narratives are collected at the end of the semester along with the evaluations and are designed to be shared between the intern, Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Narratives should be turned into the OPE with final evaluations.

The Faculty Liaison should review intern timesheets at the liaison visits and collect them at the end of the internship.

If the intern fails to submit a signed final evaluation, self-reflection narrative, or timesheets before grades are due, the Faculty Liaison may assign an incomplete or a grade earned depending on the circumstances around the delay.

More information about each of these educational tools is available in Section 1: Graduate Practicum Requirements and Section 7: Forms of this guide.

Section 3

Concentration Placements, Processes and Practicum Expectations

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SECTION 3

CONCENTRATION PLACEMENTS, PROCESSES AND PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS

Organization of the Concentration Practicum Experience

The final practicum consists of two courses, SW 694R and SW 394S. The Practicum sequence is based on a block Practicum plan which requires that students be in Practicum approximately 36-40 hours a week, for a total of 500 clock hours in one semester. These courses provide six and three credit hours respectively, for a total of nine credit hours. Students remain in the same agency for the duration of the practicum. Students may also elect to take an extended block plan that requires approximately 22-26 hours per week for two semesters. The final practicum experience is more individualized based on the student's chosen concentration, needs, experience, and interests.

Students study within one of two advanced, specialized concentrations – either Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice. The final Practicum experience is concentration specific and the majority of the work in the internship should be specific to the assigned specialization, either Clinical or APP. Internships that offer a significant minority of cross-specialization opportunities should advertise that and clarify responsibilities in the interview process.

The final Practicum placement, which will be in the student's chosen concentration area, is arranged for each student with the following goals:

1. The student is an emerging professional. This is the transition semester between classroom/education and Practicum practice/professional identification.
2. The student should take a very active part in determining their learning and professional goals and this should be reflected in the selection of a Practicum setting.
3. The student should accept professional responsibility for the interview process in affiliating with an agency/organization.
4. The School accepts a more advisory/broker role in this placement.
5. The School helps both the student and the agency clarify what is expected from this final placement.
6. Placement is an interactive process between student, school and agency, with agency and student taking more active roles than in the first placement.

It is the student's responsibility to register for the required course(s) for Practicum including the concurrent SW385T Capstone course, which is only offered in the spring. The Capstone course builds upon all previous courses including Practicum internships and is not a Practicum-centric seminar.

Students, especially post-BSW students, may take additional coursework during the summer of an extended internships.

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for concentration Practicum. Building on Foundation Practicum competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence and may be found in Section 4: Objectives and in the Practicum evaluations in Section 7: Forms.

Policy Statement on Agency Selection

The MSSW final Practicum placement for each student is chosen with the following goals:

1. The placement will support the student's concentration focused learning: either Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice.
2. The agency will respect the advanced student status and provide educational challenges sufficient to their standing as a final Practicum student and emerging professional.
3. The placement will balance the student's need for increased independence and agency with their continued need for professional guidance, mentoring, and social work supervision.

For more information on agency selection, see Section 1: Agency, and Becoming an Approved Practicum Setting as well as the Section 7: Practicum Expectations Checklist.

Required Responsibilities

For final Practicum, the placements align with the student's Clinical or APP concentration. In the placement process, the interests/needs of the student and the task/needs of the agency are the primary criteria for selection. Therefore, the assignments vary from agency to agency, student to student.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained in the course syllabi in and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms in Section 7: Forms. The assignments will be structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies.

The majority of the internship will be focused on advanced work appropriate to an emerging professional and within their specialized concentration of Clinical or APP.

The Final Practicum Placement Processes

Final Practicum is offered in both one semester, full block and two semester, extended block, both for a total of 500 hours. There are benefits to each from which the student is allowed to choose. All students, including post-BSWs, will have completed their preparation for final Practicum by finishing their course prerequisites. Accordingly, all students have the opportunity to be well prepared for the fully immersive experience of full-time Practicum in one semester. This 40-hour per week experience also approximates the full-time professional positions they will be trained to undertake upon graduation and is therefore a valuable ramp up to employment in the community as a social worker. Agencies also structure their internship offerings to match the consistency of a hosting a full-time intern and this adds to the range of learning opportunities available, e.g., crisis intervention where daily attendance is beneficial to clients and learning alike.

As higher education costs have increased, students are more often seeking paid employment during their schooling to support their education and other expenses. Offering extended Practicum at approximately 20-25 hours per week over two semesters allows these students and others with extracurricular responsibilities, e.g., family responsibilities, greater access to the MSSW program which draws a more diverse student body and therefore a more enriched academic learning environment. As happens for fullblock placements, agencies structure their internships to match the extended nature of the two-semester students which allows, for example, more longer-term counseling settings to engage interns more meaningfully over the course of a fall/spring internship and opens up internship opportunities in the summer. Having both a concentrated

learning experience and an extended option also addresses the different learning needs of students who may thrive at different paces.

The final Practicum placement, which will be in the student's concentration area, is arranged for each student with the following goals:

1. The student is an emerging professional. This is the transition internship between classroom/education and Practicum practice/professional identification.
2. The student should take a very active part in determining their educational and professional goals and this should be reflected in the selection of a Practicum setting.
3. The student should accept professional responsibility for the interview process in affiliating with an agency/organization.
4. The School accepts a more advisory/broker role in this placement.
5. The School helps both the student and the agency clarify what is expected from this final placement.
6. Placement is an interactive process between student, school and agency, with agency and student taking more active roles than in the first placement.

Regular Placement Process for Final Practicum

The following procedures are used in the final placement:

1. Students attend mandatory informational meetings about the placement process.
2. A list of available internships, from approved agencies, with brief descriptions of each program and their Practicum placement offering is made available to students.
3. Students attend the Agency Practicum Fair to help measure best agency "fits".
4. Students prepare a written statement of their educational goals for placement.
5. Students prepare a professional quality resume with the recommended aid of the DiNitto Center for Career Services.
6. In individualized and small-group advising sessions, students and Clinical Faculty Liaisons discuss resumes, educational goals and prioritize agency/organizations for the interview process.
7. Students rank prioritized agency setting preferences.
8. The Office of Practicum Education (OPE) collects, organizes and delivers student resumes and educational goals to the agencies.
9. The OPE sends resumes and educational objectives to agencies.
10. The OPE sends information to the students to set up an interview with the agency.
11. Students take the initiative to contact, interview and follow up with potential agency placements in a professional manner.
12. If additional interviews are necessary, the students work with the OPE to facilitate these as needed.
13. After an agency has offered a placement and the student has accepted, the student is responsible for entering the placement in the OPE database.
14. The students are oriented to Practicum by the OPE.
15. Students are assigned and agencies notified of their Faculty Liaisons for confirmed placements.

The students are given detailed information and access to agency requests for interns during the mandatory informational meeting in early fall which outlines the above procedures, giving deadline dates for each activity.

Atypical Placement Processes for Final Practicum

The majority of students will be placed using the regular placement process. Almost half, however, will find placements using the atypical placement process, which includes early placement opportunities, work-based, student initiated including dual degree and domestic long distance, and international placements. Post-BSW students who begin the program in the summer are eligible and oriented to all atypical processes except the early placement process due to time constraints.

Early Placement Opportunities

The School partners with several agencies that initiate an early placement process due to a variety of agency-based reasons including but not limited to out of town status, competitive placement settings and/or the needs of the population, i.e., long-term counseling. Students will have the opportunity to attend informational meetings about these specific placements, their timetables, opportunities and expectations in early spring of the year prior to what would otherwise be their regular spring placement. Agencies must present compelling reasons as determined by the ADFE of benefit to the students to be eligible for the early placement process including significant stipends. Students in this process finalize their placements in the spring prior to their final Practicum internships are relieved of their responsibilities and rights in all other placement processes by accepting these internships. If circumstances change, the student is expected to coordinate with the ADFE to determine next steps for finding a suitable internship.

Work-based Placements

Rationale for Policy

With decreasing financial aid for students and increasing educational costs, the need to utilize the work setting as a Practicum placement may become an option to be considered on an individual basis. The CSWE's standards address the need to maintain the educational focus of the Practicum experience, to differentiate between job and practicum activities, and to ensure the uniformity of administration and utilization of Practicum placements throughout the Bachelor's and Master's programs. In addition, the Council's standards stress that such agencies commit the necessary resources to facilitate the student's progress in the educational program even though the student may also be an employee.

CSWE standards also require that coverage of educational competencies for Practicum be the foundation of decisions around a student's practicum experience.

Work-based placements must provide new and different learning experiences with a new and different supervisor. Special attention is given to protecting the learner's role and navigating and minimizing the potential conflicts of interest associate with dual relationships.

Processing the Request

The student interested in a work-based placement is required to:

- 1) Meet with the ADFE to discuss options for initiating a work-based placement and to review the requirements outlined in the Work-Based Proposal form (see Section 7: Forms) as soon as possible in the summer or semester prior to the internship.
- 2) Meet with the current employment supervisor and proposed Practicum instructor to review and complete the Work-Based Proposal form.
- 3) Submit an unsigned draft of the proposal to the ADFE for review and feedback.
- 4) Submit revised and signed proposal to the ADFE for final approval.

Once the draft proposal is submitted to the Office of Practicum Education, the ADFE reaches out to the proposed agency staff to review the expectations for the internship. The ADFE review may take up to 30 days to connect with the agency. This process is time-consuming for the student, for the agency considering such a proposal, and for the OPE. Every effort should be made to initiate work on the proposal as early as possible.

If the agency is new to the OPE, the agency will need to complete the regular placement approval process including a site visit from members of the Community Partnership Development Committee. If approved, the Practicum instructor will need to complete the requisite Practicum instructor training either in person prior to the semester's start or online as directed by the OPE.

Students will be expected to follow the steps in the placement process, including attendance at informational and orientation meetings, until proposals are complete and approved. Students whose internships are finalized for a work-based placement are not eligible for offerings through the regular placement process. See Section 7: Forms for Work-Based Placement Proposal Request form.

Student Initiated Placements: Dual Degree and Domestic Long Distance Practicum

The MSSW Program offers six dual degree programs, where students can earn an MSSW and a Masters of Business Administration, Divinity, Public Affairs, Public Health, Arts in Latin American Studies, or a Doctor of Jurisprudence. Dual degree (DD) students are the only final Practicum students allowed to initiate their own central Texas internships because they may have needs unique to their programs of study. The majority of dual degree students choose to enter into the regular fall placement process and are guaranteed multiple options that fulfill the requirements of both their degree plans. Their internship development process parallels the domestic long distance (DLD) placement process.

Students come to The University of Texas at Austin from all over the country and our graduates are employed around the globe. The Steve Hicks School of Social Work recognizes the importance of providing flexibility for students seeking internships in the areas of expertise or geography important to their careers. For that reason, the School works with students to support them in seeking and developing domestic long distance placements. The international placement process is completely separate and distinct from the DLD placement process and is addressed immediately following this subsection. The placement process for Hawai'i, Alaska, and U.S. territories' is more closely modeled after the international process and is subject to additional fees. Students interested in placements in these non-contiguous states and U.S. territories need to notify the ADFE approximately one year prior the desired placement semester.

The School does proffer some out of town placements through the early selection process and in the regular placement packets that lists agencies available, but those are considered separate and apart from the DLD process. The term DLD placement is inclusive of all student-initiated placements beyond 60 miles from the UT-SHSSW and indicates that students in those sites are eligible for taking associated classes via long distance means and therefore not required to attend traditional classroom gatherings.

For placements in the central Texas area, students are required to work through the OPE and to allow the OPE to explore new options. For DD/DLD placements, it is just the opposite. Students are required to take the initiative to set up their own placements in coordination with the OPE. In fact, student's ability to do so is in itself a screening tool for student appropriateness for a student-initiated placement.

Students considering initiating a placement through the Dual Degree or Domestic Long Distance Practicum placement process are required to:

1. Attend the DD/DLD orientation the spring semester in the year prior to the desired spring placement.
2. Submit the required three letters of recommendation found in Section 7: Forms and receive approval to move forward in this process from the ADFE by the advertised mid-summer date (e.g., July 15);
1. Select potential placement agencies and determine their openness to hosting a UT-SHSSW intern. To be a viable placement site, agencies must provide educational opportunities specific to the student's specialization in the program and otherwise meet all the placement requirements. MSSW candidates are required to complete a specialization specific placement (Clinical or APP) under the supervision of an on-site MSSW with at least two-years, post-graduate experience and students are to receive two hours of supervision a week, one in individual weekly sessions with their Practicum instructor. Students are required to meet the educational objectives and demonstrate the competencies outlined in their Practicum syllabi in SW694R/394S. These syllabi are available on the School website <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/> and it is the student's responsibility to provide these to the agencies.
2. Once the potential agency contacts have been solidified, students are required to email their contact information to the ADFE who will follow up with the requisite paperwork to determine the agency and the placements' ability to support the student in meeting their educational objectives and demonstrating competencies. Affiliation agreements with medical institutions can take up to five months to finalize and students are therefore encouraged to initiate contact as soon after the orientation to atypical Practicum as possible;
3. Understand that placement choices will be limited based on available approved agencies locally. Placements in some areas may not be feasible due to limited resources and availability of approved agencies;
4. Understand that if the DD/DLD placement option fails to solidify, the student is subject to the regular placement process and may have to deal with the consequences of a late start and subsequent reduced number of Austin area options due to the DD/DLD pursuit;
5. If a DLD placement falls through, the student on location bears the primary responsibility for securing a new placement in coordination with the Faculty Liaison and ADFE; and
6. Understand that all student initiated placements are held to the same standards and approval processes as those initiated by the OPE and the decision for final approval rests solely with the ADFE.

Students must have initiated all DD/DLD placement options in time for the OPE to have contact information for one proposed agency by a publicized mid-summer date (e.g., July 15). This is to allow DD/DLD placements to be finalized prior to the start of the regular placement process.

The OPE may consult with students and agency contacts via phone or in person and will communicate decisions via email with both the student and the agency. The ADFE will assign a Faculty Liaison prior to the start of the spring semester. The Faculty Liaison will be a resource, support and source of accountability via phone and email and will typically visit the student once during the course of their internship.

Eligibility

At the master's level, only final Practicum students are eligible for DLD placements. Students must be in good standing with the School as evidenced by three positive letters of recommendation and no active academic probation in order to be approved for DLD placements. Students cannot be in the

midst of an unresolved official level review process unless they have the explicit permission of their review members. Students are required to submit three letters of recommendation from UT-SHSSW faculty members as evidence of their potential to successfully complete a DLD placement. Reference forms can be found in section eight of this guide.

The additional standard of proof is because the student will be further beyond many of the School's resources in case the need for additional support arises.

Recommendations for finding potential domestic long distance placement agencies

The following is recommended procedure to assist students in finding a suitable DLD agency placement.

First, students should select a target area that matches their interest. This may be an area of practice, i.e., wilderness camps, or a geographic area, i.e., a student's home state. After researching the agency in general, initial student contact is often via email with a phone follow up. Based on that communication, a student may follow up with a hard copy cover letter and resume (supplementing one that may have been sent electronically) and/or interview plans.

Students should narrow down agency options to a reasonable number. Students should not interview at a large number of agencies since this takes agency resources and can erroneously lead agencies to expect the interns' services when the student may still be in the exploratory phase of the search. Interviews should be reserved for serious inquiries only. Many students set up interviews or meetings over the summer prior to their spring internship while they are home, (visiting family).

International Placements

Human needs do not recognize national boundaries and social work has a long and growing history of global response. Further, the School recognizes and values the oftentimes uniquely transformative nature of international placements and the educational advancements those provide social work students.

At the master's level, only final Practicum students are eligible for international placements. Students must be in good standing with the School in order to be approved for international internships and beyond that must be deemed by the International Committee to be a good ambassador on behalf of the School, the United States and the Social Work profession. International internships are a privilege, not a right, for students. The School retains the right at all stages of the placement process to deny a student access to, or continuation of, an international placement.

Prerequisites

1. All coursework must be completed by Spring Semester excluding: the Capstone course, Practicum Education III and IV;
2. Weekly attendance in the fall to the International Practicum Seminar in preparation for International Practicum Placement;
3. Completed recommendation by Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor and UTSHSSW faculty other than the Liaison;
4. A survey of SHSSW faculty and staff;
5. A positive recommendation by the International Committee;
6. Fulfilling all requirements of the International Office including restricted region and health clearances; and
7. Payment of a \$1500 non-refundable fee, which is required to cover associated costs to the School for international placement.

International placements must meet the same educational standards as all Practicum placements and are vetted by UT faculty and/or associates based on the additional following criteria:

1. Educational soundness
The student is able to meet the objectives for their Practicum class qualitatively and quantitatively.
2. Benefit to the School and the Agency
The student's placement and the relationship with the University seeks to provide a real benefit to the agency comparable in value to the student's educational gain. The placement aligns with research, Practicum and/or other scholarly endeavors already engaged in or under development by the School, and the agency's relationship with the School and the student has the potential to be of lasting benefit to the clients and purpose of the agency. The most desired working relationships are those that can provide sustained mutual benefit and uniquely compelling learning opportunities not necessarily found in the U.S.
3. Feasibility
The student will be able to communicate at a proficient level with agency staff, clients and University faculty. This requires sufficient language skills for the population and reliable internet access for the student's long-distance learning courses. Feasibility also includes responsible allocation of the School's fiscal resources, i.e., placing multiple students at one site or clustering locations/travel.
4. Safety
Recognizing that 100% safety is never a guarantee, the School, through the International Committee and in collaboration with the University's International Office seeks to identify risks and ameliorating factors by assessing the site(s)/city/region/country's: security, crime, infrastructure, medical issues/resources and transportation issues. Some international locations may therefore be considered too risky for placement of students.

The School offers a variable slate of international placement options built on years of international collaboration.

Student-initiated international placements are not supported due to our commitment to international agencies that meet the School's criteria for mutually beneficial and sustained partnerships.

The International Committee decides all placement proposals and student candidate applications the summer prior to the spring final Practicum experience. Details of this process are provided in information sessions that begin in the February prior to the January international Practicum start.

Liaison Activities

A Faculty Liaison is assigned to each intern and Practicum Instructor in placement as a resource, support, and source of accountability. The final Practicum Faculty Liaison is typically less involved in the student's internship than in the generalist experience. This is because students have completed most of their graduate coursework, developed a stronger sense of social work identity, learned more effective use of supervision, and are transitioning from the role of graduate students into emerging professionals.

A liaison visit is a scheduled meeting with at least the Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor and intern for at least 30 minutes and may include additional staff/supervisors.

A liaison visit can happen in three different ways:

1. Site visit = in person, face-to-face, any agreed upon location
2. Remote video conference visit
3. Remote audio conference visit

The default option for a conference visit is video due to the value of the additional non-verbal communication included. Audio is a secondary option. Liaison visits, assignment due dates for Full Block, Spring only, 500 hours in one semester: Two liaison visits, one site and one conference, one each per half of the semester.

1. Weeks 1-5: Learning contract collected.
2. Weeks 6-10: Midterm evaluation collected by the OPE no later than March 31.
3. Weeks 11-15: Final evaluation and self-reflective narrative for semester collected and submitted to OPE no later than the first day of the summer semester.

Liaison visits, assignment due date for Extended Block, Spring/Summer, 500 hours over two semesters: Three total liaison visits, two site and one conference, one per each third of the internship.

1. Weeks 2-8: Learning contract collected, no later than spring break.
2. Weeks 12-20: Midterm evaluations collected and submitted to OPE, no later than the first day of the summer semester.
3. Weeks 22-30: Final evaluation and self-reflective narrative for internship collected and submitted to the OPE, no later than the first day of the fall semester.

The Faculty Liaison will determine the ordering and timing of site or conference liaison visits with input from Practicum Instructor and intern. Any of the parties (student, Practicum Instructor, Faculty Liaison) may request additional liaison visits including site visits. The Faculty Liaison may also choose to conduct a third site visit in-persons especially if it is a new placement, new Practicum Instructor, or if there are other compelling reasons. The Faculty Liaison will determine the ordering of site or conference liaisons visits with input from the Practicum Instructor and the intern. The last day of extended Practicum is the last day of summer classes. Atypical internship liaison activities
Work-based and dual degree placements should be liaised to according to their full or extended format

The ADFE will assign faculty liaisons according to need for early selection agencies that have intern requirements before Practicum begins in January.

Internships 60 miles or further should be liaised with according to their full or extended format. However, due to the fact that student-initiated domestic long distance placements are typically new or newly revived internships for the UT-SHSSW program, liaisons are required to conduct site visits prior to the mid-term evaluation due dates.

International placements require the same expectations as full-block placements with additional requirements for weekly journals and the additional use of video or audio calls directly with students and/or Practicum Instructors as necessary to support and/or augment social work education abroad. Site visits are required prior to the mid-term evaluation due dates.

Process recordings

- A. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
- B. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review pre-and post mid-internship. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor.
- C. Two PRs due to Faculty Liaison.
- D. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
- E. May require additional PRs as needed.

Midterm evaluations are collected midway through the internship. Final evaluations are submitted using the online evaluation links at the end of the internship. For full-block, midterm falls in March. For extended, midterm falls in April/May.

Self-reflection narratives are collected at the end of the internship for full and extended block and are designed to be shared among the intern, Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison.

The Faculty Liaison should review intern timesheets at the liaison visits and collect them at the end of the internship.

If the intern fails to submit a signed final evaluation, self-reflective narrative, or timesheets before grades are due, the Faculty Liaison may assign an incomplete or a grade earned depending on the circumstances around the delay.

More information about each of these educational tools is available in the Section 1: Graduate Practicum Requirements and Section 7: Forms of this guide.

Section 4

General Practicum Policies

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Section 4

General Practicum Policies

General Policies

There are general policies that refer to all students in Practicum. These are summarized in the following areas.

Agency Onboarding and Costs

Administrative onboarding requirements vary from agency to agency. Students are typically expected to attend to administrative tasks prior to beginning Practicum including but not limited to securing an identification badge for the agency, completing paperwork, and/or attending trainings. Students should take every measure to complete administrative onboarding in preparation for beginning educational Practicumwork as close to the first day of their internship as possible. Students are not allowed access to confidential material or information their malpractice insurance goes into effect the first day of classes in the fall semester and January 2 for the spring semester. Moreover, students are not allowed to accrue more than 20 hours prior to the start of Practicum, which limits the time available for pre-internship onboarding.

Many agencies require and conduct criminal and background checks and/or medical authorizations of potential interns. The OPE asks that students share concerns they might have about either on forms soliciting such information and/or with their assigned Faculty Liaison. With this knowledge, the Faculty Liaison can help students address concerns both in identifying potential host agencies with amenable policies for placement, and preparing for professional disclosure in the interview process. Additionally, students with criminal histories are encouraged to visit https://www.dshs.texas.gov/plc_cheval.shtm to learn more about applying for licensure.

A number of agencies – especially medical institutions - require The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work to facilitate third party vendor background checks and/or to facilitate medical authorizations. Students will be notified in the placement process if their agency or agency of interest requires background checks, medical authorizations, and/or a third party vendor screening which can be more expensive. The medical authorization often also requires additional vaccinations or other medical costs. The Assistant Dean for Healthcare Affairs and the ADFE coordinate closely on these pre-screening processes for healthcare settings including the Ascension and St. David's systems.

Combined, students may be asked to spend up to \$150 for these contractually required screenings. Students should consider this in their internship process and budget accordingly. Agencies are encouraged to cover these costs when possible.

Students are expected to work closely with the OPE in the case of negative screen that disqualifies a student for a particular internship setting. The OPE will partner with the student to work diligently in finding an appropriate internship in a timely manner for a student denied placement. A student's

placement may be further delayed or postponed if they have not been forthcoming and honest about the challenges.

Agency Documentation

Students must submit all agency documentation in an appropriate format and in a timely fashion. Students should receive training on documentation during the agency orientation and have reasonable access to electronic documentation systems. The content of client records often follows a certain format to protect both the client and the agency. Initially, students may write drafts of client documentation to be reviewed and signed by the Practicum Instructor before being entered into the client file. Some Practicum Instructors or assigned staff may continue to sign off on all documentation. Students must be clear on this process and are expected to seek supervision as new situations arise. Students should not document anything in a client file without learning the proper agency procedures.

Confidentiality of documentation is discussed later in this section.

Arranging Hours in Practicum

Students are expected to complete 400 hours in Practicum for their BSW or MSSW first Practicum placement, 220 hours in the first semester and an additional 220 in the second or, for full-block BSW students, 440 hours in one semester. On average, this works out to 16-20 hours per week. Students may accrue up to 20 hours toward the total count over the winter break if and only if it serves the needs of both the student and the agency. BSW and MSSW first Practicum internships begin in the fall and spring semesters.

Final Practicum students are expected to complete the requisite 500 hours in Practicum. Final Practicum full block is completed in the spring semester at an average of 36-40 hours per week. Students and/or agencies may opt for extended block placements that run in the spring and summer semesters at approximately 20-25 hours per week. The last day of extended Practicum is the last day of summer classes. Students may begin accruing Practicum hours as early as January 2 after they have paid for their malpractice insurance. Students are expected to begin administrative onboarding including initiating background checks, medical authorizations, etc., beginning in the semester prior to the internship's start. These hours do not count toward the Practicum total unless they total 20 or more, as in the case of a new employee orientation. With approval from their Faculty Liaison, students who extend into the summer may increase their weekly hours to complete Practicum as much as one month prior to the last business day of July if and only if that arrangement serves both the student and the agency's needs.

Students are entitled to a fall break around Thanksgiving and a spring break in keeping with the UT calendar unless there are compelling agency-based responsibilities that would require their participation as interns. If a student does not get spring break off due to agency needs, they are entitled to the equivalent amount of time on different dates as negotiated with their Practicum Instructor. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these breaks in order to rejuvenate for the semester. Some students may minimize their time off in order to maximize their ability to accrue hours.

Students should be off for a minimum of three weeks at the winter break since they are not allowed to accrue more than 20 hours during that time span. Students are entitled to a week off at the spring/summer semester turn, typically around graduation. As in the work place, time off from responsibilities should be negotiated well in advance with the students' supervisor(s).

Within these frameworks, Practicum agencies are for the most part open to negotiating students' hours in Practicum in service of both the student and the needs of the agency and its clients. There are some general guidelines:

1. Students' hours should overlap the Practicum Instructors' schedules the majority of the time;
2. Students should target large blocks of time for agency service. This minimizes transitions and transportation time to and from the agency. For MSSW first Practicum interns, this generally means either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule because of their practice and other classroom schedules;
3. Students must be willing to have some flexibility in their schedules if this is needed in the agency. Some evening or weekend hours may be required;
4. Students may count one-hour each week from Practicum seminar or circle group toward their Practicum hour total. Students may also take up to two hours/week for journaling if appropriate. Practicum and agency orientations to the internship hours also count toward the Practicum-hour total.
5. Students should not consistently stay beyond the estimated hours. Commitments beyond this may indicate that the learning contract needs to be renegotiated or that time management techniques need to be reviewed;
6. Students should monitor their hours and keep track of their progress toward completing the requisite number of hours. If extensions are needed for grading purposes, notice should be given in advance to the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison;
7. Students may take credit for the extra time spent on agency assignments. This may include longer hours spent in conferences, workshops, working late on projects, etc., if approved by the Practicum Instructor;
8. Students must not be left alone in the agency. This includes coverage for staff meetings or retreats or other agency "emergencies." If this happens, students should notify their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison immediately; and
9. Students must not transport clients in the student's or client's vehicle, nor are they allowed to transport clients in agency vehicles. This is to protect students because they are not covered by University insurance for transportation in any way. Similarly, students are not allowed to handle bodily fluids in their placements.

Completion of Hours and Absence from Practicum

All BSW students are expected to complete the 400 hours in Practicum. If the students choose the extended internship, hours should be evenly divided at approximately 220 hours each semester.

All MSSW first Practicum interns are expected to complete 220 hours each in the fall and in the spring for a total of 400 hours. Failure to do so may result in a failing grade. Under compelling circumstances, a Faculty Liaison may choose to allow the student to receive an incomplete for the fall semester and support them in making arrangements to make up needed hours over the winter break before the start of the spring semester. Incompletes are determined by the Faculty Liaison and should reflect the student's need for additional time due to circumstances beyond their control.

A student cannot begin accruing Practicum hours in the second semester of Practicum until a grade has been earned for the previous semester. When this cannot be accomplished, the student must postpone Practicum until eligible for matriculation into second semester Practicum.

MSSW final Practicum students are expected to complete 500 hours in Practicum over the spring and summer semesters.

1. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Practicum Instructor as soon as possible and prior to any absence from Practicum. The Practicum Instructor should inform the Faculty Liaison of any concerns regarding student absence.
1. If a student is absent for significant period of time, there are four options:
 - a. Withdraw from Practicum, with the consent of the Faculty Liaison and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education;
 - b. Be assigned by the ADFE to repeat the semester either in the same or a different agency.
 - c. Take an incomplete and finish the next time that Practicum semester is offered; or
 - d. Earn a failing grade in first Practicum or fail to receive credit for final Practicum.
2. **Holidays:** Students may take all University holidays and whatever holidays are observed by the by the agency. If the student elects to work through a holiday, such as spring break, it will count toward the required Practicum hours. Students are encouraged to negotiate these potential days off much the same way that an employee might navigate their personal plans within the responsibilities of the agency and their position. Students do not accrue hours not served in Practicum, i.e., when the University is open for a holiday but the agency is not.
3. **Inclement weather days:** Students do not accrue hours when not in Practicum and will need to make up hours missed due to inclement weather.

Change of Placement due to Educational Environment

If the student or Practicum Instructor has concerns that the educational environment at their internship will not allow them to demonstrate the required competencies:

1. The student and/or Practicum Instructor should begin to address the concerns in supervision. If this is not immediately possible, the Faculty Liaison may be a resource and can problem solve with the student or Practicum Instructor and encourage and support addressing the concerns in the supervisory relationship.
2. The student and/or Practicum Instructor must communicate with the Faculty Liaison about the concerns if they remain unresolved and are threatening the educational experience of the student.
3. If the concerns are determined unable to be reconciled and the result of the environment, e.g., a change in agency leadership or reduction in supervisory staff, then, in consultation with the student, the Faculty Liaison or Practicum Instructor may decide a student should be moved.
4. If the decision is made to move the student, the Faculty Liaison will identify a suitable agency and make arrangements for a different internship. This can take time and may delay a student completing the requisite hours for the semester or internship.
5. If the decision to move the student occurs within the first two weeks of the placement, and the student has been actively involved in appropriate activities, the student may be excused from making up that time. However, beyond two weeks, the student may need to negotiate an appropriate number of approved hours to ensure sufficient time in the new placement.
6. As a representative of the agency, the Practicum Instructor retains the right to terminate a student's placement in their organization or program. The UT-SHSSW expects conference around the issues whether to explore continuation at the agency or in seeking understanding about the reasons for the change as they relate to the placement or the student.

7. The Faculty Liaison will be in consultation with the ADFE for all placement changes and will submit a Placement Update electronically to the OPE.

Emergency Adjustment to Practicum hours

One of the challenges all social workers face is learning how to maintain professional fidelity in the workplace when significant life events and challenges occur. Students in Practicum are expected to develop and practice this skill in Practicum by communicating with their faculty liaison and Practicum instructor about how best to navigate these challenges.

There are times when it may be reasonable to reduce the number of hours in Practicum due to external stressors for individual students, and the faculty liaison may do so on a case-by-case basis using the following considerations and guidelines.

Reducing the required hours in Practicum for an individual in need should be used judiciously and to support the student's well-being and educational soundness in Practicum when significant external stressors are present, e.g., hospitalization, death in the family, etc.

Considerations:

- A. Educational wholeness
The student is entitled to a complete Practicum education without qualitative reduction. Clinical faculty liaisons are positioned to make this assessment in keeping with CSWE expectations.
- B. Need beyond the student's control
Adjustments to student responsibilities should be in response to exceptional external circumstances, not experiences common to the majority of students. Faculty liaisons should bring collective concerns for multiple students in class to the ADFE for consideration of programmatic response.
- C. Respect for community-based partner needs
Agencies invest significant planning and resources into internships and the needs of these settings as ongoing educational supports merit respectful consideration and consultation before reducing student hours.
- D. Equity for peers
Adjustments for individual students need to be weighed in balance against fairness to other interns in the cohort.

Adjustment opportunities:

- 1) Up to 20-hours reduction in number of Practicum hours required each semester for two-semester Practicum or up to 40-hours reduction in required Practicum hours for one-semester Practicum, e.g., 240 reduced to 220 if the student could demonstrate competencies within the time allotted

OR

Incomplete for the semester if the student will not otherwise be able to demonstrate the competencies within the internship timeframe

AND/OR

- 2) Up to 20-hours online training toward total number of Practicum hours per semester, not to exceed 40, e.g., 220 hours of which 20 may be gained through completion of approved online training. The FI may provide approved online training opportunities and the OPE will provide

additional options. FLs should refer preferred online training options to the OPE for addition to the approved list of Practicum trainings.

All options require student consultation with FI and FL and may be initiated by the student, the FI, or the FL, and is determined by the FL in consultation with the ADFE as needed.

All options require prior FI and FL approval. Students who initiate reductions prior to consultation will negate the adjustment options for the semester.

All options require the FL to email justification and adjustments (e.g., hours, incomplete, online training alternatives) to ADFE prior to last day of class for the semester in which the adjustments are applied. The FL should not grant adjustments for more than five students/semester without ADFE consultation since this could indicate a broader cohort need.

If these adjustments would not meet the student's needs, the student should be referred to their academic advisor to learn more about additional options including academic withdrawal, etc.

When a Student is Not Making Satisfactory Progress in Practicum

1. When a student is not progressing at a satisfactory rate: The Practicum Instructor must notify the Faculty Liaison as soon as a significant problem or pattern of problems becomes evident.
 - a. The Faculty Liaison will arrange a conference with the Practicum Instructor as soon as possible.
 - b. The student, Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison are involved in an analysis of the problem.
 - c. The student is given formal notification that the performance is substandard and the concerns are tied to the Student Standards through a level review if appropriate.
 - d. Guidelines are developed for the student to follow in raising the standard of performance. These are given to the student in writing.
 - e. If the student does not meet the requirements, a failing grade may be earned and the level review process may escalate as appropriate.
2. When it is possible that a student may demonstrate the competencies if provided extra time:
 - a. The Practicum Instructor, Faculty Liaison, and student will discuss the student's rate of progress. If the student can demonstrate the Practicum competencies given extra time and attention, then a plan will be developed. This must be a joint decision, based on the following: the student's work to date, the agency's willingness to commit continued resources, the Practicum Instructor's willingness to commit extra time, and the student's commitment to the identified plan.
 - b. If the agency is unwilling to continue to host the student, the Faculty Liaison will work with the student to replace the student in a new Practicum agency. The student is expected to share concerns and conditions from the foreshortened Practicum experience with the new Practicum Instructor in supervision and on the learning contract in the new setting.
 - c. A specific amount of extra time, usually 4 to 6 weeks, may be allotted at the end of the semester for the student to continue in Practicum. This does not represent an absolute date for the end of Practicum, but is a target that will be reevaluated as the end of that period is reached.

- d. If the student has not demonstrated the competencies of Practicum by the end of the extra period, then the following options exist and will be determined by the Faculty Liaison:
 - i. the student may repeat the semester providing the availability of a current practice seminar; or
 - ii. the student may earn a failing grade.
3. If a student does not wish to spend the extra time necessary to successfully complete that Practicum assignment, the options are as follows:
 - a. Withdraw from Practicum, with the consent of the Faculty Liaison and the ADFE;
 - b. Be assigned by the ADFE to repeat the semester either in the same agency or a different one;
 - c. Take an “incomplete” and finish the next time that Practicum semester is offered;
 - d. Earn a failing grade.
4. Documentation of student progress may be assessed using the following tools:
 - a. direct observation of skills and behavior in Practicum;
 - b. client records and documentation;
 - c. process recordings and journals;
 - d. feedback from other agency staff or other professionals;
 - e. written work; and
 - f. use of supervision.

Removal of a Student From Practicum

A student may be removed from Practicum under the following circumstances:

1. Request of the student, with the consultation with the Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor and approval from the ADFE.
2. Decision of the ADFE, in consultation with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor. The following are grounds to remove the student from Practicum:
 - a. Failure to maintain confidentiality about a client as mandated by agency policy and/or the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Texas Board of Social Work Examiners Code of Conduct.
 - b. Failure to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics and TBSWE Code of Conduct.
 - c. An attempt to harm oneself.
 - d. An attempt to harm someone else.
 - e. Use of non-prescribed drugs or alcohol while on duty at the internship.
 - f. Repeated tardiness at the agency and/or tardiness without notification.
 - g. Repeated absences from the agency and/or absence without notification.
 - h. Repeated change in scheduled Practicum hours without prior approval.
 - i. Inappropriate behavior in connection with the Practicum placement.
 - j. Unresolved student standard violations whether or not they are addressed in a level review.

The ADFE will make the final decision regarding removal from Practicum, with documentation from the Practicum Instructor, agency, and Faculty Liaison. The student may appeal the decision following the guidelines in the official UT Steve Hicks School of Social Work catalog. Whether the student will be allowed to return to Practicum in the same or a different agency will depend on the seriousness of the incident and/or the ability of the student to work through the problem.

Students who are not allowed to return to Practicum will receive a failing grade for the course and a level review. The ADFE will have the responsibility to work with the student around the issues and may specify conditions for a return to Practicum.

A student will earn a failing grade in Practicum and not be replaced in the same semester if they are terminated from two or more agencies due to their own lack of performance or other failure to meet the expectations in their setting. The ADFE and Faculty Liaison determine if the responsibility falls to the student with input from the Practicum Instructor and Agency staff.

First Practicum MSSW and BSW candidates may choose to retake Practicum in a subsequent semester in which it is offered. A failing grade in Practicum for final Practicum will result in dismissal from the program.

Grievance Process

The grievance process as stated in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work MSSW Student Handbook applies to the termination of a student from Practicum. The process is designed to give the student further channels for appeal of the decision made regarding termination from Practicum. Although a student will be involved in the decision-making process, should the student wish to appeal a decision made, the first step is with the Graduate Advisor, the Graduate Studies Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the School. If the student wishes a further appeal, the formal procedures are outlined in the Student Guides to BSW and Graduate Practicum handbooks.

Student Standards for Social Work Education

Because of the nature of professional social work practice, the Steve Hicks School of Social Work has different expectations of students than do non-professional programs. These standards highlight key criteria for admissions and continuance that are linked to students' abilities to be effective social work professionals. This document formalizes the standards so that students and faculty can be clear about expectations and procedures to address concerns. The ultimate goal of the standards is to help students have a successful experience in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work. The student standards may be found in Section 9: Appendix.

All social work students will be provided with and expected to read the Student Standards and NASW Code of Ethics and the Texas Board of Social Work Education Code of Conduct. Students will then be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they have read and will abide by the documents and to abide by those codes. The acknowledgment form will be kept in the students' files. The Student Standards and complete NASW Code of Ethics can be found in the Student Guides to BSW and Graduate Practicum.

Confidentiality

The NASW Code of Ethics also serves as a guide for professional behavior concerning confidentiality of client matters. Confidentiality is not only an ethical concern, but a legal issue as well. Social workers, including student interns, are legally bound to safeguard the confidentiality of information concerning clients. Breaking client confidentiality is grounds for malpractice. The Code also prescribes behavior related to colleagues and co-workers and the responsibilities and obligations of social workers to their employing agencies.

In addition to the NASW Code of Ethics, students are expected to abide by any agency-based policy concerning confidentiality. The agency's policies usually cover areas such as: storage and

maintenance of client records; what information, if any, can be shared about the client with persons outside of the agency; with whom can information be shared; how to obtain informed consent from a client to release information; internal procedures for discussing client concerns, etc. Students should request a copy of the agency's policy on client confidentiality during the agency orientation.

Discussions with Faculty Liaisons and in the first Practicum integrative seminars about clients are educationally focused and are considered appropriate case consultations. Therefore, although standard precautions should be taken to de-identify information concerning clients, these discussions are covered under the NASW Code of Ethics. Agencies and Practicum Instructors are also aware that students must utilize client and agency information in order to complete classroom assignments and in Practicum seminar discussions. However, students within the seminar are bound by the Code to keep this information confidential.

Some guidelines for use of client and agency information in the Practicum seminar include:

1. Information about clients, their relatives, and significant others used in written assignments such as process recordings, case assessments, logs, etc. should be de-identified to the greatest extent possible. Initials should be used to disguise names or names should be concealed;
2. Information that is highly personal and detailed should be reviewed to see if it need be used at all;
3. Process recordings should not become part of the client's file;
4. Materials on clients in which a court case is pending or suspected to be imminent should not be used to meet assignments;
5. Audio and/or video recordings of clients require informed consent releases by clients following the agency guidelines. Students should discuss this with their Practicum Instructors prior to seeking client approval;
6. Supervision regarding confidentiality should be scheduled early during the orientation period.

Safety/Infection Control

The School has a number of placements where student interns work directly with potentially violent populations. Some student interns also travel to various neighborhoods to conduct home visits as part of the learning process.

There have been situations in which student interns have been exposed to infectious diseases at their placement sites. This is an issue that primarily affects interns placed with agencies serving the homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, and other high-risk groups. Students may potentially be exposed to Hepatitis, TB, HIV, and/or other infectious diseases.

Students should not be left alone in the agency without professional staff. Leaving students alone on the premises or otherwise in charge during staff retreats, conferences, etc. is not an appropriate use of students. Students, no matter how competent or skilled, are not prepared to take on those types of staff responsibilities.

As partners in education, the agency, student, and the School share responsibility for making sure that the work environment is safe. In an effort to insure the physical health and safety of student interns, the following is recommended for agencies, students, and Faculty Liaisons:

Agency Responsibilities

1. Inform students of potential safety risks.
2. Provide safety training. This includes training for students related to effective communication with clients and techniques for de-escalating hostility and conflict.

3. Notify the Practicum office via the assigned Faculty Liaison in the event that a student is involved in an unsafe situation including potential/actual exposure to contagious disease and/or incidents of physical violence/aggression perpetrated by a client.
4. Take steps to improve the safety of the work environment, including providing safety guidelines for working with clients in the office and in the client's home.
5. Inform students of potential health risks that exist in the Practicum setting.
6. Provide training and education on universal precautions designed to reduce the risk of infection.
7. Inform the Faculty Liaison and/or the Practicum office immediately in the event that a student has been exposed to or is found to have contracted a communicable disease such as tuberculosis or hepatitis.
8. Refer students who are suspected to have contracted a communicable disease to the Austin Health and Human Services Department-Travis County Health Department (or the health department in the city where the agency is located) for testing and treatment.

Student Responsibilities

1. Participate in training on infection control and safety as provided by the agency.
2. Request training on infection control and safety if not offered by the agency.
3. Follow guidelines for safety and infection control in place at the agency.
4. Report incidents of safety and infection exposure to the agency and to the Practicum Office.

Faculty Liaison Responsibilities

1. Provide safety and infection control training at Practicum orientation.
2. Monitor risk factors during agency liaison visits, agency workshops, in seminars, and journals.
3. Communicate incidents with the Practicum office.
4. Discuss issues related to health and safety with Practicum Instructors and students as they arise.

Mileage Reimbursement

Agencies are encouraged to provide mileage reimbursement to students as they do professional staff. Students will need to inquire at the beginning of Practicum about agency procedures for obtaining mileage reimbursement for home visits and other required travel. Many agencies are not able to provide mileage reimbursement.

Stipends

Agencies are encouraged to provide a stipend as a way of further professionalizing the working relationship and of becoming more competitive in the process of securing strong intern candidates.

In Academic Year 2018-19, approximately one-third of agencies provided a stipend to interns at an average of just over \$2,200 per internship. Stipend payments ranged from \$250 to \$10,000 plus room and board. A stipend of only a few hundred dollars can help offset parking and mileage costs while keeping administrative overhead to a minimum. Stipends may also be paid at an hourly rate, e.g., \$15/hour. The OPE can assist agencies considering ways to offer stipends. Stipends are not required.

Malpractice Liability Insurance

Both the University and Practicum agencies require that all social work students in Practicum placement be covered by a professional malpractice liability insurance policy to protect both the agency and the individual against malpractice liability claims. All graduate social work students in Practicum courses must obtain this coverage prior to entering Practicum placement and must be covered for the duration of their Practicum placement.

Students are able to meet this professional malpractice liability insurance requirement by participating in the School's blanket liability program underwritten by Wortham Insurance & Risk Management of

Austin as approved by the UT Board of Regents. The limits of liability under this policy are \$2,000,000 each claim/\$6,000,000 aggregate, the policy period is from September 1 to August 31, and coverage is only while the student is in Practicum.

Specific information as to how students obtain this coverage is made available to students in the Practicum placement process. There are additional limitations when applied to international Practicum.

Under this insurance policy, students are not covered for any claims relating to the operation of motor vehicles, whether personal or agency vehicle. Since the University has ruled that students cannot provide services for which they are at risk without liability coverage, students may not transport clients within Practicum as part of their internship program. Agencies cannot ask or allow students to transport clients while in Practicum placement. Similarly, students are not allowed to handle bodily fluids in their placements. New agencies are made aware of this in the screening and onboarding process and Practicum instructors sign a statement acknowledging this at the beginning of every internship.

Cultural Competence and Practicum Instruction

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work actively supports the need for students to increase their cultural competence during their professional education. Most students will take a semester-long course entitled Social Justice in which they will learn more about themselves, about other groups, and about the process of becoming a culturally competent social work practitioner.

At its most basic level, cultural competence consists of knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Knowledge includes an understanding of oneself, information about cultural customs and practices of various groups, and an awareness of the dynamics of oppression. Skills include various elements, such as bilingualism, interpersonal skills, behavior consistent with cultural norms, social advocacy skills, etc. Attitude includes components such as genuine openness/curiosity, willingness to risk, generosity, and forgiveness. Practicum Instructors are encouraged to use the supervisory relationship to both challenge and support the knowledge, skills, and attitudes demonstrated by students.

A resource for increasing cultural competence is the following *NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice* adopted by NASW in 2015.

Sexual Harassment

In support of its Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action program, it is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin to maintain an educational environment free from sexual harassment and intimidation. Although the Practicum Office evaluates and monitors agencies on a continual basis, preventative steps should be taken to ensure that sexual harassment does not become part of the student's Practicum experience; or, if it should occur, that the student has sufficient information to be able to deal effectively with it.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has defined sexual harassment as follows:

Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Sec. 703 of Title VII. Unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Such conduct on the part of supervisors or co-workers is expressly prohibited and the offenders are subject to disciplinary action. The University's Equal Employment Opportunity Office is empowered to investigate complaints based on sexual harassment. If employees believe that they are experiencing this type of conduct, they should immediately report any such incidents to the Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Main Building 106M, 471-1849.

Toward that end, The University has formulated a policy that prohibits sexual harassment between faculty and students. This policy is formally stated in section four of the Handbook of Operating Procedures of the University.

The complete policy on sexual harassment can be found at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/policies/hoppm/04.B.02.html>

The complete policy on sexual misconduct can be found at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/policies/hoppm/04.A.03.html>

In addition, many Practicum agencies have agency policies that deal with sexual harassment. Students should obtain a copy of their agencies' personnel policy manual and be familiar with this information. Students should notify their Faculty Liaison immediately should they wish to explore any issue or situation that appears to involve sexual harassment.

Title IX Resources and Reporting

The University is committed to providing an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex and gender discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence (including domestic violence and dating violence), and stalking (<https://titleix.utexas.edu/educate/>).

All Practicum Instructors and employees of the University including Faculty Liaisons supervising UT students are mandated reporters of Title IX related incidents. Mandated reporters are required to report known Title IX related incidents – current or historical – to either the SHSSW Title IX Liaison, who is also the Assistant Dean for Practicum, or the University Title IX Coordinator. Title IX related incidents may be shared in any number of ways including but not limited to written assignments, classroom discussion, or supervision and all reports must be relayed to a Title IX officer.

Students entering the SHSSW are oriented to Title IX resources and requirements upon entry to the program and are aware that Practicum Instructors are mandated reporters. Practicum Instructors are expected to work with the student on how the student choose to report a Title IX incident(s). For example, a student may choose to email the Title IX Liaison directly and include the Practicum Instructor. If the incident(s) in question is not impacting the student's Practicum performance in any way, a student may choose instead to report directly to the University Title IX Coordinator, thereby bypassing the Office of Practicum Education.

In service of the students' education, the University's goals are to:

1. support the student regarding resources, rights, and accommodations available to them;
2. assess and intervene with due process regarding potential threats to the student and/or university community; and
3. document the prevalence of Title IX related occurrences and accountable university response.

More information about Title IX may be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

Section 5

Practicum Standards and Objectives

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Section 5

Practicum Standards and Objectives

CSWE Practicum Standards

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the accrediting body for Schools of Social Work throughout the United States and Canada. In this capacity, CSWE establishes the basic educational and professional standards for Baccalaureate and Master's level professional degree programs. The standards below were approved in 2008 by CSWE. These cover the standards pertinent to the Practicum section of the Education Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). The BSW and MSSW first Practicum experiences are expected to provide generalist practice experiences. MSSW final Practicum is expected to provide advanced practice experiences.

Educational Policies

Educational Policy 2.0—Generalist Practice

Generalist practice is grounded in the liberal arts and the person-in-environment framework. To promote human and social well-being, generalist practitioners use a range of prevention and intervention methods in their practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities based on scientific inquiry and best practices. The generalist practitioner identifies with the social work profession and applies ethical principles and critical thinking in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Generalist practitioners engage diversity in their practice and advocate for human rights and social and economic justice. They recognize, support, and build on the strengths and resiliency of all human beings. They engage in research-informed practice and are proactive in responding to the impact of context on professional practice. The baccalaureate program in social work prepares students for generalist practice. The descriptions of the nine Social Work Competencies presented in the EPAS identify the knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes, and behaviors associated with competence at the generalist level of practice.

Educational Policy M2.1—Specialized Practice

Specialized practice builds on generalist practice as described in EP 2.0, adapting and extending the Social Work Competencies for practice with a specific population, problem area, method of intervention, perspective or approach to practice. Specialized practice augments and extends social work knowledge, values, and skills to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate within an area of specialization. Specialized practitioners advocate with and on behalf of clients and constituencies in their area of specialized practice. Specialized practitioners synthesize and employ a broad range of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge and skills based on scientific inquiry and best practices, and consistent with social work values. Specialized practitioners engage in and conduct research to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery. The master's program in social work prepares students for specialized practice. Programs identify the specialized knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes, and behaviors that extend and enhance the nine Social Work Competencies and prepare students for practice in the area of specialization.

Educational Policy 2.2—Signature Pedagogy: Practicum Education

Signature pedagogies are elements of instruction and of socialization that teach future practitioners the fundamental dimensions of professional work in their discipline—to think, to perform, and to act ethically and with integrity. Practicum education is the signature pedagogy for social work. The intent of Practicum education is to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting. It is a basic precept of social work education that the two interrelated components of curriculum—classroom and Practicum—are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Practicum education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the Social Work Competencies. Practicum education may integrate forms of technology as a component of the program.

Practicum Objectives

The purpose of the competencies as course objectives is to serve as a guide to learning and teaching throughout the semester for which they are applicable. In this role they serve as focal points for educational supervision. They also provide the guidelines for the evaluation of the student’s performance. The mid-semester and final evaluations are particularly focused on the competencies and their related outcomes. A student is expected to have demonstrated the competencies commensurate with their student status at their stage of programmatic study by the end of the semester or internship. The individual Practicum Instructor is responsible for providing opportunities for those practice experiences or assignments that will enable the student to demonstrate the competencies. The student is responsible for demonstrating their abilities through written work, client interaction, supervisory discussions and other means.

	Profiles of Assignments	Practicum Instructor Qualifications	Time Frame	Hours Required
BSW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing individual cases 2. Co-planning and co-facilitating a group 3. Involvement in an administrative/planning project requiring data collection, analysis and reporting 4. Attendance at board and/or staff meetings 	BSW or MSSW Two years of post graduate experience is required for those with a Bachelor’s degree and preferred for those with a Master’s degree	Sept-Dec or Sept-May Jan-May or Jan-July	400 hours total 32-35 hours/week one semester or 16-20 hours/week two semesters
MSSW First Placement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing individual cases 2. Planning and facilitating a group 3. Involvement in an administrative/planning project requiring data collection, analysis and reporting 4. Attendance at board and staff meetings 	MSSW and 2 years post-graduate experience	Sept-May	400 hours total 16-20 hours/week one semester

MSSW Final Placement CLINICAL (CL)	1. In depth work with specialized populations including ongoing individual cases	MSSW and 2 years post-graduate experience	Jan-May or Jan-July	Block-500 hours 36 hours/week one semester or
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	2. Attendance at staff meetings			25 hours/week for 2 semesters
COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP (CAL)	1. Involvement in project(s) requiring data collection analysis and reporting 2. Attendance at board and/or staff meetings	MSSW and 2 years post-graduate experience	Jan-May or Jan-July	Block-500 hours 36 hours/week for one semester or 25 hours/week for two semesters

See other sections in this manual for further elaboration **on this overview of Practicum requirements by educational level.**

Course Objectives

SW 640/641-Undergraduate Practicum Practicum

I. Standardized Course Description

Undergraduate Practicum Instruction is a twelve-credit course including supervised practice experience in a human service organization serving a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families group, organizations and communities. A major purpose of Practicum education is to develop understanding of and beginning competence in the promotion of social and economic justice, the alleviation of critical social problems, and the enhancement of human well-being. Requirements include an educationally supervised practicum of 400 hours at the agency/ organization (40 hours/week) and attendance and participation in Practicum seminars that are designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery. Practice is a co-requisite for this course.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

Standardized Course Description

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

Using a common evaluation instrument, this course measures the implementation of knowledge, skills, values, and/or cognitive and affective processes to assess all nine competencies and the corresponding outcomes.

1. Student demonstrates ethical and professional behavior.
2. Student engages diversity and difference in practice.
3. Student advances human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

4. Student engages in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
5. Student engages in policy practice.
6. Student engages with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Student assesses individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8. Student intervenes with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Student evaluates practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

SW 384R - Graduate Practicum Instruction I

SW 384R: PRACTICUM INSTRUCTION I

I. Standardized Course Description

Practicum Instruction I is a three-credit course including supervised practice experience in an organization providing human services for a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. This is accomplished through an educationally supervised practicum of 240 hours and participation in a weekly Practicum seminar that is designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the expectations for the semester. They serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence.

By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

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.

SW 384S - Graduate Practicum

Instruction II SW 384S – PRACTICUM

INSTRUCTION II

I. Standardized Course Description

Practicum Instruction II is a three-credit course including supervised practice experience in an organization providing human services for a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students are further expected to integrate learning related to leadership skills, advocacy and the application of theory. This is accomplished through an educationally supervised practicum of 240 hours and participation in a weekly Practicum seminar that is designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for the second semester of foundation Practicum. Building on Practicum I competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence.

By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

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.

SW 694R/394S - Graduate Practicum Instruction III & IV

SW 694R/394S – PRACTICUM III/IV CLINICAL CONCENTRATION

I. Standardized Course Description

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9-credit hour course is a 500-hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides clinical social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (Clinical) must be taken concurrently.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for concentration Practicum. Building on Foundation Practicum competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence. The nine competencies can be found on the Practicum evaluation and are measured by the following outcomes.

Students graduating from the Clinical Social Work Concentration will be able to:

1. Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work
2. Recognize and actively engage in efforts to safeguard against personal biases as they affect the working relationship in the service of the clients' well-being
3. Utilize needs, values, and strengths in applying appropriate interventions for diverse client systems
4. Identify and utilize practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective
5. Utilize knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and trauma on clients and client systems to guide treatment planning and intervention
6. Advocate at multiple levels for mental health parity and elimination of health disparities for diverse populations
7. Utilize research methodology to evaluate clinical practice effectiveness and/or outcome and apply empirically supported evidence for practice
8. Utilize critical thinking and the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients
9. Identify and evaluate agency programs and/or practices in relation to client needs

10. Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients
11. Integrate theory-based relational skills in all areas of client engagement
12. Recognize and address the interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the working alliance
13. Utilize multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment skills and tools
14. Conduct a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually driven process
15. Critically evaluate, select, and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions that demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns
16. Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions
17. Identify and evaluate agency programs and services in relation to client needs
18. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate practice effectiveness for a range of bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs

SW 694R/394S – PRACTICUM III/IV APP CONCENTRATION

I. Standardized Course Description

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9-credit hour course is a 500-hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides macro social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (APP) must be taken concurrently.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for concentration Practicum. Building on Foundation Practicum competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence. The nine competencies can be found on the Practicum evaluation and are measured by the following outcomes.

Students graduating from the APP Social Work Concentration will be able to:

1. Identify as social work professionals, demonstrate professional use of self, and articulate the social work role
2. Critically examine personal values, attitudes and expectations to enhance professional self-awareness and demonstrate competency in managing value differences and ethical dilemmas in practice in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics
3. Utilize strengths of differing life experiences to build inclusive communities and multicultural organizations
4. Engage with and ensure participation of diverse and marginalized community and organizational constituents by identifying and accommodating multilingual and non-literate needs, gender power dynamics, and access for disabilities in assessing, planning and implementing interventions
5. Advocate for human and civil rights individually and collectively
6. Demonstrate understanding of indicators that show improved well-being for communities and organizations and, where possible, incorporate evaluative measures of well-being that integrate improvements in social, economic, political and environmental realms
7. Utilize theories of community and organizational behavior in assessment and analysis of macro interventions
8. Construct and utilize best practice and evidence-informed research to develop and implement community and organizational interventions

9. Analyze policies from historical, current, and global perspectives with particular understanding of the role of social, economic, and political forces on policy formulation and the implications for less powerful and oppressed groups
10. Actively engage in the policy arena on behalf of community and organizational interests, working collaboratively to formulate policies that improve the effectiveness of social services and the well-being of all people
11. Use participatory methods to engage with diverse communities, their constituencies, and/or the organizations that serve them
12. Use the principles of relationship building and inter-professional collaboration to guide professional practice that cuts across multiple levels of practice
13. Assess the range of information, based on research, evidence, and practice strategies that will enhance planning for programs and services to improve human wellbeing
14. Work with communities, their constituents and the organizations that serve them to assess their capacities, strengths and needs
15. Collaborate with other professionals to develop interventions that prevent social problems, expand opportunities, and enhance quality of life
16. Advocate for and support the most inclusive strategies to help all community members reach their full potential
17. Apply appropriate evaluation methods to develop and recommend program and/or policy changes that enhance practice outcomes
18. Use participatory models to involve community and organizational constituents in evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in order to recommend future actions

Section 6

Methods of Evaluation

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Section 6

Methods of Evaluation

The student, the School of Social Work, and the agency interact within a systems context, giving and receiving feedback in the ongoing educational process. Recognizing the interdependence of these elements, the School conducts ongoing evaluation on a multitude of levels, with all participants in the Practicum Program responsible for feedback and maintenance.

Evaluation of Student Performance and Grading

Evaluation in Practicum is the determination of whether the student has satisfactorily achieved the educational objectives and demonstrated the competencies of the Practicum sequence. Evaluation is viewed as a process that is jointly undertaken with the student, Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison participating. Key elements in the process include:

- a delineation of the student's present capabilities in terms of knowledge, values, skills, affective and cognitive processes;
- identifying areas where growth is needed including what the student has already accomplished and not accomplished toward demonstrating the competencies; and
- determining specifically what must be done in the future to address any concerns and/or refine abilities.

Grades and/or credit earned are assigned by the Faculty Liaison, based on input obtained from the Practicum Instructor during the liaison visits and liaison assessment of student progress. BSW Practicum is pass/fail and MSSW first Practicum is graded on a letter grade basis and students must earn a C or better in order to receive credit. Final Practicum is graded as credit/no credit. Students who do not receive credit for final Practicum are not allowed to repeat and therefore cannot complete the master's program at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Student progress may be reflected in verbal presentation of material, interaction with clients and collateral contacts, discussion of assignments with the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison, journal entries, process recordings and case documentation, and interaction with other personnel within the setting. Students are expected to uphold the NASW Code of Ethics, the Texas Board of Social Work Examiner's (TBSWE) Code of Conduct, and the SHSSW Student Standards. Practicum objectives represent the minimum expectations of performance at the completion of each semester.

Evaluation of student performance in Practicum is an ongoing process throughout the placement period, with the student's participation an integral part of this process. Practicum Instructors are expected to give ongoing feedback to their students. Assessment is used to help students examine their educational progress in meeting the objectives of Practicum instruction. It is intended that the student will develop ongoing self-awareness to serve as the foundation for future learning and development.

The evaluation forms for all semesters of the student internships are available in Section 7: Forms. The forms are provided as an educational tool and actual evaluations should be completed online using the evaluation link provided by the Office of Practicum Education. OPE recommends that the student and Practicum Instructor share the task of completing the evaluation forms to promote ongoing dialogue and understanding about achievement of the educational objectives and demonstrating the competencies.

Grading for Foundation BSW and MSSW Practicum

BSW Integrative Seminar and Practicum are taken concurrently as are the MSSW first Practicum and the practice. Therefore, satisfactory progress in both class and Practicum is expected. If a student fails Practicum and is able to retake Practicum the next semester is available, they will be required to also retake the associated integrative seminar or practice class concurrently regardless of grade previously earned in that class. Students may not carry an incomplete in either course into the next semester. Students must earn a C or better in first semester to continue. Syllabi for the practice courses are provided to the student at the beginning of the semester and available on the School's website at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/eclassroom/>.

Grading for MSSW Concentration Practicum

The Faculty Liaison assigns credit earned based on student progress as outlined above. Final Practicum is credit/no credit and students who do not receive credit for final Practicum will be not be allowed to retake final Practicum and instead will be released from the program. Students in final Practicum may fail to receive credit because of:

1. Unresolved and/or escalating concerns tied to Student Standards including NASW and TBSWE codes and addressed through the Level Review process outlined in the MSSW Guide;
2. Persistent failure to demonstrate the required competencies; or
3. Egregious ethical violations or behavior otherwise harmful to others.

Procedures for Evaluation of Practicum

Student Evaluation of the Practicum Experience

Each student is expected to provide feedback on an ongoing basis directly to their Practicum instructor regarding maximizing student learning in the agency setting. Recognizing that this can be a challenge in some situations, students are expected to provide feedback to their faculty liaison regarding the strength of educational opportunities, supervisory experience and overall internship. Students are surveyed upon exiting the program regarding their Practicum experience with the Faculty Liaison, OPE, internship setting, Practicum Instructor, and integration of classroom and Practicum curriculum. Students are encouraged to use this anonymous, protected venue for providing valuable feedback in service of improving the Practicum experience for all students. This information is then used by the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education and the Practicum Education Committee in making decisions regarding the future use of the agency and Practicum Instructor. Urgent issues raised by students in Practicum are routinely addressed in liaison visits and, as necessary, with the intervention of the OPE. Students should bring concerns about their placement to the attention of their Faculty Liaison as soon as possible so that concerns may be addressed promptly.

Practicum Instructor Evaluation of the Practicum Program

Practicum Instructors are also given an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the placement process, the Faculty Liaison, the training workshops, and the Practicum program in general. Practicum instructors receive questionnaires twice annually at the Practicum Instructor Workshops and this information is reviewed by the ADFE and communicated to the Practicum committee to make changes to improve the program. Practicum Instructors also provide feedback on the Practicum program through the ongoing communication with the Faculty Liaisons and the OPE.

Faculty Liaison Evaluation of the Agency Setting

In addition to ongoing monitoring of and communication with staff at the Practicum settings, the ADFE and the Clinical Faculty members meet at the end of the spring semester to gather and share

information regarding agencies and Practicum Instructors for use in future placement decisions. This process solicits information about the learning environment of the agency, the Practicum Instructor's level of expertise, the appropriateness of the learning assignments, the match between the student and the Practicum Instructor, and ways to make improvements in all of these. As a result of this evaluation, the OPE then creates an action plan for follow up with Practicum instructors as needed in order to provide opportunity and investment in making necessary changes to maintain or reestablish strong internship experiences. It is the intent of the OPE to provide internship settings and Practicum Instructors with ample opportunity to redress concerns through authentic and timely feedback.

The Assistant Dean for Practicum Education regularly monitors the quality of the Practicum sites by utilizing interaction with the agency/Practicum instructors, agency self-reporting, written and verbal reports from the faculty liaisons, the student evaluations, participation in workshops and workshop questionnaires.

The School is committed to providing timely, transparent, consistent and professional feedback regarding significant concerns related to internships so that the agency-based Practicum instructors and Practicum program representatives can sustain ongoing and mutually beneficial working relationships.

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Section 7

The Degree Programs

Bachelor in Social Work Program

Requirements for Admission to the Undergraduate Social Work Program

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin maintains two classifications of undergraduate majors: pre-social work majors and social work majors. Pre-social work majors are usually freshmen and sophomores. After completing specified pre-requisites, students may apply to the upper division professional major sequence. Those students admitted into the sequence as majors complete a minimum of three semesters of social work course work and any other BSW degree requirements not yet completed. Majors will receive a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree upon completing all degree requirements. All pre-social work and social work majors are considered social work students and are under the auspices of the Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

The professional practice of social work requires persons who are above average in academic ability and performance, sufficiently emotionally mature to assume a helping role with persons under stress, and committed to the ethical standards and performance demands of social work practice. Students are required to use the advising services in the SHSSW early in their college careers in anticipation of meeting requirements for admission to the social work major. Any student interested in obtaining a social work degree must discuss their intentions with a social work advisor before applying for admission/transfer to the program as a social work pre-major.

Admission to the School of Social Work as a Pre-Social Work Major

Any student newly admitted to the University may enter the Steve Hicks School of Social Work as a pre-social work major. A student who is enrolled in another college or school of the University may transfer to the Steve Hicks School of Social Work as a pre-social work major in accordance with the regulations given in the University's general catalog. The student must also meet the following Steve Hicks School of Social Work internal transfer requirements:

1. Completion of at least twenty-four hours of coursework in-residence at the University. Credit earned by exam, correspondence, and extension may not be counted toward this requirement.
2. A cumulative in-residence grade point average of at least 2.25.
3. If social work coursework has been completed prior to the application, a grade point average of at least 2.50 in those courses is required, and all social work courses must have been completed with a grade of at least C.

Only currently enrolled students may apply. The internal transfer application can be found on the Steve Hicks School of Social Work website. Admission to the Steve Hicks School of Social Work is offered on a space-available basis to the students who are best qualified. Students with over 90 semester hours of coursework or a completed degree are encouraged to consider other options, such as completing a degree in their current college/school or alternate institution with the option of pursuing an MSSW degree at a later date.

Admission to the Steve Hicks School of Social Work as a Social Work Major

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work limits admission as a social work major in the BSW degree program to the number of students to whom a professional education of high quality can be provided. Because of enrollment restrictions dictated by the availability of faculty members and facilities in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, some applicants may be denied admission even though they meet these minimum requirements. The Steve Hicks School of Social Work considers students for admission to the BSW Program during the spring and fall semesters. Students are given an application for admission to the BSW program via email after attending a required information session. If a student is unable to attend an information session, they must contact a social work advisor to receive the application. Applications must be submitted to the Steve Hicks School of Social Work BSW Program by the posted deadlines for the particular semester for the student to be considered for admission for the following semester. The application allows the student to outline their background and motivation to enter the social work profession, as well as any special experiences that enhance their application. No student may begin the professional curriculum (the required upper division social work courses) unless they: (1) have been admitted to the University as described in *General Information* and (2) have been admitted to the major in social work by the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs, following recommendation by the BSW Committee of the Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Specific Requirements for Admission to the Social Work Major

1. The applicant should have completed at least 45 semester hours of course work. (This can include coursework transferred in from previous institutions.)
2. The applicant must have completed the following social work major courses with grades of C or better in each course and a grade point average of 2.5 in all major courses: SW 310, SW 312, SW 313, SW 318 (or equivalent), and SW 325;
3. Application for admission must be made through a digital Qualtrics application distributed by a social work academic advisor once the student has attended an information session;
4. The following must be submitted by the application deadline:
 - a. the completed application for admission to the professional curriculum
 - b. the completed personal statement
 - c. at least two completed recommendation forms
 - d. documentation showing successful completion of at least 45 hours of supervised volunteer experience involving direct contact with clients in a human services organization
 - e. a resume
6. The applicant may be asked to appear for a personal interview;
7. The applicant is considered on the basis of academic performance and the student's commitment to and suitability for generalist social work practice. Emotional and professional readiness for the profession of social work is also considered. The guidelines found in Student Standards for Social Work Education are used when assessing emotional and professional readiness (see Section 2.2.2 in the Appendix).
8. An admitted student who is unable to attend in the semester for which they are admitted must reapply for admission in order to enroll at a later time. A student who has been admitted to and enrolls in the professional curriculum, withdraws, and then wishes to return must apply for readmission on the basis of the curriculum in effect at the time of the return. A student who has been out of the University must also submit an application for readmission to the University.

Applicants are notified of the decision regarding admission to the social work major by the school's Undergraduate Program Coordinator/Advisor in time for the advising cycle for the next long semester. Following admission to the social work major, the student's coursework is reviewed periodically by the Undergraduate Program Coordinator/Advisor. Students must maintain a

minimum overall GPA of 2.0 and a social work GPA of 2.5, with a grade of at least C earned in all major courses. Should the student encounter difficulty in meeting the professional and/or academic requirements, the School's review process will bring the difficulty to the student's attention and assist the student in making appropriate resolution. The student may make use of counseling and advising services at any time

Requirements for Admission to the Practicum Sequence

In order to be admitted to the Practicum sequence, students must meet the following requirements: (1) a minimum University overall GPA of 2.0; (2) completion of all upper division major sequence requirements except the Practicum practicum; and (3) both a grade point average of at least 2.5 for the following group of courses and a grade of at least C in each course in the group: Social Work 310, 312, 313, 318, 323K, 325, 327, 332, 333 and 334.

Appeal Procedures

If a social work major is dismissed from the University or the BSW Program for scholastic or other reasons, they have the right to appeal the decision.

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

SW 310. Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare. Introduction to the profession of social work and social work roles in the social welfare system, with emphasis on social problems, society's historical response, and contemporary proposed solutions. Includes 30 hours of volunteer experience.

SW 312. Generalist Social Work Practice: Knowledge, Values, and Skills. Introduction to generalist social work practice, with emphasis on the knowledge, values, and skills used in the profession. Includes 30 hours of volunteer experience working directly with individuals in some capacity and is primarily skills-based.

SW 313. Social Work Research Methods. Introduction to the logic, design, and use of research, with emphasis on research designs appropriate to social work.

SW 318. Social Work Statistics. Introduction to statistics commonly used in social work research, including the critical analysis of the findings and inferential processes of existing research studies.

SW 323K. Social Welfare Programs, Policies, and Issues. Study of structure and function of service delivery systems, policy analysis, and effects and influences of policy on practice and planning decisions. Prerequisite: Gov 310L, Gov 312L, economics, and admission to the major in social work.

SW 325. Foundations of Social Justice. History and demographics of culturally diverse groups in the US, including family and community diversity. Emphasis on principles of knowledge acquisition about cultural diversity and ethnic-sensitive social work practice. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work.

SW 327. Human Behavior and the Social Environment. Survey of selected theories of human behavior, including a systems/ecological perspective, ego psychology, and social learning theory, with emphasis on the life cycle from adolescence through adulthood. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work.

SW 332. Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families. Theory and knowledge of effecting change in individuals and families, with an emphasis on skills and analyses of processes and interactions. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work.

SW 333. Social Work Practice with Groups. Theory and knowledge of group dynamics and the development of effective group work skills, with an emphasis on analyses of processes and interactions. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work.

SW 334. Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities. Theory and knowledge of effecting change in organizations and communities, with an emphasis on skills and analyses of processes and interactions. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work.

SW 640 & 641. Social Work Practicum. Offered on the pass/fail basis only. Practicum practicum providing supervised experience in which students apply knowledge and develop skills of social work practice. Educational supervision by faculty and by social workers in community agencies. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work and completion of all upper division social work major courses.

SW 444. Advanced Practicum Seminar. Integration of theory and practice on the basis of Practicum practicum experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the major in social work; Completion of all upper division social work major courses; Concurrent enrollment in SW 640 & 641.

Master of Science in Social Work Program

General Statement

The Master of Science in Social Work program prepares individuals for advanced social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and in policy-related and administrative positions. The MSSW program includes a nine-course foundation curriculum required of all students, followed by a sequence of courses in one of two areas of concentration. In both foundation and concentration curriculum, experiential learning is provided through internships in selected governmental, non-profit, or for-profit agencies and organizations with qualified educational supervision. Course content and Practicum experiences are organized and integrated using a systems/developmental framework and a bio-psycho-social perspective.

The 60-Hour Curriculum Plan

The first year foundation curriculum provides students with the basic knowledge, skills and values necessary for generalist social work practice and for progression into one of two specialized advanced practice concentrations.

In order to achieve its objective, the generalist curriculum provides instruction in:

- (1) the history, philosophy, values, purposes, and social policy concerns of the profession;
- (2) human behavior and social environment theories and research relevant to the knowledge base of practice;
- (3) social work research and its contribution to the development and testing of knowledge for professional practice; and
- (4) Practicum instruction or practicum and social work practice methods courses focused on working with individual clients, families, groups, and community or organizational units.

In addition to providing an overview of and preparation for generalist social work practice, the foundation curriculum serves the purpose of developing the student's knowledge of and identification with the social work profession; that is, knowing about and appreciating social work's historical development and evolution, the range of modes of professional intervention characteristic of contemporary practice, ethical issues and concerns now confronting practitioners, and the organizational contexts of practice. The foundation curriculum provides a base for socialization to the profession that is further developed during pursuit of concentrated study in particular areas of concentration. Throughout the program, regardless of the student's choice of concentration, emphasis is placed on social work's commitment to culturally-diverse populations and women, to issues of social and economic justice, and to the advancement of the knowledge base of the profession. Social work values and ethics are supported throughout the classroom and Practicum practicum courses.

Foundation Curriculum Courses

Five of the nine required foundation courses are taken in the first semester and three are taken in the second semester. Also in the second semester students begin study in their area of concentration by taking the first course in the selected concentration. Students continue in the same Practicum placement during their first and second semesters.

The advanced concentration curriculum provides students with the opportunity to focus their work in one of two areas of special interest:

- Clinical Social Work
- Administration and Policy Practice

During their third semester, students complete advanced courses in practice methods, social policy, and other courses related to their concentration. With approval, a student may enroll in elective courses in other University departments. During the fourth and last semester, students complete a full-time Practicum practicum in the area of their concentration. They also participate in a professional colloquium focusing on social work practice evaluation. Although the curriculum does not provide full concentrations in the areas of gerontology, health, or criminal justice, students may take elective courses and their fourth semester practicum in these areas.

Objectives of the Clinical Social Work Concentration

The Clinical Concentration builds on the first year Foundation with specific courses in assessment and diagnosis, advanced social work methods with individuals and groups, social policy analysis, and practice evaluation research. Additionally, students select at least two electives and three selectives (advanced electives in the concentration) relevant to their desired Practicums of practice including families, children and adolescents, aging, mental health, chemical dependency, corrections, and health.

Experiential learning is provided through internships in selected organizations, such as governmental, for-profit, or non-profit agencies in which qualified and competent supervision is provided. Course content and Practicum experiences are organized and integrated using a bio-psycho-social framework.

Objectives of the Administration and Policy Practice Concentration

This concentration focuses on using organizational and administrative practice theory and evidence-based practice to initiate, improve, or change human service programs. The broad objectives of the Administration and Policy Practice concentration are directed toward the preparation of practitioners who are knowledgeable of social work practice, policy and management; who are aware of the nature of related disciplines and professions (such as law, public administration, and accounting); and who will begin practice at the level of mid-management in organizational units concerned with human services programs and policy, planning, program development, research, and evaluation. For the

specific concentration objectives, see section 4: Practicum Objectives; SW 694R/394S - Graduate Practicum Instruction III & IV.

Graduate Course Description

First Semester

381R Development Across the Life Span: Individuals and Families (formerly Basic Dynamics of Individuals and Families)

Ecological, systems and developmental frameworks are used to examine the influence that context has in shaping individual and family dynamics across the life span. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

381S Foundations of Social Justice: Values, Diversity, Power and Oppression (formerly Cultural Diversity)

History, demographics and cultures of various populations at risk with an emphasis on self-awareness and understanding the impact of discrimination and oppression by individuals and society on people of diverse backgrounds, abilities and orientations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

381T Dynamics of Organizations and Communities

The organizational and community context within which social services are delivered and the influence of funding, mandate and organizational arrangements on service delivery with attention given to populations at risk. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

383R Social Work Practice I (formerly Social Work Methods I)

Introduction to social work practice methodology and the professional use of self in generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work and concurrent enrollment in SW384R, or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

384R Practicum Instruction I

Practice course based on supervised assignments designed to develop a social work perspective and skill in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Sixteen to twenty hours a week (a total of at least 220 hours) in Practicum placement and a weekly one-hour integrative seminar in the application of theoretical material to practice problems and special issues.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work and concurrent enrollment in SW383R, or consent of Assistant Dean for Practicum Education or graduate advisor.

Second Semester

382R Social Policy Analysis and Social Problems (formerly 382P-Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy, and 392P1-General Social Welfare Policy Analysis)

Historical perspective on the development of social welfare institutions, programs and policies. Students will learn methods of current policy analysis and evaluation of social problems. May not be counted by students with credit for Social Work 382P and 392P (Topic 1: General Social Welfare Policy Analysis). Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

383T Social Work Practice II (formerly 383S-Social Work Methods II)

Examine, critique, select and apply social work micro, mezzo and macro theories and methods in advanced clinical and community practice. May not be counted by students with credit for Social Work 383S. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, and concurrent enrollment in SW384S, or graduate standing and consent of instructor or graduate advisor.

384S. Practicum Instruction II

Continuation of SW384R. Sixteen to twenty hours a week (a total of at least 220 hours) in Practicum placement and a weekly one-hour integrative seminar that emphasizes advanced application of theory to practice and consideration of special issues. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work and concurrent enrollment in SW383T, or consent of Assistant Dean for Practicum Education or graduate advisor.

Depending on area of concentration, students will take the first two classes in the concentration:

393R: Topics in Advanced Clinical Practice

May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, credit or registration for SW383T, or consent of instructor or graduate advisor. Topic 1: Clinical Assessment and Differential Diagnosis and topic 26: Theory and Methods of Group Intervention.

393T. Topics in Advanced Macro Practice

May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in social work, credit or registration for SW383T, or consent of instructor or graduate advisor. Topic 1: Social Work Leadership in Human Services and topic 19 Strategic Partnerships Through Collaborative Leadership

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work Program

The PhD program in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) prepares its graduates to provide intellectual leadership for the social work profession as researchers, educators, and directors of public and private organizations. This intersects with the Graduate School's mission of serving as a community of diverse scholars dedicated to excellence in original research, teaching creative expression, and intellectual leadership. The domains of social work inquiry derive from the social work's mission and purpose: "To enhance human well-being and help meet the needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty" (NASW Code of Ethics). Both the Graduate School and the PhD program in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work strive to "cultivate individuals who work together to bring knowledge, innovation, and best practices to meet the great and small challenges of our time."

The program of work, excluding dissertation, requires a minimum of 47 credit hours of graduate study. The required program of work is outlined below:

Three seminars in research methods 9 credit hours

Research I

Research II: Quantitative Methods

Research III: Qualitative Methods

Two seminars in computer data analysis 6 credit hours

Quantitative Data Analysis I

Quantitative Data Analysis II

One research practicum or additional advanced research or statistical methods course
3 credit hours

One writing practicum or an elective 3 credit hours

Theories of Social Work Practice 3 credit hours

One seminar on pedagogy in social work 3 credit hours

Two colloquia on social work education and research 2 credit hours

Four electives of your choosing 12 credit hours
One comprehensive exam preparation course 3 credit hours
One Advanced Research or Statistical Methods Elective 3 credit hours

TOTAL 47 credit hours

Students who devote themselves full-time to the doctoral program should be able to complete all class requirements and the comprehensive examinations the summer after their second academic year. Initial work on the dissertation research proposal usually begins by the end of the second year, but students are encouraged to consider their topic as early as possible. Subsequent semesters are devoted to dissertation research, followed by a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation.

The course load as described in the curriculum outline is a normal course load for any student who plans to complete all candidacy requirements within two academic years. Students must complete the requirements for candidacy within six years in accordance with University policy. However, our goal is for all PhD students in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work to advance to candidacy no later than the spring semester of their third academic year. The course load as described in the curriculum outline may vary, particularly when students are serving as teaching assistants or research assistants, which require that students be enrolled full-time.

Section 8

Selected Forms

FORMS ARE ALSO ON THE WEB AT:
<https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>

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Intern Time Sheet

UT School of Social Work
Office of Practicum
Education

Learning Contract

Name:

Individualized learning goals:

My efforts in achieving each of the specified goals will be as follows:

Date:

The Practicum Instructor will support the student's learning by:

Student's Signature _____ Date _____ Practicum Instructor's Signature _____



PROCESS RECORDING

Worker:

Client:

Specific Location of Interaction:

Date of Session:

Date turned in:

Client System:

Presenting Problem:

Worker Goals for the Session:

Client Goals for the Session:

What was going on just prior to this interaction:

Content	Worker's Feelings	Analytical Comments	Practicum Instructor/Liaison Comments

PROCESS RECORDING page:

Content	Worker's Feelings	Analytical Comments	Practicum Instructor/Liaison Comments

PROCESS RECORDING page:

Observations of Client system strengths:

Outcomes of Interaction:

Subsequent plans with this case:

Specific questions for supervision with Practicum instructor:

PROCESS RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

Worker:

Client: Use first name, or use initials only

Specific Location of Interaction:

Date of Session:

Date turned in:

Client System: Include demographic information such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, etc. as appropriate and include the important members of the client system

Presenting Problem: Describe the problem from the client's perspective, how the client was referred to you for services

Worker Goals for the Session:

Client Goals for the Session:

What was going on immediately prior to this interaction:

Content	Worker's Feelings	Analytical Comments	Practicum Instructor/Liaison Comments
<p>This should be a challenging portion of the interview. A face-to-face interaction is preferred. This section should be verbatim, what was said by each person involved in this session; including non-verbal observations. This should be 10 – 15 minutes of the most significant part of the interview.</p>	<p>Document your emotions & explain them briefly. Examples include: anxious, angry, shocked, nervous, hopeful, pleased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include which interviewing or relational skills you are utilizing, and identify times you could have used a specific skill. Examples include: rapport, empathy, clarification, summarization, probing, exploration & validation • Include your assessment of the process content. • Include the social work roles you are filling & explain briefly. Examples include: broker, mediator, educator, advocate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback for student should be strengths oriented & corrective. • Identify alternative techniques & roles. • Comment on meaning of client responses. • Suggest alternate responses & techniques.

-
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other things to consider:
<u>Theory or model are you utilizing:</u> Identify & explain why you are using this theory or model.
Examples include: ecological model, problem solving framework, strengths perspective, psychoanalytic theory, behavioral theory, social learning theory, systems theory, psychosocial developmental theory & risk & resilience theory.
<u>Intervention you are using:</u> Identify & explain why it is effective in this situation.
Examples include: crisis intervention, brief therapy, reality therapy, task centered, crisis intervention, cognitive restructuring, solution focused.
<u>Cultural competence:</u> Identify & assess needs, values & strengths of diverse client systems, if present in this situation.
<u>Values, ethics & social justice issues:</u> Identify & examine personal values & | |
|--|--|--|

		attitudes, manage value differences & ethical dilemmas & adapt roles, functions & strategies to address the needs of vulnerable populations, if present in this situation. <u>Human Behavior in the Social Environment:</u> Apply your knowledge of human behavior & development to the client system	
--	--	--	--

Observations of Client system strengths:

Outcomes of Interaction: Explain how the goals were met or why they were not. How did the outcome change during your interaction?

Subsequent plans with this case: This can read like a “to do” list, but should also include the overall plan for the case.

Specific questions for supervision with Practicum instructor: This applies to the use of supervision & there should always be questions.

Work-Based Placement Application

The University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Student Information

Student

Name: _____

Practicum Status:

BSW MSSW First Practicum MSSW Clinical MSSW APP

Student

email: _____

Student

phone: _____

Semester(s) for proposed Practicum placement: _____

Agency

Name: _____

Proposed begin date: _____

Proposed end date: _____

Work-based placement expectations

The agency agrees to abide by the following guidelines in establishing a work-based placement for a student who is employed by the agency:

- A. Support the student in completing 100% of their required internship hours engaged in social work practice that allows the student to demonstrate all of the Council on Social Work Education competencies over the course of the internship
 - 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
- B. Allow the student new and different educational opportunities within the agency and beyond their existing employment responsibilities for at least 16 or eight internship hours/week depending on a one- or two-semester placement; and
- C. Provide one hour/week of individualized educational social work supervision that is separate from the student's supervision as an employee.

Considerations

- **Dual roles:**
It is UT-SHSSW's expectation that the student and agency will have discussed potential dual roles and established communication channels for managing potential conflicts between the role of student learner and that of employee. Faculty liaisons may provide appropriate guidance and consultation regarding dual roles.
- **Student/employee pay:**
It is UT-SHSSW's expectation that the student and agency will have agreed upon the pay expectations for the student/employee. These discussions are strictly between the student/employee and the supervisor/agency; faculty liaisons are not to be involved.
- **Frequency:**
Students are allowed one work-based placement over the course of their enrollment at the SHSSW to allow a broader base of educational experience.
- **Loss of internship:**
If the student is not allowed to continue in their Practicum placement for any reason, the SHSSW will use standard policies and procedures available in the BSW/MSSW Student Guides to Practicum to determine next steps for the student's continued Practicum education.

Current Employment

Agency Name: _____

Employment supervisor: _____

Employment supervisor email: _____

Employment supervisor phone: _____

Employee/Student title: _____

**Employment responsibilities that
provide educational opportunities:**

**Correlating Educational
Competencies**

Proposed internship

Proposed placement: _____

Proposed Practicum instructor: _____

Proposed Practicum instructor email: _____

Proposed Practicum instructor phone: _____

**Internship responsibilities that
provide educational opportunities:**

**Correlating Educational
Competencies:**

Schedule

Work Schedule:

Internship Schedule (8 hours for extended Practicum/16 hours for one semester Practicum):

Ways to protect the student's role as learner:

<Do not secure signatures until after the terms of the work-based placement are finalized between the student and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.>

Student signature:

Educational Practicum instructor signature and title

Employment supervisor signature and title

UT-SHSSW representative signature and title

Letters of Recommendation for Domestic Long Distance and International Placements

Classroom Faculty Assessment

Please check all that might apply:

DOMESTIC LONG DISTANCE PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT

Students seeking placements beyond the Austin area for their final Practicum experience are expected to be in good standing in their program of study and prepared to handle challenges that might occur in Practicum. Your recommendation will be used to help determine that. Please complete and send this form to the Office of Practicum Education electronically at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu, place a hard copy in Ms. Monica Rosario's box in the mailroom or mail to her attention using the address at the bottom of the page.

Name of Student: _____

Name of Faculty Completing Assessment: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Name of School: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE ASSESS THE ABOVE STUDENT FOR GOODNESS OF FIT FOR A PLACEMENT BEYOND THE AUSTIN AREA

Maturity

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Self Awareness

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Problem Solving Ability

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Cultural Sensitivity
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Positive Attitude
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Uses feedback constructively
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Professional use of self
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Social Work ethics and values
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Recommendations for placement. Please indicate one.

Yes without reservation

Yes with reservation

Not recommended

First Practicum Placement Faculty Liaison Assessment

Please check all that might apply:

DOMESTIC LONG DISTANCE PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT

Students seeking placements beyond the Austin area for their final Practicum experience are expected to be in good standing in their program of study and prepared to handle challenges that might occur in Practicum. Your recommendation will be used to help determine that. Please complete and send this form to the Office of Practicum Education electronically at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu, place a hard copy in Ms. Monica Rosario's box in the mailroom or mail to her attention using the address at the bottom of the page.

Name of Student: _____

Name of Faculty Liaison: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Name of School: _____

Date: _____ Practicum Agency _____

PLEASE ASSESS THE ABOVE STUDENT FOR GOODNESS OF FIT FOR A PLACEMENT BEYOND THE AUSTIN AREA

Maturity

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Self Awareness

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Problem Solving Ability

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Positive Attitude

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Uses feedback constructively

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Professional use of self

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Social Work ethics and values

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Recommendations for placement. Please indicate one.

Yes without reservation

Yes with reservation

Not recommended

First Practicum Placement Practicum Instructor Assessment

Please check all that might apply:

DOMESTIC LONG DISTANCE PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

PLACEMENT

Name of Student: _____

Name of Practicum Instructor: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Name of School: _____

Date: _____ Practicum Agency _____

PLEASE ASSESS THE ABOVE STUDENT FOR GOODNESS OF FIT FOR A PLACEMENT BEYOND THE AUSTIN AREA

Maturity

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Self Awareness

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Problem Solving Ability

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Cultural Sensitivity

Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Positive Attitude
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Uses feedback constructively
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Professional use of self
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Social Work ethics and values
Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 High

Comments:

Recommendations for placement. Please indicate one.

Yes without reservation

Yes with reservation

Not recommended

Practicum Placement Expectations

What follows are the basic expectations for generalist BSW and MSSW First Practicum interns as well as specialized, advanced MSSW Final Practicum interns. More information including requisite forms may be found in The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work guides to Practicum available online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

1. All parties agree to support the educational needs of the Intern and the mission of the Agency in service to the clients or constituents of the Agency over the course of the academic internship.
2. The Agency has a system of accountability in place whether in appointed boards, accrediting bodies, or other measures.
3. The Agency will provide sufficient access to agency resources, including but not limited to office space and communication systems including databases and/or electronic record-keeping systems.
4. The Agency will orient the Intern to the learning environment and provide training specific to agency policies including but not limited to safety and sexual harassment.
5. The Practicum Instructor for a BSW intern should have a BSW degree from an accredited school of social work and at least two years post-graduate experience or an MSSW. The Practicum Instructor for an MSSW intern should have an MSW/MSSW degree from an accredited school of social work and at least two- year post-graduate experience. Licensure is preferred but not required.
6. The Practicum Instructor will provide at least one hour of individualized supervision weekly with the Intern. For students interning for at least 32 hours per week: Practicum Instructor will provide an additional hour of supervision weekly, through small group sessions, team meetings, staffings, etc.
7. The Practicum Instructor is also responsible for creating an educational environment within the Agency including cultivating staff support for academic endeavors, securing space and resources, and advocating for educational opportunities beyond the role of an employee position.
8. The Practicum Instructor and Intern understand that supervision supports the administrative priorities of the Agency as well as educational goals and student reflection.
9. The Intern will complete and provide documentation for 400 hours for BSW and MSSW First Practicum and 500 hours during their internship for MSSW Final Practicum.
10. The Intern is entitled to university holidays, including winter break, spring break, and a week off around graduation if the internship extends beyond that date. The Intern is responsible for initiating professional communication with the Agency regarding planned time off that respects the responsibilities of the Intern's position.
11. The Intern is not allowed to transport clients under any circumstances.
12. The Intern is not allowed to be the only agency or host agency representative in the building.
13. Agencies are encouraged to provide a stipend and/or cover mileage costs incurred by the student.
14. The Intern and Practicum Instructor will work together to develop a learning contract, submit process recordings as assigned, initiate the mid-term and final evaluation forms. The Practicum Instructor is ultimately responsible for the content of the final evaluation. The student completes a self-reflective

narrative each semester and submits that to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. All materials will be submitted to the Faculty Liaison for review.

15. For generalist BSW and MSSW First Practicum: The Intern will be responsible for actual direct practice, not simply observation. The Intern will have in-person contact with clients and/or constituencies. The Intern is responsible for facilitating or co-facilitating a group experience approved by their Faculty Liaison. The Intern will also be responsible for significant macro-level work.
16. For advanced specialized MSSW Final Practicum: The majority of the Intern's responsibilities will be within their specialization, whether Clinical or Administration and Policy Practice. The Intern will have in-person contact with clients and/or constituencies. The Intern's assignments will provide challenges commensurate with their more advanced preparation including responsibilities with more complex cases and macro-practice assignments.
17. The Faculty Liaison is a resource for the Practicum Instructor and the Intern. Practicum Instructors and Interns are expected to initiate problem solving and internship capacity building with the active input from their Faculty Liaison early and often.
18. The Practicum Instructor and Intern commit to uphold and advance the National Association of Social Workers 10 Standards and Indicators of Cultural Competence found at <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>.
19. The Practicum Instructor understands and acknowledges the responsibility to protect confidential student information as defined by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. The Practicum Instructor agrees to share FERPA related information with agency and internship related staff solely for the purposes of administering student internships, protecting client well-being, and reviewing student performance. The Intern and Practicum Instructor understand and acknowledge the need to share educationally related information with the Faculty Liaison.
20. The Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison are both mandated reporters of Title IX related information that might be disclosed by the Intern. Title IX infractions include any discrimination or incident of harassment or violence that has occurred in the intern's life related to gender, sexual orientation or identity (<https://titleix.utexas.edu/>). Reports are to be made to the SHSSW Assistant Dean for Practicum Education who is also the SHSSW Title IX Liaison.
21. The Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison may terminate the internship at any point. Both parties are expected to share concerns as soon as they arise in order to avoid that outcome whenever possible.

Student Intern Name

Student Intern Signature

Date

BSW _____

MSSW First Practicum _

MSSW Clinical _____

MSSW APP _____

Anticipated internship semesters (please check all that apply): Fall_____Spring_____Summer_____

Practicum Instructor Name Practicum Instructor Signature Date

Agency name Program name

Expectativas de la pasantía

Lo que sigue son las expectativas básicas para las pasantías generalistas BSW y MSSW, así como las pasantías especializadas avanzadas del MSSW final. Más información, incluyendo los formularios requerido,s se puede encontrar en la Universidad de Texas en Austin Escuela de Trabajo Social Steve Hicks guías de pasantías, disponible en <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

1. Todas las partes acuerdan apoyar las necesidades educativas del pasante y la misión de la agencia en servicio a sus clientes o constituyentes durante la pasantía académica.
2. La agencia tiene un sistema de rendición de cuentas y responsabilidad, ya sea ante juntas nombradas, organismos de acreditación, u otras medidas.
3. La agencia proporcionará acceso suficiente a sus recursos, incluyendo pero no limitado al espacio de oficina y los sistemas de comunicación como bases de datos y/o sistemas de registros electrónicos.
4. La agencia orientará al pasante al entorno de aprendizaje y proporcionará capacitación específica relativa a las políticas de la agencia, incluyendo pero no limitado a la seguridad y el acoso sexual.
5. El supervisor de un pasante de BSW debe tener un título BSW de una escuela acreditada de trabajo social y por lo menos dos años de experiencia de posgrado, o un MSSW. El supervisor de un pasante de MSSW debe tener un título de MSW/MSSW de una escuela acreditada de trabajo social y por lo menos dos años de experiencia de posgrado. Se prefiere posesión de licencia, pero no se requiere.
6. El supervisor proporcionará al menos una hora de supervisión individualizada semanal con el pasante. Para estudiantes que trabajan un mínimo de 32 horas por semana: el supervisor proporcionará una hora adicional de supervisión semanal, a través de grupos pequeños, reuniones de equipo, consultas de casos, etc.
7. El supervisor también es responsable de crear un entorno educativo dentro de la agencia, incluyendo la facilitación de apoyo del personal para los esfuerzos académicos del pasante, la obtención de espacios y recursos, y la promoción de oportunidades educativas más allá del rol correspondiente a un empleado.
8. El supervisor y el pasante entienden que la supervisión apoya tanto las prioridades administrativas de la agencia como los objetivos educativos y reflexión estudiantil.
9. El pasante completará y proporcionará documentación de 400 horas de trabajo para la pasantía generalista de BSW y MSSW, y 500 horas de trabajo para la pasantía avanzada de MSSW.
10. El pasante tiene derecho a vacaciones universitarias, incluyendo vacaciones de invierno, vacaciones de primavera, y una semana de descanso alrededor de la graduación si la pasantía se extiende más allá de esa fecha. El pasante es responsable de iniciar la comunicación profesional con la agencia con respecto al planificar vacaciones que respeten sus responsabilidades como pasante.
11. El pasante no puede transportar clientes en ninguna circunstancia.
12. No se permite que el pasante sea el único representante o anfitrión de la agencia en el edificio.

13. Se alienta a las agencias a proporcionar un estipendio y/o cubrir costos de kilometraje incurridos por el estudiante.
14. El pasante y el supervisor trabajarán juntos para desarrollar un contrato de aprendizaje, presentar las grabaciones del proceso según lo asignado, iniciar los formularios de evaluación intermedia y final. El supervisor es responsable del contenido de la evaluación final. El estudiante completa una narrativa auto-reflexiva cada semestre y la envía al supervisor y al profesor. Todos los materiales serán enviados al profesor para su revisión.
15. Para las pasantías generalistas de BSW y MSSW: el pasante será responsable de práctica directa, no simplemente de observación. El pasante tendrá contacto personal con clientes y/o constituyentes. El pasante será responsable de facilitar o co-facilitar un grupo aprobado por su profesor. El pasante también será responsable de un trabajo significativo a nivel macro.
16. Para las pasantías avanzadas de MSSW especializadas: la mayoría de las responsabilidades del pasante estarán dentro de su especialización, ya sea clínica o de administración y práctica de políticas. El pasante tendrá contacto en persona con clientes y/o constituyentes. Los responsables por pasante proporcionarán desafíos acordes con su preparación más avanzada, incluyendo responsabilidades con casos más complejos y trabajo a nivel macro.
17. El profesor es un recurso para el supervisor y para el pasante. Se espera que los supervisores y pasantes inicien la resolución de problemas y la creación de capacidad dentro de la pasantía con frecuentes aportes del profesor.
18. El supervisor y el pasante se comprometen a mantener y promover las 10 Normas e Indicadores de Competencia Cultural de la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales, disponible en <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>.
19. El supervisor entiende y reconoce la responsabilidad de proteger la información confidencial del estudiante según lo definido por la ley de Derechos de Educación de la Familia y Privacidad (FERPA). El supervisor se compromete a compartir la información relacionada con FERPA con el personal de la agencias relacionado a la pasantía con el único propósito de administrar las pasantías estudiantiles, proteger el bienestar de los clientes y evaluar el desempeño estudiantil. El pasante y el supervisor entienden y reconocen la necesidad de compartir información relacionada a la educación del pasante con el profesor.
20. El supervisor y el profesor son denunciantes obligatorios de cualquier información relacionada con el Título IX revelada por el pasante. Las infracciones del Título IX incluyen cualquier tipo de discriminación o incidente de acoso o violencia en la experiencia del pasante relacionada con el género, la orientación sexual o la identidad (<https://titleix.utexas.edu/>). Los informes se deben hacer llegar al Decano Auxiliar para la Pasantías en la Escuela de Trabajo Social Steve Hicks, quien también es el coordindaor del Título IX.
21. El supervisor y/o el profesor pueden terminar la pasantía en cualquier momento. Se espera que ambas partes compartan sus preocupaciones or reservas tan pronto como surjan a find de evitar ese resultado siempre que sea posible.

*The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will
email an active and individualized online evaluation link
to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period.
This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE.
For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.*

Evaluation for SW 640/641: Undergraduate Practicum Instruction

**SW 640/641
Evaluation for Undergraduate Practicum Instruction**

Student:	Agency:
Practicum Instructor:	Faculty Liaison:
Semester/Year:	

WORKLOAD DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the student’s direct practice, group work, and indirect/macro practice learning opportunities and work assignments during the internship.

DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Briefly describe the supervisory structure provided for the student.

PROGRESS ON LEARNING CONTRACT

Briefly describe the progress student has made toward educational contract objectives and goals.

**Evaluation for Undergraduate Practicum
Instruction Course Description**

Undergraduate Practicum Instruction is a twelve-credit course including supervised practice experience in a human service organization serving a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families group, organizations and communities. A major purpose of Practicum education is to develop understanding of and beginning competence in the promotion of social and economic justice, the alleviation of critical social problems, and the enhancement of human well-being. Requirements include an educationally supervised practicum of 400 hours at the agency/ organization (40 hours/week) and attendance and participation in Practicum seminars that are designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery. Practice is a co-requisite for this course.

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evaluation Instrument

This evaluation instrument addresses the minimum objectives for SW 640/641. These provide a guide for the evaluation of the student's performance and represent competencies to be achieved by the end of this course.

Ratings of each competency must be supported by content in the "Evidence to support rating" section. "Evidence to support rating" may also serve to highlight outstanding abilities. The "Strategies to increase competence" should include ways in which the specific competency can be further addressed.

On the scale provided after each competency, please indicate *level of performance* by placing an X at the most appropriate point along the continuum.

- AC Advanced Competence**
Consistently demonstrates advanced knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes at the BSW level

- C Competence**
Consistently demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes at the BSW level

- EC Emerging Competence**
Demonstrates beginning knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes at the BSW level

- IP Insufficient Progress**
Rarely demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes at the BSW level

Evaluation continues to be a critical component in professional development. Therefore, the student must participate in self-evaluation throughout the semester, and particularly at the midterm and ending phases of Practicum instruction. If a student's performance is inadequate by mid-semester, a written plan for the remainder of the semester is essential. However, unless problems are encountered in this course, the midterm evaluation does not become part of the student's file. It can serve as an initial document to update and measure performance at the end of the placement.

The Faculty Liaison takes the written final evaluation prepared by the Practicum Instructor in collaboration with the student, evaluates any written work performed for the course, considers the quality of participation in Practicum seminar, and assigns the grade at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed upon quality and consistency of work, not quantity.

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Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student makes ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.				
b. Student uses reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.				
c. Student demonstrates professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.				
d. Student uses technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.				
e. Student uses supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 1:

Strategies to increase competence:

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s

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structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies and communicates understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
b. Student presents themselves as learners and engages clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.				
c. Student applies self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 2:

Strategies to increase competence:

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.				
b. Student engages in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 3:

Strategies to increase competence:

4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

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Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student uses practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.				
b. Student applies critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.				
c. Student uses and translates research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 4:

Strategies to increase competence:

5. Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student identifies social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.				
b. Student assesses how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.				
c. Student applies critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

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Evidence to support ratings for Competency 5:

Strategies to increase competence:

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.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.				
b. Student uses empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.				

AC = Advanced Competence | C = Competence | EC = Emerging Competence | IP = Insufficient Progress

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 6:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student collects and organizes data, and applies critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.				

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b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.				
c. Student develops mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.				
d. Student selects appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 7:

Strategies to increase competence:

& 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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student critically chooses and implements interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.				
c. Student uses inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.				
d. Student negotiates, mediates, and advocates with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.				
e. Student facilitates effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 8:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Strategies to increase competence:

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 recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student selects and uses appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.				
c. Student critically analyzes, monitors, and evaluates intervention and program processes and outcomes.				
d. Student applies evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 9:

Strategies to increase competence:

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

OUTSTANDING ABILITIES

AREAS WHERE GROWTH WAS MOST OBVIOUS

FUTURE LEARNING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATION

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

STUDENT'S READING & SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

This is to certify that I have read and received a copy of this evaluation, that I understand I have the right to disagree in writing with this evaluation of my performance, and that such a statement will be appended to this evaluation.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Practicum Instructor's Signature _____ Date _____

Faculty Liaison's Signature _____ Date _____

SW 640/641
Student Self-Reflection for BSW Practicum

Stop, think, and reflect on your Practicum experience this semester. Consider all aspects of the experience: client contacts; educational and administrative supervision; experiences in the agency, in the community, and in groups; your macro project; personal and professional growth as well as your developing self-awareness. Please address each of the following questions.

Suggested length is ½ to 1 page per question. Length of the completed assignment will vary individually, but consider 3-4 pages as a general guideline. Your thoughtful reflection is more critical than the issue of length. As in all professional writing, be mindful of spelling, punctuation and sentence structure as you type and double-space the document. This self-reflection will be reviewed by both your agency Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Due date for completion will be provided by your Faculty Liaison.

- 1. Reviewing the course objectives for SW 640/641 (see your BSW Practicum syllabus), identify and discuss THREE competencies which reflect significant personal and professional growth this semester.**
- 2. What were your biggest learning opportunities or “a-ha” moments this semester in Practicum?**
- 3. Discuss at least two barriers that you experienced in Practicum this semester. What professional skills did you utilize to manage or overcome these challenges?**
- 4. What have you learned about yourself as a “social worker in training” from this internship?**
- 5. How would you assess the learning environment and educational supervision at your placement?**

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Evaluation for SW 384R: Practicum Instruction I (Graduate First Practicum, Fall Semester)

**SW 384R:
Evaluation for Practicum Instruction I**

Student:	Agency:
Practicum Instructor:	Faculty Liaison:
Semester/Year:	

WORKLOAD DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the student's direct practice, group work, and indirect/macro practice learning opportunities and work assignments during the internship.

DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Briefly describe the supervisory structure provided for the student.

PROGRESS ON LEARNING CONTRACT

Briefly describe the progress student has made toward educational contract objectives and goals.

Evaluation for Practicum

Instruction I Course Description

The generalist Practicum experience provides supervised practice assignments designed to develop a social work perspective and skills in working with client systems—i.e., individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. A major purpose of Practicum education is to develop understanding of and beginning competence in the promotion of social and economic justice, the alleviation of critical social problems, and the enhancement of human well-being. This course includes an educationally supervised practicum in a human services organization serving a variety of client populations and a weekly seminar. A total of 220 clock hours (16 to 20 hours a week) in the agency/organization is required. The one-hour weekly seminar focuses on integration of theory related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of Practicum experiences. Practice I 383R is a co-requisite for this course.

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Evaluation Instrument

This evaluation instrument addresses the minimum objectives for SW 384R. These provide a guide for the evaluation of the student's performance and represent competencies to be achieved by the end of this course.

Ratings of each competency must be supported by content in the "Evidence to support rating" section. "Evidence to support rating" may also serve to highlight outstanding abilities. The "Strategies to increase competence" should include ways in which the specific competency can be further addressed.

On the scale provided after each competency, please indicate *level of performance* by placing an X at the most appropriate point along the continuum.

- AC Advanced Competence**
Consistently demonstrates advanced knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern

- C Competence**
Consistently demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern

- EC Emerging Competence**
Demonstrates beginning knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern

- IP Insufficient Progress**
Rarely demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern

Evaluation continues to be a critical component in professional development. Therefore, the student must participate in self-evaluation throughout the semester, and particularly at the midterm and ending phases of Practicum instruction. If a student's performance is inadequate by mid-semester, a written plan for the remainder of the semester is essential. However, unless problems are encountered in this course, the midterm evaluation does not become part of the student's file. It can serve as an initial document to update and measure performance at the end of the placement.

The Faculty Liaison takes the written final evaluation prepared by the Practicum Instructor in collaboration with the student, evaluates any written work performed for the course, considers the quality of participation in Practicum seminar, and assigns the grade at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed upon quality and consistency of work, not quantity.

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Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student makes ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.				
b. Student uses reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.				
c. Student demonstrates professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.				
d. Student uses technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.				
e. Student uses supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 1:

Strategies to increase competence:

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s

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structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student applies and communicates understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
b. Student presents themselves as learners and engages clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.				
c. Student applies self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 2:

Strategies to increase competence:

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student applies their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.				
b. Student engages in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 3:

Strategies to increase competence:

4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

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Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student uses practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.				
b. Student applies critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.				
c. Student uses and translates research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 4:

Strategies to increase competence:

5. Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student identifies social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.				
b. Student assesses how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.				
c. Student applies critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

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Evidence to support ratings for Competency 5:

Strategies to increase competence:

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.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.				
b. Student uses empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.				

AC = Advanced Competence | C = Competence | EC = Emerging Competence | IP = Insufficient Progress

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 6:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student collects and organizes data, and applies critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.				

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b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.				
c. Student develops mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.				
d. Student selects appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 7:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student critically chooses and implements interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.				
c. Student uses inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.				
d. Student negotiates, mediates, and advocates with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.				
e. Student facilitates effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

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Evidence to support ratings for Competency 8:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student selects and uses appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.				
c. Student critically analyzes, monitors, and evaluates intervention and program processes and outcomes.				
d. Student applies evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 9:

Strategies to increase competence:

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

OUTSTANDING ABILITIES

AREAS WHERE GROWTH WAS MOST OBVIOUS

FUTURE LEARNING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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STUDENT’S READING & SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

This is to certify that I have read and received a copy of this evaluation, that I understand I have the right to disagree in writing with this evaluation of my performance, and that such a statement will be appended to this evaluation.

Student’s Signature _____ Date _____

Practicum Instructor’s Signature _____ Date _____

Faculty Liaison’s Signature _____ Date _____

**SW 384 R:
Self-Reflection for Practicum Instruction I**

Stop, think, and reflect on your semester Practicum experience. Consider all aspects of the experience: client contacts; educational and administrative supervision; experiences in the agency, in the community, and in groups; your personal and professional growth as well as new and developing self-awareness. Please address each of the following questions. Suggested length is ½ to 1 page per question. Length of the completed assignment will vary individually, but consider 4-6 pages as a general guideline. Your thoughtful reflection is more critical than the issue of length. Since this is a self-evaluation for a professional experience, be mindful of spelling, punctuation and sentence structure as you type and double-space the document.

Your self-reflection will be reviewed by both your agency Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Due date for completion will be provided by your Faculty Liaison.

- 1. Reflect briefly on your reasons for selecting social work as a profession. How has this semester and your Practicum experience affirmed and/or prompted you to question your “goodness of fit” for the profession?**
- 2. Highlight your areas of significant growth and awareness, both professionally and personally. Provide examples. Include some of the things that clients have taught you and what it means to be a part of a social service delivery system.**
- 3. What areas of personal and professional development do you want to target for second semester? Give specific examples of how you want to grow.**
- 4. a. As an adult learner in this Practicum internship, what would you like to continue in the learning experience and what would you like to change next semester?**
b. In what specific ways could your Practicum Instructor and/or Practicum Liaison support your developing professional use of self for next semester?

Evaluation for SW 384S: Practicum Instruction II (Graduate First Practicum, Spring Semester)

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SW 384S: Evaluation for Practicum Instruction II

Student:	Agency:
Practicum Instructor:	Faculty Liaison:
Semester/Year:	

WORKLOAD DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the student's direct practice, group work, and indirect/macro practice learning opportunities and work assignments during the internship.

DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Briefly describe the supervisory structure provided for the student.

PROGRESS ON LEARNING CONTRACT

Briefly describe the progress student has made toward educational contract objectives and goals.

Evaluation for Practicum

Instruction II Course Description

Practicum Instruction II is a three-credit course including supervised practice experience in an organization providing human services for a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students are further expected to integrate learning related to leadership skills, advocacy and the application of theory. This is accomplished through an educationally supervised practicum of 220 hours and participation in a weekly Practicum seminar that is designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for the second semester of foundation Practicum. Building on Practicum I competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence.

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Evaluation Instrument

This evaluation instrument addresses the minimum objectives for SW 384S. These provide a guide for the evaluation of the student's performance and represent competencies to be achieved by the end of this course.

Ratings of each competency must be supported by content in the "Evidence to support rating" section. "Evidence to support rating" may also serve to highlight outstanding abilities. The "Strategies to increase competence" should include ways in which the specific competency can be further addressed.

On the scale provided after each competency, please indicate *level of performance* by placing an X at the most appropriate point along the continuum.

- AC Advanced Competence**
Consistently demonstrates advanced knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern
- C Competence**
Consistently demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern
- EC Emerging Competence**
Demonstrates beginning knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern
- IP Insufficient Progress**
Rarely demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as a first-semester graduate intern

Evaluation continues to be a critical component in professional development. Therefore, the student must participate in self-evaluation throughout the semester, and particularly at the midterm and ending phases of Practicum instruction. If a student's performance is inadequate by mid-semester, a written plan for the remainder of the semester is essential. However, unless problems are encountered in this course, the midterm evaluation does not become part of the student's file. It can serve as an initial document to update and measure performance at the end of the placement.

The Faculty Liaison takes the written final evaluation prepared by the Practicum Instructor in collaboration with the student, evaluates any written work performed for the course, considers the quality of participation in Practicum seminar, and assigns the grade at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed upon quality and consistency of work, not quantity.

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Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student makes ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.				
b. Student uses reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.				
c. Student demonstrates professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.				
d. Student uses technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.				
e. Student uses supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 1:

Strategies to increase competence:

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand

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the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies and communicates understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
b. Student presents themselves as learners and engages clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.				
c. Student applies self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 2:

Strategies to increase competence:

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.				
b. Student engages in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 3:

Strategies to increase competence:

4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

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Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student uses practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.				
b. Student applies critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.				
c. Student uses and translates research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 4:

Strategies to increase competence:

5. Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student identifies social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.				
b. Student assesses how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.				
c. Student applies critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

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Evidence to support ratings for Competency 5:

Strategies to increase competence:

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.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.				
b. Student uses empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 6:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student collects and organizes data, and applies critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.				

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b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.				
c. Student develops mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.				
d. Student selects appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 7:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Stdt	FI	Stdt
a. Student critically chooses and implements interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.				
c. Student uses inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.				
d. Student negotiates, mediates, and advocates with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.				
e. Student facilitates effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

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Evidence to support ratings for Competency 8:

Strategies to increase competence:

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 recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	FI	Std	FI	Std
a. Student selects and uses appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.				
b. Student applies knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.				
c. Student critically analyzes, monitors, and evaluates intervention and program processes and outcomes.				
d. Student applies evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 9:

Strategies to increase competence:

Please address each of the following (complete at mid-term and update at final):

Student’s ability to integrate learning from curriculum into Practicum including leadership skills, advocacy and application of theory:

Outstanding abilities:

Areas where growth was most obvious:

Future learning needs and recommendations:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

STUDENT'S READING & SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

This is to certify that I have read and received a copy of this evaluation, that I understand I have the right to disagree in writing with this evaluation of my performance, and that such a statement will be appended to this evaluation.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Practicum Instructor's Signature _____ Date _____

Faculty Liaison's Signature _____ Date _____

SW 384S
Self-Reflection for Practicum Instruction II

As you did at the end of Practicum I, stop, think, and reflect on your Practicum experience this semester. Consider all aspects of the experience: client contacts; educational and administrative supervision; experiences in the agency, in the community, and in groups; your macro project; personal and professional growth as well as your developing self-awareness. Please address each of the following questions.

Suggested length is ½ to 1 page per question. Length of the completed assignment will vary individually, but consider 4-6 pages as a general guideline. Your thoughtful reflection is more critical than the issue of length. As in all professional writing, be mindful of spelling, punctuation and sentence structure as you type and double-space the document. This self-reflection will be reviewed by both your agency Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Due date for completion will be provided by your Faculty Liaison.

- 6. Reviewing the course objectives for Practicum II (see your Practicum II syllabus), identify and discuss THREE competencies that reflect significant personal and professional growth this semester.**
- 7. What were your biggest learning opportunities or “a-ha” moments this semester in Practicum?**
- 8. Discuss at least two barriers that you experienced in Practicum this semester. What professional skills did you utilize to manage or overcome these challenges?**
- 9. What have you learned about yourself as a “social worker in training” from this internship?**
- 10. How would you assess the learning environment and educational supervision at your placement?**

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evaluation for SW 694R/394S: Practicum Instruction III&IV (Graduate Final Practicum)

**SW 694R/394S:
Evaluation for Final Practicum – Clinical Concentration**

Student:	Agency:
Practicum Instructor:	Faculty Liaison:
Semester/Year:	

WORKLOAD DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the student’s direct practice, group work, and indirect/macro practice learning opportunities and work assignments during the internship.

DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Briefly describe the supervisory structure provided for the student.

PROGRESS ON LEARNING CONTRACT

Briefly describe the progress student has made toward educational contract objectives and goals.

Evaluation for Concentration in Clinical Social Work

Course Description

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9 credit hour course is a 500 hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides clinical social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (Clinical) must be taken concurrently.

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE’s Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evaluation Instrument

This evaluation instrument addresses the minimum objectives for SW 384R. These provide a guide for the evaluation of the student's performance and represent competencies to be achieved by the end of this course.

Ratings of each competency must be supported by content in the "Evidence to support rating" section. "Evidence to support rating" may also serve to highlight outstanding abilities. The "Strategies to increase competence" should include ways in which the specific competency can be further addressed.

On the scale provided after each competency, please indicate *level of performance* by placing an X at the most appropriate point along the continuum.

- AC Advanced Competence**
Consistently demonstrates advanced knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional.
- C Competence**
Consistently demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional.
- EC Emerging Competence**
Demonstrates beginning knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional.
- IP Insufficient Progress**
Rarely demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional.

Evaluation continues to be a critical component in professional development. Therefore, the student must participate in self-evaluation throughout the semester, and particularly at the midterm and ending phases of Practicum instruction. If a student's performance is inadequate by mid-semester, a written plan for the remainder of the semester is essential. However, unless problems are encountered in this course, the midterm evaluation does not become part of the student's file. It can serve as an initial document to update and measure performance at the end of the placement.

The Faculty Liaison takes the written final evaluation prepared by the Practicum Instructor in collaboration with the student, evaluates any written work performed for the course, considers the quality of participation in Practicum seminar, and assigns the grade at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed upon quality and consistency of work, not quantity.

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Practitioners in clinical social work have an obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. They are knowledgeable about the values of the profession, pertinent laws and its ethical standards. Practitioners in clinical social work are also knowledgeable about ethical issues, legal parameters, technological advances, and shifting societal mores that affect the working relationship. They commit themselves to the profession’s enhancement and to their own professional conduct and growth. They also practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student applies ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work				
b. Student recognizes and actively engages in efforts to safe-guard against personal biases as they affect the working relationship in the service of the clients' well-being				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 1:

Strategies to increase competence:

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Practitioners in clinical social work identify and utilize culturally relevant perspectives to define, design, implement and evaluate interventions for effective practice with persons from diverse backgrounds and community contexts. They also recognize diversity through multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation in order to analyze the needs, values, and strengths of diverse client systems and effectively support their client’s power to act on their own behalf and/or collaborate with others.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes needs, values, and strengths in applying appropriate interventions for diverse client systems				
b. Student identifies and utilizes practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 2:

Strategies to increase competence:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Practitioners in clinical social work incorporate social justice practices equitably and without prejudice. They integrate environmental, social, and economic justice by applying familiar social work knowledge, skills, and methods to new substantive areas, and learning new applications for substantive expertise. Practitioners of clinical social work also engage in practices that advance human rights, and social, economic, and environmental justice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and trauma on clients and client systems to guide treatment planning and intervention				
b. Student advocates at multiple levels for mental health parity and elimination of health disparities for diverse populations				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 3:

Strategies to increase competence:

4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Practitioners in clinical social work use practice experience to inform research; employ evidence-based interventions; evaluate their own practice; and use quantitative and qualitative research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. Practitioners in clinical social work are knowledgeable about and able to apply critical thinking and evidence-based interventions, best practices, and the evidence-based research process.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes research methodology to evaluate clinical practice effectiveness and/or outcome and apply empirically supported evidence for practice				
b. Student utilizes critical thinking and the evidence-based practice processes in clinical assessment and intervention with clients				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 4:

Strategies to increase competence:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

5. Engage in Policy Practice

Practitioners in clinical social work recognize the connection between clients, practice, and both public and organizational policy. Practitioners understand that policy affects service delivery, and they actively engage in policy practice. Practitioners have knowledge about factors that influence the development of legislation, policies, program services, and funding at all system levels. They have knowledge of advocacy methods that contribute to effective policies that promote social and economic well-being.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student identifies and evaluates agency programs and/or practices in relation to client needs				
b. Student communicates to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 5:

Strategies to increase competence:

6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Clinical social work practice involves the dynamic and shared processes of engagement. Practitioners in clinical social work substantively and affectively prepare for culturally responsive action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. They integrate empathy, professional use of self, collaboration, and other interpersonal skills and establish a relationally based process that encourages clients to be equal participants in the establishment of treatment goals and expected outcomes.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student integrates theory-based relational skills in all areas of client engagement				
b. Student recognizes and addresses the interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the working alliance				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 6:

Strategies to increase competence:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Practitioners in clinical social work collect, organize, and interpret client data; assess client strengths and limitations; and demonstrate the ability to select from multiple perspectives in order to effectively leverage client’s strengths, needs, opportunities and challenges.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment skills and tools				
b. Student conducts a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually driven process				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 7:

Strategies to increase competence:

8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Practitioners in clinical social work prioritize selective target systems for intervention. They also use multiple theoretical perspectives that are informed by best practices and empirically- based studies to identify, critique, and apply strengths-based interventions to the problems and unique characteristics of diverse populations.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student critically evaluates, selects, and applies best practices and evidence-based interventions that demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns				
b. Student collaborates with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 8:

Strategies to increase competence:

9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Practitioners in clinical social work evaluate interventions in all practice areas to best meet client’s needs. This includes evaluation of both practices and programs that contribute to the knowledge base of the profession. Practitioners in clinical social work also demonstrate the ability to initiate evaluation of their individual practice effectiveness.

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Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student identifies and evaluates agency programs and services in relation to client needs				
b. Student demonstrates the ability to evaluate practice effectiveness for a range of bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 9:

Strategies to increase competence:

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

OUTSTANDING ABILITIES

AREAS WHERE GROWTH WAS MOST OBVIOUS

FUTURE LEARNING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STUDENT’S READING & SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

This is to certify that I have read and received a copy of this evaluation, that I understand I have the right to disagree in writing with this evaluation of my performance, and that such a statement will be appended to this evaluation.

Student’s Signature _____ Date _____

Practicum Instructor’s Signature _____ Date _____

Faculty Liaison’s Signature _____ Date _____

SW 694R/394S

Self-Reflection for FINAL PRACTICUM – CLINICAL CONCENTRATION

As you did at the end of Practicum I, stop, think, and reflect on your Practicum experience. Consider all aspects of the experience: client contacts; educational and administrative supervision; experiences in the agency, in the community, and in groups; your macro project; personal and professional growth as well as your developing self-awareness. Please address each of the following questions.

Suggested length is ½ to 1 page per question. Length of the completed assignment will vary individually, but consider 4-6 pages as a general guideline. Your thoughtful reflection is more critical than the issue of length. As in all professional writing, be mindful of spelling, punctuation and sentence structure as you type and double-space the document. This self-reflection will be reviewed by both your agency Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Due date for completion will be provided by your Faculty Liaison.

- 1. Reviewing the course objectives for Final Practicum Clinical (see your Practicum Syllabus), identify and discuss THREE competencies that reflect significant personal and professional growth this semester.**
- 2. Describe at least one of your clinical cases from this internship. Discuss the clinical challenges you encountered and how you addressed those challenges.**
- 3. How has your professional use of self developed this semester? What changes have you noticed about yourself?**
- 4. How would you assess the learning environment and educational supervision at your placement?**
- 5. Consider your initial expectations about the social work profession and who you have become since beginning the graduate program. Reflect and discuss notable growth with knowledge and skills and how that informs your future plans**

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evaluation for SW 694R/394S: Practicum Instruction III&IV (Graduate Final Practicum)

**SW 694R/394S:
Evaluation for Final Practicum –
Administration and Policy Practice (APP) Concentration**

Student:	Agency:
Practicum Instructor:	Faculty Liaison:
Semester/Year:	

WORKLOAD DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the student’s direct practice, group work, and indirect/macro practice learning opportunities and work assignments during the internship.

DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Briefly describe the supervisory structure provided for the student.

PROGRESS ON LEARNING CONTRACT

Briefly describe the progress student has made toward educational contract objectives and goals.

Evaluation for Concentration in Administration and Policy Practice Social Work

Course Description

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9 credit hour course is a 500 hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides macro social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (APP) must be taken concurrently.

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE’s Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evaluation Instrument

This evaluation instrument addresses the minimum objectives for SW 384R. These provide a guide for the evaluation of the student's performance and represent competencies to be achieved by the end of this course.

Ratings of each competency must be supported by content in the "Evidence to support rating" section. "Evidence to support rating" may also serve to highlight outstanding abilities. The "Strategies to increase competence" should include ways in which the specific competency can be further addressed.

On the scale provided after each competency, please indicate *level of performance* by placing an X at the most appropriate point along the continuum.

- AC Advanced Competence**
Consistently demonstrates advanced knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional

- C Competence**
Consistently demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional

- EC Emerging Competence**
Demonstrates beginning knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional

- IP Insufficient Progress**
Rarely demonstrates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes as an emerging professional

Evaluation continues to be a critical component in professional development. Therefore, the student must participate in self-evaluation throughout the semester, and particularly at the midterm and ending phases of Practicum instruction. If a student's performance is inadequate by mid-semester, a written plan for the remainder of the semester is essential. However, unless problems are encountered in this course, the midterm evaluation does not become part of the student's file. It can serve as an initial document to update and measure performance at the end of the placement.

The Faculty Liaison takes the written final evaluation prepared by the Practicum Instructor in collaboration with the student, evaluates any written work performed for the course, considers the quality of participation in Practicum seminar, and assigns the grade at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed upon quality and consistency of work, not quantity.

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Practitioners in macro social work recognize the importance of professional conduct and personal/professional development for practicing in community and organizational settings. They adhere to the values and ethics advanced by NASW for professional conduct, engage in ethical decision-making in working with communities and organizations, and understand that work within complex systems can generate conflicting priorities and ambiguities that require professional value-based judgments.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student identifies as a social work professional, demonstrates professional use of self, and articulates the social work role.				
b. Student critically examines personal values, attitudes and expectations to enhance professional self-awareness and demonstrates competency in managing value differences and ethical dilemmas in practice in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 1:

Strategies to increase competence:

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers in macro practice recognize diversity through multiple factors (such as age, race, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion, political ideology, immigration status, and sexual orientation) and how these differences can influence oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege and power in communities and organizations. They analyze the needs, values, and strengths of diverse client systems and effectively support their power to act on their own behalf and/or collaborate with others to address personal, community and social problems.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes strengths of differing life experiences to build inclusive communities and multicultural organizations				
b. Student engages with and ensures participation of diverse and marginalized community and organizational constituents by identifying and accommodating multilingual and non-literate needs, gender power dynamics, and, access for disabilities in assessing, planning and implementing interventions				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 2:

Strategies to increase competence:

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers in macro practice understand the global interconnections of oppression and evaluate, differentiate, and apply professional roles, functions and strategies to address the needs of vulnerable populations, enhance human well-being, reduce social problems, and promote social and economic justice.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student advocates for human and civil rights individually and collectively				
b. Student demonstrates understanding of indicators that show improved well-being for communities and organizations, and, where possible incorporates evaluative measures of well-being that integrate improvements in social, economic, political and environmental realms				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 3:

Strategies to increase competence:

4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Macro social workers utilize quantitative and qualitative research to understand the nature of communities and organizations, use evidence-informed practices to improve well-being in these macro systems, and integrate members of communities and organizations in the process and outcome evaluations of macro system interventions.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student utilizes theories of community and organizational behavior in assessment and analysis of macro interventions				
b. Student constructs and utilizes best practice and evidence-informed research to develop and implement community and organizational interventions				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 4:

Strategies to increase competence:

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

5. Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers in macro practice recognize that political processes and policies affect the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families, communities and organization, as well as social work practice itself. They analyze and seek solutions for intended and unintended consequences of domestic and foreign policies by governments on human service organizations, programs, and populations-at-risk in the state, nation, and other countries.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student analyzes policies from historical, current, and global perspectives with particular understanding of the role of social, economic, and political forces on policy formulation, and the implications for less powerful and oppressed groups				
b. Student actively engages in the policy arena on behalf of community and organizational interests, working collaboratively to formulate policies that improve the effectiveness of social services and the well-being of all people				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 5:

Strategies to increase competence:

6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Macro social workers engage with organizations and communities and the groups, families and individuals that are part of those macro systems. They value self-determination and promote active engagement of these client systems through appropriate participatory methods and seek to advance the worth and dignity of clients in all engagement efforts.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student uses participatory methods to engage with diverse communities, their constituencies, and/or the organizations that serve them				
b. Student uses the principles of relationship building and inter-professional collaboration to guide professional practice that cuts across multiple levels of practice				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 6:

Strategies to increase competence:

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7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Macro social workers use multiple theories and assessment methods to understand the social, economic and political dimensions of social problems facing micro and macro systems.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student assesses the range of information, based on research, evidence, and practice strategies, that will enhance planning for programs and services to improve human well-being				
b. Student works with communities, their constituents and the organizations that serve them to assess their capacities, strengths and needs				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 7:

Strategies to increase competence:

8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Macro social workers plan with communities and organizations to apply interventions through a variety of models, methods, strategies, and tactics identified as appropriate to the local, regional, national and international contexts and needs for change.

Outcome Measure	Mid		End	
	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student collaborates with other professionals to develop interventions that prevent social problems, expand opportunities, and enhance quality of life				
b. Student advocates for and supports the most inclusive strategies to help all community members reach their full potential				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 8:

Strategies to increase competence:

9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Macro social workers use rigorous evaluation methods to evaluate interventions and incorporate participatory methods to involve community and organizational constituencies in evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in order to recommend future actions.

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The Steve Hicks School of Social Work Office of Practicum Education will email an active and individualized online evaluation link to the student and Practicum instructor at the beginning of each evaluation period. This form is for reference only and evaluations should be completed only via the link provided by the OPE. For more information, please contact: Practicum-ta@austin.utexas.edu.

Outcome Measure	Std	FI	Std	FI
a. Student applies appropriate evaluation methods to develop and recommend program and/or policy changes that enhance practice outcomes				
b. Student uses participatory models to involve community and organizational constituents in evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in order to recommend future actions				
AC = Advanced Competence C = Competence EC = Emerging Competence IP = Insufficient Progress				

Evidence to support ratings for Competency 9:

Strategies to increase competence:

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

OUTSTANDING ABILITIES

AREAS WHERE GROWTH WAS MOST OBVIOUS

FUTURE LEARNING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STUDENT’S READING & SIGNATURE ARE REQUIRED

This is to certify that I have read and received a copy of this evaluation, that I understand I have the right to disagree in writing with this evaluation of my performance, and that such a statement will be appended to this evaluation.

Student’s Signature _____ Date _____

Practicum Instructor’s Signature _____ Date _____

Faculty Liaison’s Signature _____ Date _____

SW 694R/394S

Self-Reflection for FINAL PRACTICUM – APP

CONCENTRATION As you did at the end of Practicum I, stop, think, and reflect on your Practicum experience. Consider all aspects of the experience: client contacts; educational and administrative supervision; experiences in the agency, in the community, and in groups; your macro project; personal and professional growth as well as your developing self-awareness. Please address each of the following question. Suggested length is ½ to 1 page per question. Length of the completed assignment will vary individually, but consider 4-6 pages as a general guideline. Your thoughtful reflection is more critical than the issue of length. As in all professional writing, be mindful of spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure as you type and double-space the document. This self-reflection will be reviewed by both your agency Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison. Due date for completion will be provided by your Faculty Liaison.

- 1. Reviewing the course objectives for Final Practicum APP (see your Practicum Syllabus), identify and discuss THREE competencies that reflect significant personal and professional growth this semester.**
- 2. Describe at least one of the major projects you worked on in Practicum this semester and discuss the social work learning involved.**
- 3. How has your professional use of self developed this semester? What changes have you noticed about yourself?**
- 4. How would you assess the learning environment and educational supervision at your placement?**
- 5. Consider your initial expectations about the social work profession and who you have become since beginning the graduate program. Reflect and discuss notable**

growth with knowledge and skills and how that informs your future plans.

Section 9

Appendix

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National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics

Approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly
Revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly

Preamble

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual wellbeing in a social context and the wellbeing of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- service
- social justice
- dignity and worth of the person
- importance of human relationships
- integrity
- competence.

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.

Purpose of the NASW Code of Ethics

Professional ethics are at the core of social work. The profession has an obligation to articulate its basic values, ethical principles, and ethical standards. The *NASW Code of Ethics* sets forth these values, principles, and standards to guide social workers' conduct. The *Code* is relevant to all social workers and social work students, regardless of their professional functions, the settings in which they work, or the populations they serve.

The *NASW Code of Ethics* serves six purposes:

1. The Code identifies core values on which social work's mission is based.
2. The *Code* summarizes broad ethical principles that reflect the profession's core values and

- establishes a set of specific ethical standards that should be used to guide social work practice.
3. The *Code* is designed to help social workers identify relevant considerations when professional obligations conflict or ethical uncertainties arise.
 4. The *Code* provides ethical standards to which the general public can hold the social work profession accountable.
 5. The *Code* socializes practitioners new to the Practicum to social work's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards.
 6. The *Code* articulates standards that the social work profession itself can use to assess whether social workers have engaged in unethical conduct. NASW has formal procedures to adjudicate ethics complaints filed against its members.* In subscribing to this *Code*, social workers are required to cooperate in its implementation, participate in NASW adjudication proceedings, and abide by any NASW disciplinary rulings or sanctions based on it.

The *Code* offers a set of values, principles, and standards to guide decision making and conduct when ethical issues arise. It does not provide a set of rules that prescribe how social workers should act in all situations. Specific applications of the *Code* must take into account the context in which it is being considered and the possibility of conflicts among the *Code*'s values, principles, and standards. Ethical responsibilities flow from all human relationships, from the personal and familial to the social and professional.

Further, the *NASW Code of Ethics* does not specify which values, principles, and standards are most important and ought to outweigh others in instances when they conflict. Reasonable differences of opinion can and do exist among social workers with respect to the ways in which values, ethical principles, and ethical standards should be rank ordered when they conflict. Ethical decision making in a given situation must apply the informed judgment of the individual social worker and should also consider how the issues would be judged in a peer review process where the ethical standards of the profession would be applied.

Ethical decision making is a process. There are many instances in social work where simple answers are not available to resolve complex ethical issues. Social workers should take into consideration all the values, principles, and standards in this *Code* that are relevant to any situation in which ethical judgment is warranted. Social workers' decisions and actions should be consistent with the spirit as well as the letter of this *Code*.

In addition to this *Code*, there are many other sources of information about ethical thinking that may be useful. Social workers should consider ethical theory and principles generally, social work theory and research, laws, regulations, agency policies, and other relevant codes of ethics, recognizing that among codes of ethics social workers should consider the *NASW Code of Ethics* as their primary source. Social workers also should be aware of the impact on ethical decision making of their clients' and their own personal values and cultural and religious beliefs and practices. They should be aware of any conflicts between personal and professional values and deal with them responsibly. For additional guidance social workers should consult the relevant literature on professional ethics and ethical decision making and seek appropriate consultation when faced with ethical dilemmas. This may involve consultation with an agency based or social work organization's ethics committee, a regulatory body, knowledgeable colleagues, supervisors, or legal counsel.

Instances may arise when social workers' ethical obligations conflict with agency policies or relevant laws or regulations. When such conflicts occur, social workers must make a responsible effort to resolve

the conflict in a manner that is consistent with the values, principles, and standards expressed in this Code. If a reasonable resolution of the conflict does not appear possible, social workers should seek proper consultation before making a decision.

The *NASW Code of Ethics* is to be used by NASW and by individuals, agencies, organizations, and bodies (such as licensing and regulatory boards, professional liability insurance providers, courts of law, agency boards of directors, government agencies, and other professional groups) that choose to adopt it or use it as a frame of reference. Violation of standards in this *Code* does not automatically imply legal liability or violation of the law. Such determination can only be made in the context of legal and judicial proceedings. Alleged violations of the *Code* would be subject to a peer review process. Such processes are generally separate from legal or administrative procedures and insulated from legal review or proceedings to allow the profession to counsel and discipline its own members.

A code of ethics cannot guarantee ethical behavior. Moreover, a code of ethics cannot resolve all ethical issues or disputes or capture the richness and complexity involved in striving to make responsible choices within a moral community. Rather, a code of ethics sets forth values, ethical principles, and ethical standards to which professionals aspire and by which their actions can be judged. Social workers' ethical behavior should result from their personal commitment to engage in ethical practice. The *NASW Code of Ethics* reflects the commitment of all social workers to uphold the profession's values and to act ethically. Principles and standards must be applied by individuals of good character who discern moral questions and, in good faith, seek to make reliable ethical judgements.

Ethical Principles

The following broad ethical principles are based on social work's core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. These principles set forth ideals to which all social workers should aspire.

Value: *Service*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.*

Social workers elevate service to others above self interest. Social workers draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers are encouraged to volunteer some portion of their professional skills with no expectation of significant financial return (pro bono service).

Value: *Social Justice*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers challenge social injustice.*

Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. Social workers' social change efforts are focused primarily on issues of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustice. These activities seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.

Value: *Dignity and Worth of the Person*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.*

Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self determination. Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts between clients' interests

and the broader society's interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.

Value: *Importance of Human Relationships*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.*

Social workers understand that relationships between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Social workers engage people as partners in the helping process. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people in a purposeful effort to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities.

Value: *Integrity*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner.*

Social workers are continually aware of the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards and practice in a manner consistent with them. Social workers act honestly and responsibly and promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

Value: *Competence*

Ethical Principle: *Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.*

Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice. Social workers should aspire to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession.

The complete Code of Ethics can be found on the National Association of Social Workers website at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/other/nasw-code-of-ethics.pdf>

Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners Code of Conduct

- (a) A social worker must observe and comply with the code of conduct and standards of practice set forth in this subchapter. Any violation of the code of conduct or standards of practice will constitute unethical conduct or conduct that discredits or tends to discredit the profession of social work and is grounds for disciplinary action.
- (1) A social worker shall not refuse to do or refuse to perform any act or service for which the person is licensed solely on the basis of a client's age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.
 - (2) A social worker shall truthfully report or present her or his services, professional credentials and qualifications to clients or potential clients.
 - (3) A social worker shall only offer those services that are within his or her professional competency.
 - (4) A social worker shall strive to maintain and improve her or his professional knowledge, skills and abilities.
 - (5) A social worker shall base all services on an assessment, evaluation or diagnosis of the client.
 - (6) A social worker shall provide the client with a clear description of services, schedules, fees and billing at the initiation of services.
 - (7) A social worker shall safeguard the client's rights to confidentiality within the limits of the law.
 - (8) A social worker shall be responsible for setting and maintaining professional boundaries.
 - (9) A social worker shall not have sexual contact with a client or a person who has been a client.
 - (10) A social worker shall refrain from providing service while impaired due to the social worker's physical or mental health or the use of medication, drugs or alcohol.
 - (11) A social worker shall not exploit his or her position of trust with a client or former client.
 - (12) A social worker shall evaluate a client's progress on a continuing basis to guide service delivery and will make use of supervision and consultation as indicated by the client's needs.
 - (13) A social worker shall refer a client for those services that the social worker is unable to meet and terminate service to a client when continued service is no longer in the client's best interest.

If you have a question about the professional performance of a social worker licensed by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners call toll-free at 1-800-232-3162. In Austin, call (512) 719-3521.

**This Code of Conduct can be found on The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners at:
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/socialwork/sw_conduct.pdf**

NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice

- Standard 1. Ethics and Values—Social workers shall function in accordance with the values, ethics, and standards of the profession, recognizing how personal and professional values may conflict with or accommodate the needs of diverse clients.
- Standard 2. Self-Awareness—Social workers shall seek to develop an understanding of their own personal, cultural values and beliefs as one way of appreciating the importance of multicultural identities in the lives of people.
- Standard 3. Cross-Cultural Knowledge—Social workers shall have and continue to develop specialized knowledge and understanding about the history, traditions, values, family systems, and artistic expressions of major client groups that they serve.
- Standard 4. Cross-Cultural Skills—Social workers shall use appropriate methodological approaches, skills, and techniques that reflect the workers' understanding of the role of culture in the helping process.
- Standard 5. Service Delivery—Social workers shall be knowledgeable about and skillful in the use of services available in the community and broader society and be able to make appropriate referrals for their diverse clients.
- Standard 6. Empowerment and Advocacy—Social workers shall be aware of the effect of social policies and programs on diverse client populations, advocating for and with clients whenever appropriate.
- Standard 7. Diverse Workforce—Social workers shall support and advocate for recruitment, admissions and hiring, and retention efforts in social work programs and agencies that ensure diversity within the profession.
- Standard 8. Professional Education—Social workers shall advocate for and participate in educational and training programs that help advance cultural competence within the profession.
- Standard 9. Language Diversity—Social workers shall seek to provide or advocate for the provision of information, referrals, and services in the language appropriate to the client, which may include use of interpreters.
- Standard 10. Cross-Cultural Leadership—Social workers shall be able to communicate information about diverse client groups to other professionals.

The complete standards with specific skill competencies can be found on the NASW website at <http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/standards/NASWCulturalStandardsIndicators2006.pdf>

Student Standards for Social Work Education
School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin
An Excerpt from the MSSW Handbook

Standards for Social Work Education

1.0 Introduction to Standards

2.0 Criteria for Evaluating Academic Performance

2.1 Basic Abilities

- 2.1.1 Communication skills
- 2.1.2 Interpersonal skills
- 2.1.3 Cognitive skills
- 2.1.4 Physical skills

2.2 Emotional and Mental Abilities

- 2.2.1 Stress management
- 2.2.2 Emotional and mental capacities

2.3 Professional Performance Skills

- 2.3.1 Professional commitment
- 2.3.2 Professional behavior
- 2.3.3 Self awareness
- 2.3.4 Ethical obligations

2.4 Scholastic Performance

- 2.4.1 Undergraduate students
- 2.4.2 Graduate students

2.5 Sources of Information

2.6 Accommodations for Disabilities

3.0 Policies & Procedures for Review of Academic Performance

3.1 Performance that May Result in Review and/or Dismissal

3.2 Three Levels of Review

4.0 Academic Grievances

4.1 Procedures for Handling Grievances

- 4.1.1 Undergraduate students
- 4.1.2 Graduate students

4.2 Non-Academic Grievances

The complete MSSW Handbook can be found in the Academic Forms, Handbooks, Standards and Policies section of the School of Social Work's website at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/aa/forms/>

Standards for Social Work Education

An Excerpt from the MSSW Handbook

1.0 Introduction

This document sets out Standards for Social Work Education that apply to students enrolled at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin, beginning Summer 1997.

Because of the nature of professional social work practice, the School of Social Work has different expectations of students than do non-professional programs. The standards are linked to students' abilities to become effective social work professionals and are provided so that students and faculty can be clear about expectations and procedures to address academic performance concerns. The ultimate goal of the Standards is to help students have a successful experience at the School of Social Work.

Since becoming a professional is a gradual process, not all criteria are expected to be met at all times. Persons who teach and supervise students, along with program coordinators, will assess student academic performance and apply their professional judgment to determine if standards are being met during a student's educational career. Professional judgment is the capacity to assess a situation by applying the values and knowledge of the social work profession, combined with a professional's own experience and practice wisdom. It also represents the application of knowledge, values, and skills to making decisions in a helping process.

All social work students will be provided with and expected to read the Standards for Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics. Students will then be asked to sign an acknowledgment that they have read, are aware of the contents of, and will abide by the documents. The form will be kept in students' files.

2.0 Criteria for Evaluating Academic Performance in BSW, MSSW & PhD Programs at The School of Social Work

In order to meet its responsibilities to provide quality professional education and to ensure that its graduates are able to function in a broad variety of professional situations, the School of Social Work evaluates the academic performance of its students in four general areas: Basic Abilities to Acquire Professional Skills; Mental and Emotional Abilities; Professional Performance Skills, and Scholastic Performance. Meeting the criteria for scholastic achievement is necessary but not sufficient to ensure continued enrollment in a program. Both professional behavior and scholastic performance comprise academic standards.

2.1 Basic Abilities Necessary to Acquire Professional Skills

2.1.1 Communication Skills

Demonstrates sufficient written and oral skills to comprehend information and communicate ideas and feelings.

a) *Written:* Writes clearly, uses correct grammar and spelling, and applies appropriate writing style, including American Psychological Association (APA) referencing, appropriate source citation, and documentation. Demonstrates sufficient skills in written English to understand content presented in the program and to complete adequately all written assignments, as specified by faculty.

b) *Oral:* Communicates effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, clients, and professionals. Expresses ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrates a willingness and an ability to listen to others. Demonstrates sufficient skills in spoken English to understand content presented in the program, to complete adequately all oral assignments, and to meet the objectives of Practicum placement experiences, as specified by faculty.

2.1.2 Interpersonal Skills

Demonstrates the interpersonal skills needed to relate effectively to other students, faculty, staff, clients, and professionals and to fulfill the ethical obligations of the profession. These include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, and demonstration of respect for and consideration of others. Takes appropriate responsibility for own actions and considers the impact of these actions on others.

2.1.3 Cognitive Skills

Exhibits sufficient knowledge of social work and clarity of thinking to process information and apply it to appropriate situations in classroom and Practicum. Demonstrates grounding in relevant social, behavioral and biological science knowledge and research—including knowledge and skills in relationship building, data gathering, assessment, intervention, and evaluation of practice. Exhibits ability to conceptualize and integrate knowledge and apply that knowledge to professional practice.

2.1.4 Physical Skills

Exhibits sufficient motor and sensory abilities to attend and participate in class and practicum placement, with or without accommodations. (See section on *Accommodations for Disabilities* for clarification.)

2.2

Emotional and Mental Abilities Necessary for Performance in the Program and Professional Practice

2.2.1 Stress Management

Demonstrates ability to deal with current life stressors through the use of appropriate coping mechanisms. Handles stress effectively by using appropriate self-care and developing supportive relationships with colleagues, peers, and others.

2.2.2 Emotional and Mental Capacities

Uses sound judgment. Seeks and effectively uses help for medical or emotional problems that interfere with scholastic and professional performance. Engages in counseling or seeks out support and help if personal problems, psychosocial distress, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties do any of the following:

- compromise scholastic and other performance,
- interfere with professional judgment and behavior, or
- jeopardize the best interests of those to whom the social work student has a professional responsibility (as outlined in the current Codes of Ethics by the National Association of Social Workers and the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners for Social Work Licensure).

2.3

Professional Performance Skills Necessary for Work with Clients and Professional Practice

2.3.1 Professional Commitment

Exhibits a strong commitment to the goals of social work and to the ethical standards of the profession, as specified in the NASW Code of Ethics and the Code of Ethics for Social Work Licensure in Texas. Demonstrates commitment to the essential values of social work that includes the respect for the dignity and worth of every individual and his/her right to a just share of society's resources (social justice).

2.3.2 Professional Behavior

Exhibits behaviors that are in compliance with program policies, institutional policies, professional ethical standards, and societal laws in classroom, Practicum, and community. Appearance, dress, and general demeanor reflect a professional manner. Shows potential for responsible and accountable behavior by knowing and practicing within the scope of social work, respecting others, being punctual and dependable, prioritizing responsibilities, attending class regularly, observing deadlines, completing assignments on time, keeping appointments or making appropriate arrangements, and accepting supervision and criticism in a positive manner.

Works effectively with others, regardless of level of authority. Advocates for him/herself in an appropriate and responsible manner and uses proper channels for conflict resolution. Shows a willingness to receive and accept feedback and supervision in a positive manner, as well as use such feedback to enhance professional development.

2.3.3 Self Awareness

Exhibits knowledge of how one's values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions and past experiences affect thinking, behavior and relationships. Accurately assesses one's own strengths, limitations, and suitability for professional practice. Shows awareness of self and how one is perceived by others. Reflects on one's own limitations as they relate to professional capacities. Is willing to examine and change behavior when it interferes in working with clients and other professionals.

2.3.4 Ethical Obligations

Current behavior and classroom performance demonstrate adherence to the ethical expectations and obligations of professional practice, noted in the NASW Code of Ethics and the Code of Ethics for Social Work Licensure in Texas. Ethical behaviors include:

- Adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics and the Code of Ethics for Social Work Licensure in Texas.
- No history of charges and/or convictions of an offense that is contrary to professional practice.
- Systematic evaluation of clients and their situations in an unbiased, factual way. Suspension of personal biases during interactions with others.
- Comprehension of another individual's way of life and values. Empathic communication and support of the client as a basis for a productive professional relationship.
- Appreciation of the value of diversity. Effective and nonjudgmental relation to and work with others who are different from oneself. Appropriate service to all persons in need of assistance, regardless of the person's age, class, race, religious beliefs, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and/or value system. No imposition of personal, religious, sexual, and/or cultural values on clients.
- Demonstration of respect for the rights of others. Commitment to clients' rights to freedom of choice and self-determination.
- Maintenance of confidentiality as it relates to human service, classroom activities, and Practicum placement.
- Demonstration of honesty and integrity by being truthful about background, experiences, and qualifications; doing one's own work; giving credit for the ideas of others; and providing proper citation of source materials.
- Demonstration of clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries. Does not sexually harass others; make verbal or physical threats; become involved in sexual relationships with clients, supervisors, or faculty; abuse others in physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual ways; or participate in dual relationships where conflicts of interest may exist.

2.4

Scholastic Performance

2.4.1 Undergraduate Students

Students are considered to be in academic difficulty if their GPA drops below 2.25. Students will be advised to withdraw from the program if their grade point average falls below 2.0 overall or 2.5 in major. Failure to maintain a passing grade in Practicum placement will result in dismissal. A review will be called if a student earns a D or F in any required social work courses. An overall GPA of 2.0 is required for graduation.

Students must complete the prerequisites outlined in their appropriate courses of study, as outlined in the course catalog. Students may not have grades of incomplete (X) in any prerequisites if they are to continue course work.

2.4.2 Graduate Students

MSSW students are considered to be in academic difficulty if their GPA drops below 3.0. Students will be advised to withdraw from the program if their grade point average falls below 2.5. Failure to maintain a passing grade in Practicum placement will result in dismissal. A review will be called if a student earns a grade of C or X (incomplete) in any semester of Practicum. A review may be called if a student earns a grade of C or below or X in any required social work course. An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation.

PhD students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better and successfully complete qualifying exams as a condition for continuance. They will have one opportunity to retake a failed exam during the next academic year. If they fail a qualifying exam twice, they lose their eligibility to remain in the program.

2.5

Sources of Information for Academic Performance Criteria

Information about students' meeting academic performance criteria in the School of Social Work may include but is not limited to any of the following:

- Feedback or reference letters from faculty, work supervisors, or supervisors of volunteer human service activity or other Practicum experiences
- Feedback from agency-based Practicum instructors
- Observation of classroom, volunteer, or Practicum behaviors
- Performance in oral and written assignments, examinations, social work skills labs, or other appropriate coursework
- Student personal statements or self-assessments
- Interviews with faculty or other professionals
- Taped interview situations (audio or video)
- Feedback from students, staff, university (UT or other colleges and universities), helping professionals, or community
- Feedback from faculty in other social work programs that student may have attended
- Signed confidentiality statements, scholastic honesty statements, contract to adhere to NASW Code of Ethics or the Standards, other contracts between the School and the student

2.6

Accommodations for Disabilities

No otherwise qualified student shall, on the basis of disability, be subjected to discrimination or excluded from participation in the School of Social Work. A student with a disability may be protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and be eligible for a reasonable accommodation that will provide an equal opportunity to meet the academic criteria related to professional behavior and scholastic performance.

Any otherwise qualified student with a protected disability who requests a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of Students with Disabilities and provide documentation as needed. The Office of Students with Disabilities makes recommendations for accommodations. The School of Social Work will review academic performance criteria in light of individual student circumstances to explore issues of appropriateness and accommodation. An initial assessment, subsequent plan, use of outside experts (including the Office of Students with Disabilities), and periodic checks between the School of Social Work and the student are appropriate courses of action in making accommodations

3.0

Policies and Procedures for Review of Academic Performance

Three levels of review can occur at the School of Social Work in reviewing student's academic performance. The level of review depends upon the potential severity of the concern. Information disclosed during student meetings with faculty, Assistant Deans, or school administrators will not be kept confidential if the information raises concerns about professional performance. Faculty and/or Assistant Deans will share pertinent information with each other for the professional purpose of identifying student issues and enhancing problem solving about the concerns. They will follow university procedures related to student performance issues.

3.1 Performance that May Result in a Review and/or Possible Dismissal from the School of Social Work

Student reviews can occur under any of the following circumstances:

- Failure to meet or maintain academic requirements as stated under Scholastic Performance
- Scholastic dishonesty, including cheating, lying, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (Faculty must adhere to university guidelines. For complete University policy and procedures, see *General Information Bulletin*, Appendix C, Section 11-802.)
- Behavior judged to be in violation of the current NASW Code of Ethics
- Any threat or attempt to harm oneself or someone else
- Commission of a criminal act that is contrary to professional practice, occurring during the course of study or occurring prior to admission to the School of Social Work and becoming known after admission
- Consistent pattern of unprofessional behavior
- Failure to meet any of the Standards for Social Work Education: School of Social Work Criteria for Evaluation of Academic Performance

3.2 The Three Levels of Review

Level 1

A Level 1 review involves a faculty member and a student. When a faculty member has concerns about a student enrolled in the social work program meeting any of the academic criteria, whether related to professional behavior or scholastic performance, that faculty member will:

- Discuss those concerns directly with the student and seek to work with the student to resolve the difficulties.
- Apprise the appropriate BSW, MSSW, PhD, or Practicum Assistant Dean of the concerns in order to identify potential patterns and issues related to the student
- Document dates and content of meetings with students.

If a problem arises in Practicum, the agency-based Practicum instructor will discuss concerns directly with the student and with the faculty liaison. It is the responsibility of the faculty liaison to apprise the appropriate assistant dean of the concerns.

In many instances, meetings between faculty and students resolve the concerns and do not necessarily lead to further reviews, pursuant to this section.

Level 2

A Level 2 review involves the faculty member, student, and Assistant Dean. Faculty and Assistant Dean will meet with the student when the student is not meeting or following program or university standards, policies, and procedures or when concerns have not been resolved at Level 1. If a problem arises in Practicum, the agency-based Practicum instructor, faculty liaison, and Assistant Dean for Practicum Education will conduct the review with the student.

In this information gathering process, the Assistant Dean will determine the nature of the concern and gather sufficient information to develop a plan to address that concern, if one is needed. No further action may be required, or the student may be asked, in writing, to modify his or her behavior and/or seek appropriate help. This process is designed to assist students in dealing with identified concerns that have an impact on their performance.

The BSW, MSSW, PhD, or Practicum Assistant Dean will assess the nature of these concerns with appropriate faculty, consult with the Graduate Adviser (if a graduate student) and with the Dean, maintain documentation, and decide if it is necessary to conduct a more comprehensive review, pursuant to Level 3.

Level 3

A Level 3 review involves the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Academic Advisor), faculty member, student, Assistant Dean, and faculty who have had direct experience with the student in classroom or Practicum. Generally, this level review is called when problematic patterns are identified with students or when the issues are serious enough to require formal consultation with other faculty and the student. A Level 3 review more often is conducted when concerns have not been resolved in prior reviews; when issues relate to a student not meeting the criteria for academic performance (often involving professional or ethical behaviors); or when the student is being considered for withdrawal or discontinuance in the program.

In most instances, a Level 3 review is sufficient to deal with student performance and is the last decision making step in the review process at the School of Social Work.

When a Level 3 review is called, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Graduate Adviser) and the appropriate Assistant Dean will convene a meeting with the appropriate faculty and the student to gather information, determine the nature of the problem (if one is confirmed to exist), and identify alternatives for its remediation. Appropriate faculty to be involved in a review will include but are not limited to those who have direct knowledge of and experience with the student.

The student will be notified in writing of the concerns and meeting date, with sufficient time to prepare for and attend the meeting.

After the review meeting has occurred, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Graduate Adviser) will consult with the Dean of the School of Social Work to discuss the problem situation and make recommendations regarding the student. Based on the review, conference with the Dean, and an objective assessment of the information provided, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Graduate Adviser) will inform the student of the decisions, which can include one or more of the following actions:

- *Continue the student in the program with no conditions.*
In these situations, the concern has been addressed and no further action by the student or program is required.
- *Establish formal conditions for the student's continuance in the program.*
In these situations, specific conditions must be met in order for the student to remain in the program. Action may include establishing goals, a plan, a timeline, and appropriate monitoring; providing mentoring and support; placing the student on probation and monitoring the student during the probationary period; referring the student to counseling and/or advising services; allowing the student to follow a reduced course load or delay entry to the Practicum practicum; or requiring the student to withdraw from the program with the option of reapplying.
- *Consult with and/or refer to the Dean of Students.*
In some instances, depending on the nature of the problem, the University's Office of the Dean of Students may be consulted. If a referral is made to that Office after consultation, the student will be notified in writing about the nature of the concern and the fact that the referral is taking place. Situations which may result in referral to the Office of the Dean of Students include scholastic dishonesty, hazing, racial or sexual harassment, possession or use of firearms or other weapons on University property, damage or destruction of University property, and conduct that endangers the health or safety of any University student, employee, or campus visitor.
- *Counsel the student to change majors/degree programs and/or discontinue the student in the program.*
In some situations, it will be recommended that the student no longer continue in the social work program. The student will be counseled to voluntarily change majors or degree programs. If that does not occur, the student will be discontinued from the program. In either case, the student will be provided with documentation regarding the specific reasons for their dismissal and the conditions, if any, under which they may re-apply.

In any Level 3 review, there must be clear, concise documentation of the problem areas as well as verification that these concerns have been discussed with the student and attempted to be ameliorated, where appropriate. Students must be notified of the decision in writing within ten calendar days of the review. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Graduate Adviser) to communicate the decision to the student.

4.0 Academic Grievances

Pursuant to the student grievance procedures for undergraduate students provided in the General Information Catalog and for graduate students in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, students enrolled in the Social Work Program have the right to redress grievances related to academic matters, including decisions that are the result of reviews outlined in Section 3.0 of these Standards for Social Work Education. Students are assured freedom from reprisals for bringing a grievance.

4.1 Procedures for Handling Grievances

4.1.1 Undergraduate Students

An undergraduate student who has an academic grievance involving a grade dispute shall discuss the matter with the faculty member involved. If the dispute is not resolved, and for all other academic grievances, the student can appeal the matter to the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs. (If the grievance involves Practicum placement, the student can appeal to the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education and then to the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs.) If the dispute is not resolved, the student will follow the procedures outlined below, which also apply to grieving decisions that are the result of reviews outlined in Section 3.0 of these Standards.

The student will submit the grievance in writing to the Assistant Dean's Administrative Office at the School of Social Work within ten calendar days of the decision that is the subject of the grievance. Advisors are available in the School of Social Work Office of Academic Programs and Student Services to assist students in the grievance process. The grievance shall specifically state the reasons the student believes that the decision that is the subject of the grievance is incorrect.

The Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs of the School of Social Work will convene a panel of three faculty members to consider the grievance. The panel members, appointed to assure optimal representation of faculty, will have no direct knowledge of or experience with the student.

The panel shall review the nature of the problem, alternatives for its remediation, prior documentation and/or decisions about the student's continuation in the program. After consideration of the student's grievance, including a meeting with the student if requested by the student or considered necessary by the panel, the panel will deliberate as a group and make a decision concerning the grievance. The chair of the grievance panel shall keep appropriate documentation, share the recommendation with the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs, and notify the student of its decision in writing within ten calendar days of consideration of the grievance.

The decision of the grievance panel may be appealed in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the School of Social Work for a final decision. The appeal must specifically state the reasons the student believes that the decision of the grievance panel is incorrect.

4.1.2 Graduate Students

Pursuant to Chapter I, Part D of the University of Texas *Handbook of Operating Procedures*, a graduate student may grieve a grade dispute or any other matter related to his or her academic affairs.

The student shall first discuss and attempt to informally resolve the matter with the faculty member most directly involved. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the student can bring the matter to the attention of the Assistant Dean for Masters or Doctoral Programs, who may consult with the graduate adviser. (If the grievance involves Practicum placement, the student can appeal to the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education and then to the Assistant Dean for Masters or Doctoral Programs.)

If informal efforts to resolve a grievance are not successful, the student may use the process described below, which is also applicable to grievance matters that arise from reviews outlined in Section 3.0 of these Standards.

When informal efforts do not resolve a grievance matter, a student may invoke the formal grievance process by submitting a grievance in writing to the Dean's Administrative Office in the School of Social Work. The written grievance must be submitted within six months after the decision or action that is the subject of the grievance and must specifically state the reasons why the student believes that decision or action is incorrect. Advisors are available in the School of Social Work, Academic Affairs to assist students in the grievance process.

The Dean's Office shall refer the grievance to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) or the Graduate Advisor for consideration. If the Chair of the GSC (or Graduate Advisor) is unable to resolve the matter, he or she will seek the advice of the Graduate Studies Committee, or an executive sub-committee of the Graduate Studies Committee.

If the grievance remains unresolved, the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, or the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the Dean, will appoint a three member ad hoc grievance panel to review the matter. The panel shall be comprised of faculty members from the Graduate Studies Committee who have no direct knowledge of the grievance matter. The student has the right to exclude one person from the panel and the Chair can appoint a replacement for the excluded member.

The ad hoc panel shall review the grievance and documentation of prior actions or decisions concerning the student's continuation in the program. The panel shall meet with the student if requested by the student; or if the panel considers such a meeting to be necessary. The panel will report its findings to the Graduate Studies Committee, which will decide whether to uphold the grievance, deny the grievance, or make additional recommendations. The written findings of the ad hoc panel and the decision of the Graduate Studies Committee will be distributed to the affected student and faculty member.

If the decision of the Graduate Studies Committee does not resolve the grievance issues to the satisfaction of both the faculty member and the student, the grievance will be forwarded to the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School who may convene an ad hoc committee to review the case.

4.2

Non-Academic Grievances

Student-initiated grievances that are not academic in nature are addressed in other documents. Students should refer to the University Undergraduate Catalog, University Graduate School Catalog, and University General Information Bulletin for more detailed discussion of specific grievance procedures.

Sexual Harassment Policy

An Excerpt from the MSSW Handbook

In support of its Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action program, it is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin to maintain a work place free of sexual harassment and intimidation.

Sexual harassment has been defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as follows: Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Sec. 703 of Title VII. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Such conduct on the part of supervisors or co-workers is expressly prohibited and the offenders are subject to disciplinary action. The University's Equal Employment Opportunity Office is empowered to investigate complaints based on sexual harassment. If employees believe that they are experiencing this type of conduct, they should immediately report any such incidents to the Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Main Building 106M, 471-1849.

Sexual Harassment of Students

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin to maintain an educational environment free from sexual harassment and intimidation. Sexual harassment is expressly prohibited and offenders are subject to disciplinary action.

"Sexual Harassment" is defined as either unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, by a faculty member or other employee of The University, when:

- (1) submission by a student to such conduct made explicitly or implicitly a condition for academic opportunity or advancement;
- (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or
- (3) the intended effect or reasonably foreseeable effect of such conduct is to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the student.

The Office of the Dean of Students has been given the primary responsibility for responding to questions about and receiving complaints of sexual harassment of students. Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment may contact Legal Services for Students in SSB 3.410H. However, they also may address their questions or complaints to the department chairperson or other University administrative personnel. In such cases, the chairperson or other administrator should immediately contact the Assistant Dean of Students for consultation.

Investigation of a specific complaint of sexual harassment will be initiated upon submission of a written and signed statement by the student to the Assistant Dean of Students, department chairperson, or dean. Investigation and resolution of such complaints will be through the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent permitted under the law, and the rights of the individuals involved will be protected. Disagreement with the resolution of the complaint will be handled according to the usual procedures for grievances.

In addition to complying with the above policy dealing with sexual harassment, students and faculty members should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and should avoid compromising situations involving any romantic or sexual relationship between a faculty member and a student who is enrolled in a course taught by the faculty member or who is otherwise under the supervision of the faculty member.

This policy is not intended, in any way, to discourage the interaction of faculty and students where harassment or a conflict of interest is not a factor; however, the policy is intended to clarify that it is inappropriate for a faculty member to form romantic or sexual relationships with students working under the faculty member's direct supervision.

The complete MSSW Handbook can be found in the Academic Forms, Handbooks, Standards and Policies section of the School of Social Work's website at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/current/forms/>.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Calbow, Gaitan

Course Number:	SW 645C/645D	Instructor:	As assigned
Unique Number:	As assigned	Office:	Refer to SW 445 Syllabus
Semester:	Fall or Fall/Spring as assigned	Office Phone:	Refer to SW 445 Syllabus
Meeting Time/Place:	As assigned	Office Hours:	Refer to SW 445 Syllabus

Undergraduate Practicum Instruction

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Undergraduate Practicum Instruction is a twelve-credit course including supervised practice experience in a human service organization serving a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. A major purpose of Practicum education is to develop understanding of and beginning competence in the promotion of social and economic justice, the alleviation of critical social problems, and the enhancement of human wellbeing.

Requirements include an educationally supervised practicum of 420 hours at the agency/organization (32 hours/week) and attendance and participation in Practicum seminars that are designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

Completion of all requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work degree, admission to the Practicum sequence, and concurrent enrollment SW445 are prerequisites for this course.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

Using a common evaluation instrument, this course measures the implementation of knowledge, skills, values, and/or cognitive and affective processes to assess all nine competencies and the corresponding outcomes.

1. Student demonstrates ethical and professional behavior.
2. Student engages diversity and difference in practice.
3. Student advances human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

4. Student engages in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
5. Student engages in policy practice.
6. Student engages with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Student assesses individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8. Student intervenes with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Student evaluates practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

III. TEACHING METHODS

Methods will be individualized by the agency-based Practicum Instructor to each agency setting and by the Faculty Liaison in the Integrative Seminar. Teaching methods will include: consistent weekly educational supervision, orientation to agency policies and procedures, training necessary to perform the duties required by the agency, case review and discussion, small group exercises, journaling, learning contracts, process recordings, role play, and role modeling. Methods will be individualized to each agency setting.

IV. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Disability and Access area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult

conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, Practicum instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

V. PRACTICUM CLASS POLICIES

All Practicum policies may be found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and students are responsible for the content in the guides to Practicum. It should be noted that the Spring 2022 syllabus dates, hours, and policies supersede those in the guides to Practicum.

SAFETY IN PRACTICUM. Practicum is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for Practicum. It is always important that students communicate safety concerns in Practicum with their Faculty Liaison and/or Practicum Instructor. Students are expected to communicate concerns and requests in a professional and collaborative manner.

Regarding COVID-19, students are strongly encouraged to:

- Get vaccinated and follow up with booster shots as recommended [Protect Texas Together | The University of Texas at Austin \(utexas.edu\)](https://www.protecttexas.com/).
- Consider wearing a mask that covers both their nose and mouth while in confined, shared spaces.

- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in Practicum settings. Six feet is recommended.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend Practicum for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment.

Interns at shared sites are expected to hold each other accountable to safety standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the Office of Practicum Education will support a student who chooses to leave a Practicum site for safety reasons. Of course, the student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety issue with their Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructors in adapting accordingly.

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. Students must be covered by an adequate malpractice insurance policy before beginning Practicum. The School of Social Work, through the Office of Practicum Education, makes information available for students to purchase this policy prior to entering Practicum. Malpractice insurance does not cover transportation of clients. Students are never allowed to transport clients nor to handle bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice coverage is available in the Practicum database for both the intern and Practicum Instructor.

CHANGE IN PLACEMENT. The goal is for students to complete their 400-hour internship at the same site to allow for consistent professional growth, educational immersion, and skill acquisition. However, the Faculty Liaison may move a student to a different internship, due to a variety of reasons including the educational environment, student failure to progress, or the need to remove the student from Practicum. The decision to move a student to a different placement rests with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor but may be initiated by student concerns. Additional information may be found in the guide to Practicum at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

Students are required to express internship concerns within the educational team including the intern, Practicum instructor, faculty liaison, additional agency-based additional advisory staff, and the Office of Practicum Education members. Students are prohibited from expressing concerns in Practicum via social media, the agency supervisory communication chain, and/or agency human resources and may receive educational sanctions if they choose to step outside this process.

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Students are expected to communicate professionally in and related to their internship settings including with clients, supervisors, colleagues, educators, and the public.

Under all circumstances, students are required to uphold client confidentiality with special attention to electronic communication including but not limited to social media accounts, videoconferencing, blogs, websites, and non-agency approved email, chat or other platforms. Identifiable client information should not be included in UT email.

Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics. UT-SHSSW interns are representing themselves, the School, and the profession in all Practicum related communications.

Mobile phone use in the Practicum placement has ethical, legal, and liability implications. It also has implications regarding professional boundaries and self-care. Use of a personal mobile phone for client communication is strongly discouraged, but if necessary, should be planned well and in advance with the agency Practicum Instructor.

Students are expected to follow agency protocols regarding recordings, informed client consent, and secure channels for remote communication. All UT students have access to secure Zoom accounts that can be used for communication but not confidential client recordings. Students are expected to take steps to present themselves and their surrounding video conferencing environments in a professional manner.

USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS. Faculty Liaisons manage Practicum communication and assignments using Canvas, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Use may include the following: to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas 24/7 by following these steps: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/how-do-i-access-24-slash-7-help>.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DUE DATES. All students are required to complete the assignments listed below. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. Due dates will be determined by your Faculty Liaison.

ASSIGNMENTS. Students must meet the same Practicum requirements regardless of agency placement or assigned seminar. To meet these requirements, students are provided with a set of educational experiences under the supervision of the Practicum Instructor.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained at the beginning of this course syllabi and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>. The assignments are structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies. Basic expectations for Practicum are identified in the Practicum Expectations Checklist.

The expected minimum Practicum assignments as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education have historically included the following. For the Academic Year 2022-23, internships may contain a combination of the following, but the student, Practicum Instructor, and Faculty Liaison are encouraged to create a balance of assignments 1-4 that serve the student's education and the agency's mission.

1. Students must work directly with the client populations served by their agencies remotely and/or onsite. It is expected that each student will carry a "learner's" load of approximately four to six cases throughout the semester. The caseload may vary depending on the setting, nature, and duration of client services. Students are expected to participate in engagement, assessment, and intervention phases of the helping process. Students must have opportunities to work with diverse clients, including women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA, or other specialized populations. Agency and academic documentation are required, including: process recordings, case assessments, Practicum journals, ongoing case/group recordings, and administrative reports. Any documentation required by the agency must be completed.
2. When possible, students should take advantage of the opportunity to co-plan and co-facilitate a group within their agency settings remotely and/or onsite. Students in an extended placement may plan for a group during their first semester and actually implement it during the second semester. The identification of this assignment is done in conjunction with the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison to ensure that the type of group that is cofacilitated is consistent with the level of intervention skills of a beginning level practitioner.
3. During the internship, students will complete a macro project in community, administration, or leadership. Typically, the macro project is in response to an agency need and fosters skill and experience for the emerging professional. The Faculty Liaison will provide instruction for the evidence of completion. Students may begin

the macro project in either the spring or summer semester based on agency need and student readiness.

4. Students are encouraged to:
 - Participate in staff meetings;
 - Attend board meetings during the semester;
 - Participate in community events and/or inter-organizational meetings;
 - Present a case in a staffing forum used by the agency; and
 - Take part in additional opportunities that serve the student's education, professional connections, and the agency's mission

HOURS. A minimum of 400 hours of Practicum work is required for full-block interns (fall only) or 220 hours of Practicum work in the fall and an additional 220 hours in the spring for extended (fall/spring), including time spent in Integrative Seminars (up to 60 minutes weekly), on journals (up to 30 minutes weekly), and process recordings (up to two hours/assignment). Students will schedule their hours with the Practicum Instructor to meet the needs of the agency and to fulfill the required 32 hours/week for full block (spring) or 20 hours/week for extended (fall/spring). Time spent commuting to and from the agency as well as non-working lunches may not be counted toward the Practicum hour requirement. Time invested in Practicum-related workshops must be pre-approved by the Practicum Instructor and reported to the Faculty Liaison. Professional development and demonstrated competences are the priority for time invested in Practicum. Therefore, no Practicum time can be used to work on class assignments or personal communications.

Hours absent from Practicum are not counted toward the required 400-hour total, e.g., inclement weather closures, etc. The one exception is if there are COVID-related concerns, e.g., intern exposure or illness, and then the student is encouraged to coordinate with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison for alternative Practicum hour options. Faculty Liaisons are expected to consult with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education if a student misses more than 32 hours of Practicum for any reason.

Students are entitled to a week off for fall, spring break and around graduation ceremonies (for extended internships) but should coordinate actual dates and times with their Practicum Instructor since agency responsibilities may require that the student take alternative dates. Students are not required to take fall, spring or graduation break.

ATTENDANCE. Attendance and punctuality in Practicum demonstrate professional accountability. If, due to illness or emergency, a student is unable to report to Practicum or will be late, the appropriate agency personnel must be informed as early as possible. The Practicum Instructor must be informed of the reason, and the student is responsible for any missed Practicum obligations. Hours absent from Practicum, regardless of the reason, are not counted toward the required 400 (full block – fall) or 220 hours (extended block – fall/spring) per semester. One Practicum hour is accrued for each week of attendance at the Integrative Practicum Seminar. Students who extend into the summer are required to attend Integrative Practicum Seminar every other week throughout the summer semester.

INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION WITH THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR. Educational supervision is a collaborative relationship between the Practicum Instructor and the intern that facilitates the development of professional competence. It is an interactive process in which the primary purpose is to ensure the quality of client care, while the supervisee is gaining professional competence.

Because performance as an adult, self-directed learner is the work pattern demanded in social work education, it is the student's responsibility to explore the balance between the personal and professional, evaluate their own work, and accept constructive feedback. A minimum of one hour per week of scheduled educational supervision with the agency-based Practicum Instructor is required. Full block spring BSW students should receive an additional hour of supervision weekly through team meetings, group consultations, and/or other means.

PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS CHECKLIST. Students are expected to review the Practicum Expectations Checklist with their Practicum Instructor and secure signatures at their first supervisory meeting. Students are expected to upload their signed Practicum Expectations Checklist to the Practicum database by the end of week four.

To upload documents in the Practicum database:

Sign in: <https://candidate.gradleaders.com/UTSSWPracticum/Candidates/Login.aspx?pid=4842>

Click "My Profile" on the left menu

Select "Additional Documents"

Click "Upload New" above the Additional Documents title

Click under "Document Filename" and select your document

Click under "Document Title" to name the file

Click Save.

The Practicum Expectations Checklist is **due within the first four weeks of the semester** and is available at:

[https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1295932/files/57375973/download?wrap=1.](https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1295932/files/57375973/download?wrap=1)

INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR. Integrative Practicum Seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to integrate classroom theory to current Practicum and professional experience. The Seminar meets weekly in conjunction with SW 645C/645D, Social Work Practicum during the spring semester and every other week for extended interns over the summer semester. Seminar involves peer consultation, challenging personal and professional values, self-exploration and reflection, critical thinking, and group building. Since the goal of the Seminar is to apply knowledge, values, and skills to practice, the success of the Seminar depends on each student's full participation and engagement. This includes respectful sharing and listening to the opinions and concerns of others, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and supportive manner, and being willing to promote group cohesiveness in a learning environment.

Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision. Students are not

permitted to discuss details disclosed in the Seminar with individuals outside the cohort. Violations of Seminar confidentiality may result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

TIMESHEETS. Students are responsible for keeping timesheets that document hours and responsibilities logged in Practicum. Timesheets should be completed by the student, approved by the Practicum Instructor, and available for review during the liaison visits by the Faculty Liaison. Students are encouraged to use the agency timesheets provided or the template available at [Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](http://Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work (utexas.edu)), not both.

A timesheet template with automatic hour summation can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

JOURNALS. Weekly Practicum journals provide the student an opportunity to process and integrate Practicum experiences. In general, the Practicum journal should demonstrate growth and progress as a practitioner, as well as the attainment of the course objectives.

Students should make entries consisting of a description of activities in the Practicum placement for that day and an analysis of those activities. Journal entries should reflect the following: an awareness of feelings, attitudes, and values; observations and thoughts about the organizational operation of the agency; linkage of theory/knowledge in Practicum practice; utilization of a systematic approach to problem solving; any value dilemmas observed and/or experienced; growth over time in awareness of use of self as a professional social worker; and appropriate use of supervision. It is important to be explicit in making observations relevant to diversity and social justice. Completion of journals in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course. The Practicum journal is a learning tool to be shared with the Faculty Liaison.

Practicum journals are due **weekly as determined by the classroom faculty liaison.**

FACULTY LIAISON VISITS. The Faculty Liaison will meet with the intern and Practicum Instructor at least two times (FULL) or three times (EXTENDED) to confer regarding internship responsibilities, educational progress, and agency expectations. The format and schedule of visits will vary depending on the needs of agencies, students, and Faculty Liaison but should include a minimum of one onsite visit. Generally speaking, liaison visits should fall one in each half of the semester for full block, spring-only students and one in each third of the semester for extended internships.

At a minimum, liaison visits should address the following:

- 1. First liaison visit:**
 - a. Introduce educational team roles
 - b. Establish communication channels and expectations
 - c. Review the Practicum Expectations Checklist
 - d. Introduce the Practicum Seminar syllabus
 - e. Review the Learning Contract, timesheets

- f. Review Internship Responsibilities and Progress
 - g. Check in on the Agency and SHSSW partnership
 - h. Review the upcoming Calendar/Schedule
- 2. Mid-term liaison visit (typically EXTENDED ONLY):**
- a. Review progress and/or revise goals on the Learning Contract
 - b. Review the mid-term evaluation, first process recording, timesheets
 - c. Review Internship Responsibilities and Progress
 - d. Inquire about concerns
 - e. Identify goals for the remainder of the internship
 - f. Check in on the Agency and SHSSW partnership
 - g. Review the upcoming Calendar/Schedule
- 3. Final liaison visit:**
- a. Review progress on the Learning Contract
 - b. Review the final evaluation, second process recording, timesheets
 - c. Review Internship Responsibilities and Progress
 - d. Discuss professional preparations
 - e. Check in on the Agency and SHSSW partnership
 - f. Congratulations/next steps to the Intern and thanks to the Practicum Instructor

LEARNING CONTRACT. The student should develop a written learning contract with the input and approval of the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison no later than the third week in placement. In general, this document should serve as a guide for (1) development of Practicum assignments; (2) further evaluation of a student's performance in Practicum; and (3) student readiness for more independent practice. Periodic review and modification(s) of the contract are recommended throughout the semester. Copies of modified contracts are to be shared with the Faculty Liaison upon revision. Completion of the learning contract in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course. Interns and Practicum Instructors are encouraged to reference the Practicum Evaluation when developing the learning contract <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>.

Learning contracts are typically reviewed at the first liaison visit and copies signed by both the student and Practicum Instructor are due to the Faculty Liaison soon thereafter, prior to spring break.

PROCESS RECORDINGS. Process recordings are utilized for educational supervision with the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. A minimum of two process recordings are due over the course of each semester. Completion of process recordings in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved as an active participant, and that incorporates the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to the interaction.

Process recordings are to be spread out over the internship to allow comparison between different

points in time and potentially student development. More information is provided to the student by the Faculty Liaison. The intern must be an active party in the PR. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor. Students are advised to submit their PR to their Practicum Instructor two weeks prior to the due date to the Faculty Liaison.

The Faculty Liaison may adjust due dates for internship-based reasons. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR. The Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may require additional PRs as needed.

MIDTERM EVALUATION. The midterm evaluation enables students to self-evaluate and to receive feedback from their Practicum Instructor. The evaluation process assists students in planning for and demonstrating growth in the competencies. The student and Practicum Instructor both contribute actively to creating both the midterm and final evaluation. The midterm evaluation survey serves as a first draft for the final evaluation. Each student placement has an individualized evaluation link available to them in Canvas. The word document version of the evaluation can be viewed at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and may be especially helpful in planning student responsibilities. Expectations and further instructions will be conveyed by the Faculty Liaison.

The midterm evaluation includes:

1. The midterm evaluation survey using the individual survey link;
2. Timesheets to date;
3. Process Recording as appropriate; and
4. A midterm liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

All Practicum assignment specific due dates are determined by the Practicum Instructor. Midterm evaluations are due near the mid-point of the internship.

SIMULATIONS. The SHSSW coordinates small group instructional simulations in partnership with the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medicine as well as professional social work practitioners. Instructional simulations provide constructed experiential skill building and practice model integration. Students will earn up to six hours of Practicum credit for completion of live remote simulations and/or in-person simulations including the associated pre- and post-assignments.

Simulations will be completed by the end of the fall semester.

STUDENT NARRATIVE. The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of each semester of Practicum and is a guided reflection of the student's experience over the course of the internship. It allows the student to demonstrate the ability to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

Student narratives are due before the end of the 400-hour internship.

FINAL EVALUATION. The final evaluation includes:

1. The student self-reflection;
2. The finalized evaluation form using the individual survey link;
3. Completed timesheets;
4. Process Recordings as appropriate; and
5. The final liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

The student is responsible for the self-reflective narrative, presenting accurate timesheets, and contributing to the final evaluation survey. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the finalized student evaluation and for signing off on accurate timesheets. The final evaluation form incorporates and updates the midterm evaluation. A complete visual of the form is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The final evaluation document is maintained in the student's e-file at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and may be requested by alumni for proof of successful completion to licensure boards, higher education institutions, or government entities (for security clearance).

Final evaluations are due prior to grade submission **NOTE:** Because SW 454 and SW 645C/645C are companion courses, some information relevant to Practicum work will be found in the syllabus for SW 445.

To be eligible for Undergraduate Practicum Instruction SW 645C/645C, students must have completed all core coursework for the BSW program.

VII. GRADES

This course is Pass/Fail and the designation earned will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison taking the following into account:

- Demonstration of competencies as outlined in course objectives and on the evaluation
- Attainment of individualized learning contract objectives
- Quality of participation in Integrative Seminar
- Completion and quality of narrative self-evaluation
- Quality, completion and timeliness of required process recordings
- Quality, completion, and timeliness of weekly Practicum journals
- Quality and completion of simulation activities
- Successful completion of the required Practicum hours

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum

Education.

An incomplete in Practicum, or a failing grade, is earned if work is not completed ***the day before*** grades are due for the semester. **Students must adhere to all Practicum policies and are responsible for the content in the *Student Guide to Undergraduate Practicum*.** The guide can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The syllabus dates and policies supersede those found in the guide to Practicum. The BSW Integrative Seminar and Practicum are taken concurrently. Therefore, satisfactory progress in both class and Practicum is expected. If a student fails Practicum and retakes the class at a later date, they will be required to participate in the integrative seminar and may have additional assignments bridging the applied practice and Practicum courses.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

DUE DATES. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of individualized educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. The specific due dates in each class are determined by the Faculty Liaison.

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Student Guide to Undergraduate Practicum available at:
<https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>;
- BSW Student Handbook at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/student-resources/bsw/policies/>;
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at:
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Beer, Guajardo, Linseisen, Lloyd, Romero, Smith

Course Number: SW 384R (Practicum I) **Instructor:** Same as 383R (Practice I) Professor

Unique Number: As assigned

Office: Refer to 383R Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2022

Office Phone: Refer to 383R Syllabus

Meeting Time/Place: As assigned

Office Hours: Refer to 383R Syllabus

Practicum Instruction I

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practicum Instruction I is a three-credit course including supervised practice experience in an organization providing human services for a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. This is accomplished through an educationally supervised practicum of 220 hours and participation in a weekly Practicum seminar that is designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the expectations for the semester. They serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence.

By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

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.

III. TEACHING METHODS

Methods will be individualized by the agency-based Practicum Instructor to each agency setting and by the Faculty Liaison in the Integrative Seminar. Teaching methods will include: consistent weekly educational supervision, orientation to agency policies and procedures, training necessary to perform the duties required by the agency, case review and discussion, small group exercises, journaling, learning contracts, process recordings, role play, and role modeling. Methods will be individualized to each agency setting.

IV. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Disability and Access area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary

action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, Practicum instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is

the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

V. PRACTICUM CLASS POLICIES

All Practicum policies may be found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and students are responsible to the content in the guides to Practicum.

SAFETY IN PRACTICUM. Practicum is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for Practicum. It is always important that students communicate safety concerns in Practicum with their Faculty Liaison and/or Practicum Instructor. Students are expected to communicate concerns and requests in a professional and collaborative manner. Regarding COVID-19, students are strongly encouraged to:

- Get vaccinated and follow up with booster shots as recommended [Protect Texas Together | The University of Texas at Austin \(utexas.edu\)](#).
- Consider wearing a mask that covers both their nose and mouth while in confined, shared spaces.
- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in Practicum settings. Six feet is recommended.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Practicum

Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend Practicum for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment.

Interns at shared sites are expected to hold each other accountable to safety standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the Office of Practicum Education will support a student who chooses to leave a Practicum site for safety reasons. Of course, the student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety issue with their Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructors in adapting accordingly.

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. Students pay a \$14 malpractice insurance coverage premium at registration using UT's "What I Owe" page. This is a requirement of the University, an expectation of many agencies, and good professional practice for a social work career. Malpractice insurance does not cover transportation of clients and students are never allowed to transport clients or to handle bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice coverage is available in the Practicum database for both the intern and Practicum Instructor.

CHANGE IN PLACEMENT. The goal is for students to complete their 400-hour internship at the same site to allow for consistent professional growth, educational immersion, and skill acquisition. However, the Faculty Liaison may move a student to a different internship due to a variety of reasons including the educational environment, student failure to progress, or the need to remove the student from Practicum. The decision to move a student to a different placement rests with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor but may be initiated by student concerns. More information may be found in the guide to Practicum available at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Students are expected to communicate professionally in and related to their internship settings including with clients, supervisors, colleagues, educators, and the public.

Under all circumstances, students are required to uphold client confidentiality with special attention to electronic communication including but not limited to social media accounts, video conferencing, blogs, websites, and non-agency approved email, chat or other platforms. Identifiable client information should not be included in UT email.

Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics. UT-SHSSW interns are representing themselves, the School, and the profession in all Practicum related communications.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Mobile phone use in the Practicum placement has ethical, legal, and liability implications. It also has implications regarding professional boundaries and self-care. Use of a personal mobile phone for client communication is strongly discouraged, but if necessary, should be planned well and in advance with the agency Practicum Instructor. Students are encouraged to use intermediary services such as Google Voice to protect their personal contact information.

Students are expected to follow agency protocols regarding recordings, informed client consent, and secure channels for remote communication. All UT students have access to secure Zoom accounts that can be used for communication but not confidential client recordings. Students are expected to take steps to present themselves and their surrounding video conferencing environments in a professional manner.

USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS. In this class the professors use Canvas, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Use may include the following: to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas 24/7 by following these steps: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/how-do-i-access-24-slash-7-help>.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DUE DATES. All students are required to complete the assignments listed below. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. Due dates will be determined by your Faculty Liaison.

ASSIGNMENTS. Students must meet the same Practicum requirements regardless of agency placement or assigned seminar. To meet these requirements, students are provided with a set of educational experiences under the supervision of the Practicum Instructor.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained at the beginning of this course syllabi and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>. The assignments are structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies. Basic expectations for Practicum are identified in the Practicum Expectations Checklist.

The expected minimum Practicum assignments as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education have historically included the following. Internships may contain a combination of the following but the student, Practicum Instructor, and Faculty Liaison are encouraged to create a balance of assignments 1-4 that serve the student's education and the agency's mission.

1. Students must work directly with the client populations served by their agencies remotely and/or onsite. It is expected that each student will carry a "learner's" load of approximately 4 to 6 cases throughout the semester. The caseload may vary depending on the setting, nature, and duration of client services. Students are expected to participate in engagement, assessment, and intervention phases of the helping process. Students must have opportunities to work with diverse clients, including women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA, or other specialized populations. Agency and academic documentation are required, including: process recordings, case assessments, Practicum journals, ongoing case/group recordings, and administrative reports. Any documentation required by the agency must be completed.
2. When possible, students should take advantage of the opportunity to co-plan and co-facilitate a group within their agency settings remotely and/or onsite. Students must participate in some group work. Students may plan for a group during their first semester and actually implement it during the second semester. The identification of this assignment is done in conjunction with the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison in order to ensure that the type of group that is cofacilitated is consistent with the level of intervention skills of a beginning level practitioner.
3. During the course of the two semesters at the agency, students will complete a macro project in community, administration, or leadership. Typically, the macro project is in response to an agency need and fosters skill and experience for the emerging professional. The Faculty Liaison will provide instruction for the evidence of completion. Students may begin the macro project in either the fall or the spring semester based on agency need and student readiness.
4. Students are encouraged to:
 - Participate in staff meetings;
 - Attend board meetings during the semester;
 - Participate in community events and/or inter-organizational meetings;
 - Present a case in a staffing forum used by the agency; and
 - Take part in additional opportunities that serve the student's education, professional connections, and the agency's mission

HOURS. Students are required to intern 220 hours each semester for a total of 400 hours. With supervisory permission, students may accrue up to 20 hours over the winter break. Hours for Practicum include time spent in Integrative Seminars (up to 60 minutes weekly), on

journals (up to 30 minutes) weekly, and process recordings (up to two hours/assignment). Students will schedule their hours with the Practicum Instructor to meet the needs of the agency and to fulfill the required 16 hours per week in Practicum. Time spent commuting to and from the agency as well as non-working lunches may not be counted toward the Practicum hour requirement. Time invested in Practicum-related workshops must be pre-approved by the Practicum Instructor and reported to the Faculty Liaison. Professional development and demonstrated competences are the priority for time invested in Practicum. Therefore, no Practicum time can be used to work on class assignments or personal communications.

Hours absent from Practicum are not counted toward the required 400-hour total, e.g., inclement weather closures, etc. The one exception is if there are COVID-related concerns, e.g., intern exposure or illness, and then the student is encouraged to coordinate with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison for alternative Practicum hour options. Faculty Liaisons are expected to consult with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education if a student misses more than 32 hours of Practicum for any reason.

Students are entitled to a week off for fall, spring break and around graduation ceremonies (for extended internships) but should coordinate actual dates and times with their Practicum Instructor since agency responsibilities may require that the student take alternative dates. Students are not required to take fall, spring or graduation break.

ATTENDANCE. Attendance and punctuality in Practicum demonstrate professional accountability. If, due to illness or emergency, a student is unable to report to Practicum or will be late, the appropriate agency personnel must be informed as early as possible. The Practicum Instructor must be informed of the reason, and the student is responsible for any missed Practicum obligations. Hours absent from Practicum, regardless of the reason, are not counted toward the required 220 hours per semester. One Practicum hour is accrued for each week of attendance at the Integrative Practicum Seminar.

INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION WITH THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR. Educational supervision is a collaborative relationship between the Practicum Instructor and the intern that facilitates the development of professional competence. It is an interactional process in which the primary purpose is to ensure the quality of client care while the supervisee is gaining professional competence. Because performance as an adult, self-directed learner is the work pattern demanded in graduate Practicum instruction, it is the student's responsibility to explore the balance between the personal and professional, evaluate their own work, and accept constructive feedback. A minimum of one hour per week of scheduled educational supervision with the agency-based Practicum Instructor is required.

PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS CHECKLIST. Students are expected to review the Practicum Expectations Checklist with their Practicum Instructor and secure signatures at their first supervisory meeting. Students are expected to upload their signed Practicum Expectations Checklist to the Practicum database within the first four weeks of the semester.

If the agency and student do not have e-signatory or scanning capacity, the student may email the checklist to the Practicum office at ssw-Practicum@austin.utexas.edu with the Practicum Instructor

carbon copied (cc'd) and the following statement: We have reviewed and agree to the expectations in listed in the attached document.

To upload documents in the database, students should follow these steps:

Login directions:

1. Go to <https://candidate.gradleaders.com/UTSSWPracticum/Candidates/Login.aspx?pid=4842> to be directed to the Office of Practicum Education Database.
2. Enter your username (your UTEID).
3. Click on "Forgot my password" to receive a temporary password by email.
4. Log-in with your temporary password and complete all required Practicums to complete registration.

How to upload documents:

1. Hover your cursor over "My Account."
2. Select "My Documents."
3. Click "Add" to the right of the type of document you are uploading.

The Practicum Expectations Checklist may be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/> and is **due within the first four weeks of the semester.**

INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR. Integrative Practicum Seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to integrate classroom theory to current Practicum and professional experience. The Seminar meets weekly in conjunction with the three-hour Practice I course, SW 383R. Seminar involves peer consultation, challenging personal and professional values, self-exploration and reflection, critical thinking, and group building. Since the goal of the Seminar is to apply knowledge, values, and skills to practice, the success of the Seminar depends on each student's full participation and engagement. This includes respectful sharing and listening to the opinions and concerns of others, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and supportive manner, and being willing to promote group cohesiveness in a learning environment.

Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision. Students are not permitted to discuss details disclosed in the Seminar with individuals outside the cohort. Violations of Seminar confidentiality may result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

TIME SHEETS. Students are responsible for keeping time sheets documenting hours logged in Practicum. Time sheets should be submitted to the Faculty Liaison at least monthly. Time sheets should be completed by the student, approved by the Practicum Instructor, and available for review during the on-site visits by the Faculty Liaison. Students are encouraged to use the agency- provided timesheets only if that is easiest.

A time sheet template with automatic hour summation can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

JOURNALS. Weekly Practicum journals provide the student an opportunity to process and integrate Practicum experiences. The Practicum journal should demonstrate the student's growth and progress as a practitioner as well as the attainment of the objectives for SW 383R. Completion of journals in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Students should make entries consisting of a description of activities in the Practicum placement for that day and an analysis of those activities. Journal entries should reflect the following: an awareness of feelings, attitudes, and values; observations and thoughts about the organizational operation of the agency; linkage of theory/knowledge in Practicum practice; utilization of a systematic approach to problem solving; any value dilemmas observed and/or experienced; growth over time in awareness of use of self as a professional social worker; and appropriate use of supervision. It is important to be explicit in making observations relevant to diversity and social justice. Completion of journals in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course. The Practicum journal is a learning tool to be shared with the Faculty Liaison.

Practicum journals are due **weekly as determined by the classroom faculty liaison.**

FACULTY LIAISON VISITS. The Faculty Liaison will meet with the intern and Practicum Instructor at least two times a semester to confer regarding internship responsibilities, educational progress, and agency expectations, once in person and once via video or teleconference. The format and schedule of visits will vary depending on the needs of agencies, students, and Faculty Liaison.

LEARNING CONTRACT. The student should develop a written learning contract with the input and approval of the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison no later than the fourth week in placement. In general, this document should serve as a guide for (1) development of Practicum assignments; (2) further evaluation of a student's performance in Practicum; and (3) student readiness for more independent practice. Periodic review and modification(s) of the contract are recommended if there are significant changes in student responsibilities or the setting. Copies of modified contracts are to be shared with the Faculty Liaison upon revision. Completion of the learning contract in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Interns and Practicum Instructors are encouraged to reference the Practicum Evaluation when developing the learning contract <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

Learning contracts are typically reviewed at the first liaison visit and copies signed by both the student and Practicum Instructor.

PROCESS RECORDINGS. Process recordings are utilized for educational supervision with the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. A minimum of two process recordings will be due over the course of each semester. Completion of process recordings in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved as an active participant and that incorporates the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to the interaction.

Process recordings are to be spread out over the internship to allow comparison between different points in time and potentially student development. More information is provided to the student by the Faculty Liaison.

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor. Students are advised to submit their PR to their Practicum Instructor two weeks prior to the due date to the Faculty Liaison.
3. The Faculty Liaison may adjust due dates for internship-based reasons.
4. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
5. The Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may require additional PRs as needed.

MIDTERM EVALUATION. The midterm evaluation enables students to self-evaluate and to receive feedback from their Practicum Instructor. The evaluation process assists students in planning for and demonstrating growth in the competencies. The student and Practicum Instructor both contribute actively to creating both the midterm and final evaluation. The midterm evaluation survey serves as a first draft for the final evaluation. Students and Practicum Instructors will receive a Survey Monkey link from the Office of Practicum Education by September 15. The word document version of the evaluation can be viewed at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and may be especially helpful in planning student responsibilities. Expectations and further instructions will be conveyed by the Faculty Liaison.

The midterm evaluation includes:

1. The midterm evaluation survey;
1. Timesheets to date;
2. Process Recording as appropriate; and
2. A midterm liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

SIMULATIONS. The SHSSW coordinates small group instructional simulations in partnership with the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medicine as well as professional social work practitioners. Instructional simulations provide constructed experiential skill building and practice model integration. Students in four of the six MSSW first Practicum cohorts will choose one from among 10 or more options including but not limited hospital, detox, and disaster drills: Beer, Linseisen, Romero, and Smith. Students in the remaining MSSW first Practicum cohorts will participate in these simulations during the spring: Guajardo and Lloyd. Students will earn up to six hours of Practicum credit for completion of live remote simulations and the associated pre- and post-assignments. Simulations must be completed by the end of the semester.

STUDENT NARRATIVE. The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of each semester of Practicum and is a guided reflection of the student’s experience over the course of the internship. It allows the student to demonstrate the ability to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

FINAL EVALUATION. The final evaluation includes

1. The student self-reflection;
2. The finalized evaluation form;
3. Completed timesheets;
4. Process Recordings as appropriate; and
5. The final liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

The student is responsible for the self-reflective narrative, presenting accurate timesheets, and contributing to the final evaluation survey. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the finalized student evaluation and for signing off on accurate timesheets. The final evaluation form incorporates and updates the mid-term evaluation. A complete visual of the form is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The final evaluation document is maintained in the student’s folder at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and may be requested by alumni for proof of successful completion to licensure boards, higher education institutions, or government entities (for security clearance).

VII. GRADES

The following distribution will be used to assign grades in this course.

Score Range	Grade	Score Range	Grade
94.0 - 99.999	A	74.0 - 76.999	C
90.0 - 93.999	A-	70.0 - 73.999	C-
87.0 - 89.999	B+	67.0 - 69.999	D+
84.0 - 86.999	B	64.0 - 66.999	D
80.0 - 83.999	B-	60.0 - 63.999	D-
77.0 - 79.999	C+	Below 60	F

The grade for SW 384R will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison. In determining the final Practicum grade, the Faculty Liaison will take the following into account:

- Demonstration of competencies as outlined in course objectives and on the evaluation
- Attainment of individualized learning contract objectives
- Quality of participation in Integrative Seminar
- Completion and quality of narrative self-evaluation
- Quality, completion and timeliness of required process recordings
- Quality, completion, and timeliness of weekly Practicum journals

- Quality and completion of simulation activities
- Successful completion of the required Practicum hours

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

Plus (+) and minus (-) designations may be utilized by the Faculty Liaison as authorized by the University. A student earns an A in Practicum I by consistently demonstrating outstanding progress in all areas listed above. A student earns a B by consistently demonstrating satisfactory progress in all areas listed above. A student earns a C by demonstrating inconsistent and/or unsatisfactory progress in all areas listed above. Although a C is a passing grade, it can be a warning sign of potential problems and will be reported to the Assistant Deans for Practicum Education and the MSSW Program. A student earning a C- or below will not earn credit for this course.

Practice Course I and first Practicum are taken concurrently. Therefore, satisfactory progress in both class and Practicum is expected. If a student fails Practicum and is able to retake Practicum the next semester is available, they will be required to also retake the associated practice class concurrently regardless of grade previously earned in that class. Students may not carry an incomplete in either course into the next semester. Students must receive a C or better in first semester to continue. Syllabi for the practice courses are provided to the student at the beginning of the semester.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

DUE DATES. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of individualized educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. The specific due dates in each class are determined by the Faculty Liaison.

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at:
<https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.
- NASW Code of Ethics available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at:
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/socialwork/sw_conduct.shtm
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
 Beer, Linseisen, Romero, Simmons, Sloan, Smith

Course Number:	SW 384S (Practicum II)	Instructor:	Same as 383T (Practice II) Professor
Unique Number:	As assigned	Office:	Refer to 383T Syllabus
Semester:	Spring 2022	Office Phone:	Refer to 383T Syllabus
Meeting Time/Place:	As assigned	Office Hours:	Refer to 383T Syllabus

Practicum Instruction II

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practicum Instruction II is a three-credit course including supervised practice experience in an organization providing human services for a variety of client populations. This course places emphasis on increased knowledge and skills for working with client systems, i.e. individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students are further expected to integrate learning related to leadership skills, advocacy and the application of theory. This is accomplished through an educationally supervised practicum of 220 hours and participation in a weekly Practicum seminar that is designed to integrate practice and theories related to human behavior, organizational and community dynamics and policy in the context of service planning and service delivery.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the expectations for the semester. They serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence.

By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

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.

III. TEACHING METHODS

Methods will be individualized by the agency-based Practicum Instructor to each agency setting and by the Faculty Liaison in the Integrative Seminar. Teaching methods will include: consistent weekly educational supervision, orientation to agency policies and procedures, training necessary to perform the duties required by the agency, case review and discussion, small group exercises, journaling, learning contracts, process recordings, role play, and role modeling. Methods will be individualized to each agency setting.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.
- MSSW Program Handbook available at: [Resources for Current MSSW Students - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/)
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at: [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. **GENERAL.** To be eligible for Practicum Instruction II 384S, students must have successfully completed Practicum Instruction I 384R and Social Work Practice I 383R and be concurrently enrolled in Social Work Practice II 383T.

Students must meet the same Practicum requirements regardless of agency placement or assigned seminar. To meet these requirements, students are provided with a set of educational experiences under the supervision of the Practicum Instructor.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained at the beginning of this course syllabi and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>. The assignments are structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies. Basic expectations for Practicum are identified in the Practicum Expectations Checklist.

The expected minimum Practicum assignments as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education have historically included the following. For the Academic Year 2021-22, internships may contain a combination of the following but the student, Practicum Instructor, and Faculty Liaison are encouraged to create a balance of assignments 1-4 that serve the student's education and the agency's mission.

1. Students must work directly with the client populations served by their agencies remotely and/or onsite. It is expected that each student will carry a "learner's" load of approximately four to six cases throughout the semester. The caseload may vary depending on the setting, nature, and duration of client services. Students are expected to participate in engagement, assessment, and intervention phases of the helping process. Students must have opportunities to work with diverse clients, including women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA, or other specialized populations. Agency and academic documentation are required, including: process recordings, case assessments, Practicum journals, ongoing case/group recordings, and administrative reports. Any documentation required by the agency must be completed.
2. When possible, students should take advantage of the opportunity to co-plan and co-facilitate a group within their agency settings remotely and/or onsite. Students may plan for a group during their first semester and actually implement it during the second semester. The identification of this assignment is done in conjunction with the Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison in order to ensure that the type of group that is cofacilitated is consistent with the level of intervention skills of a beginning level practitioner.
3. During the course of the two semesters at the agency, students will complete a macro project in community, administration, or leadership. Typically, the macro project is in response to an agency need and fosters skill and experience for the emerging professional. The Faculty Liaison will provide instruction for the evidence of completion. Students may begin the macro project in either the fall or the spring semester based on agency need and student readiness.
4. Students should be encouraged to:
 - Participate in staff meetings;
 - Attend board meetings during the semester;
 - Participate in community events and/or inter-organizational meetings;
 - Present a case in a staffing forum used by the agency; and
 - Take part in additional opportunities that serve the student's education, professional connections, and the agency's mission
5. **HOURS.** For Academic Year 2021-22, students are required to intern 220 hours for the fall semester and 220 hours for the spring semester for a total of 400 hours. With supervisory permission, students may accrue up to 20 hours over the winter break. Hours for Practicum include time spent in Integrative Seminars (up to 60 minutes weekly), on journals (up to 30 minutes) weekly, and process recordings (up to two hours/assignment). Students will schedule their hours with the Practicum Instructor to meet the needs of the agency and to fulfill the required 16 hours per week in Practicum. Time spent commuting to and from the agency as well as non-working lunches may not be counted toward the Practicum hour requirement. Time invested in Practicum-related workshops must be pre-approved by the Practicum Instructor and reported to the Faculty Liaison.

Professional development and demonstrated competences are the priority for time invested in Practicum. Therefore, no Practicum time can be used to work on class assignments or personal communications.

Hours absent from Practicum are not counted toward the required total, e.g., inclement weather closures, etc. The one exception is if there are COVID-related concerns, e.g., intern exposure or illness, and then the student is encouraged to coordinate with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison for alternative Practicum hour options. Faculty Liaisons are expected to consult with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education if a student misses more than 32 hours of Practicum for any reason.

Students are entitled to a week off for spring break but should coordinate actual dates and times with their Practicum Instructor since agency responsibilities may require that the student take alternative dates. Students are not required to take spring break.

C. INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION WITH THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR.

Educational supervision is a collaborative relationship between the Practicum Instructor and the intern that facilitates the development of professional competence. It is an interactional process in which the primary purpose is to ensure the quality of client care while the supervisee is gaining professional competence. Because performance as an adult, self-directed learner is the work pattern demanded in graduate Practicum instruction, it is the student's responsibility to explore the balance between the personal and professional, evaluate their own work, and accept constructive feedback. A minimum of one hour per week of individualized scheduled educational supervision with the agency-based Practicum Instructor is required.

D. PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS CHECKLIST. Students are expected to review the Practicum Expectations Checklist with their Practicum Instructor and secure signatures at their first supervisory meeting. Students are expected to upload their signed Practicum Expectations Checklist to the Practicum database by the end of week four, February 11.

To upload documents in the Practicum database:

Sign in: <https://candidate.gradleaders.com/UTSSWPracticum/Candidates/Login.aspx?pid=4842>

- Click "My Profile" on the left menu
- Select "Additional Documents"
- Click "Upload New" above the Additional Documents title
- Click under "Document Filename" and select your document
- Click under "Document Title" to name the file
- Click Save.

The Practicum Expectations Checklist is **due no later than February 11** and is available at:

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1295932/files/57375973/download?wrap=1>.

E. INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR. Integrative Practicum Seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to integrate classroom theory to current Practicum and professional experience. The Seminar meets weekly in conjunction with the three-hour Practice II course, SW 383S. Seminar involves peer consultation, challenging personal and professional values, self-exploration and reflection, critical thinking, and group building. Since the goal of the Seminar is to apply knowledge, values, and skills to practice, the

success of the Seminar depends on each student's full participation and engagement. This includes respectful sharing and listening to the opinions and concerns of others, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and supportive manner, and being willing to promote group cohesiveness in a learning environment.

Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision. Students are not permitted to discuss details disclosed in the Seminar with individuals outside the cohort. Violations of Seminar confidentiality may result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

F. **TIMESHEETS.** Students are responsible for keeping a time sheet documenting hours logged in Practicum. Time sheets should be completed by the student, approved by the Practicum Instructor, and available for review during the liaison visits by the Faculty Liaison. Students are encouraged to use the agency timesheets provided or the template available at [Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/), not both.

A time sheet template with automatic hour summation can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

Time sheets are due to the Faculty Liaison through the Canvas page monthly.

G. **JOURNALS.** Weekly Practicum journals provide the student an opportunity to process and integrate Practicum experiences. The Practicum journal should demonstrate the student's growth and progress as a practitioner as well as the attainment of the objectives for SW 383R.

Students should make entries consisting of a description of activities in the Practicum placement for that day and an analysis of those activities. Journal entries should reflect the following: an awareness of feelings, attitudes, and values; observations and thoughts about the organizational operation of the agency; linkage of theory/knowledge in Practicum practice; utilization of a systematic approach to problem solving; any value dilemmas observed and/or experienced; growth over time in awareness of use of self as a professional social worker; and appropriate use of supervision. It is important to be explicit in making observations relevant to diversity and social justice. Completion of journals in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course. The Practicum journal is a learning tool to be shared with the Faculty Liaison.

Practicum journals are due **weekly as determined by the classroom faculty liaison.**

H. **FACULTY LIAISON VISITS.** The Faculty Liaison will meet with the intern and Practicum Instructor at least two times (FULL) a semester to confer regarding internship responsibilities, educational progress, and agency expectations. The format and schedule of visits will vary depending on the needs of agencies, students, and Faculty Liaison but should include a minimum of one onsite visit. Generally speaking, liaison visits should fall one in each half of the semester.

Topics of discussion should include but are not limited to:

- Review educational tools, e.g., the Learning Contract, Process Recordings, etc.
- Review Internship Responsibilities and Progress
- Identifying goals for the remainder of the internship
- Check in on the Agency and SHSSW partnership
- Review the upcoming Calendar/Schedule

I. LEARNING CONTRACT. The student should develop a written learning contract with the input and approval of the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison no later than the fifth week in placement. In general, this document should serve as a guide for (1) development of Practicum assignments; (2) further evaluation of a student's performance in Practicum; and (3) student readiness for more independent practice. Periodic review and modification(s) of the contract are recommended throughout the semester. Copies of modified contracts are to be shared with the Faculty Liaison upon revision. Completion of the learning contract in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Learning contracts may be reviewed at the first liaison visit and copies signed by both the student and Practicum Instructor are due to the Faculty Liaison soon thereafter, prior to spring break.

J. PROCESS RECORDINGS. Process recordings are utilized for educational supervision with the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. A minimum of two process recordings are due over the course of each semester. Completion of process recordings in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved as an active participant and that incorporates the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to the interaction.

Process recordings are to be spread out over the internship to allow comparison between different points in time and potentially student development. More information is provided to the student by the Faculty Liaison.

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. The Faculty Liaison returns the PR with their additional comments to the student and Practicum Instructor. Students are advised to submit their PR to their Practicum Instructor two weeks prior to the due date to the Faculty Liaison.
3. The Faculty Liaison may adjust due dates for internship-based reasons.
4. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
5. The Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may require additional PRs as needed.

K. MIDTERM EVALUATION. The midterm evaluation enables students to self-evaluate and to receive feedback from their Practicum Instructor. The evaluation process assists students in planning for and demonstrating growth in the competencies. The student and Practicum Instructor both contribute actively to creating both the midterm and final evaluation. The midterm evaluation survey serves as a first draft for the final evaluation. Each student placement has an individualized evaluation link available to them in Canvas. The word document version of the evaluation can be viewed at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and may be especially helpful in planning student responsibilities. Expectations and further instructions will be conveyed by the Faculty Liaison.

The midterm evaluation includes:

1. The midterm evaluation survey using the individual survey link;
2. Timesheets to date;
3. Process Recording as appropriate; and
4. A midterm liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

All Practicum assignment specific due dates are determined by the Practicum Instructor. Midterm evaluations are due near the mid-point of the internship, mid-to no later than the end of week 10 (less spring break)

L. SIMULATIONS. The SHSSW coordinates small group instructional simulations in partnership with the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medicine as well as professional social work practitioners. Instructional simulations provide constructed experiential skill building and practice model integration. Students will earn up to six hours of Practicum credit for completion of live remote simulations and/or in-person simulations including the associated pre- and post- assignments. For the spring semester, Professor's Beer and Romero's classes will participate. Students in Professors' Linseisen, Simmons, Sloan, and Smith's classes should have already completed their simulations in the fall and may be able to attend additional simulations with prior permission from their faculty liaisons.

Simulations will be completed no later than **May 17.**

M. STUDENT NARRATIVE. The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of each semester of Practicum and is a guided reflection of the student's experience over the course of the internship. It allows the student to demonstrate the ability to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

Student narratives are due no later than May 17, prior to grades being submitted for the semester.

N. **FINAL EVALUATION.** The final evaluation includes

1. The student self-reflection;
2. The finalized evaluation form using the individual survey link;
3. Completed timesheets;
4. Process Recordings as appropriate; and
5. The final liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

The student is responsible for the self-reflective narrative, presenting accurate timesheets, and contributing to the final evaluation survey. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the finalized student evaluation and for signing off on accurate timesheets. The final evaluation form incorporates and updates the mid-term evaluation. A complete visual of the form is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The final evaluation document is maintained in the student's folder at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and may be requested by alumni for proof of successful completion to licensure boards, higher education institutions, or government entities (for security clearance).

Final evaluations are due no later than May 17, prior to grades being submitted for the semester

VI. GRADES

Earned letter grades will be assigned using the following scale.

Score Range	Grade	Score Range	Grade
94.0 - 99.999	A	74.0 - 76.999	C
90.0 - 93.999	A-	70.0 - 73.999	C-
87.0 - 89.999	B+	67.0 - 69.999	D+
84.0 - 86.999	B	64.0 - 66.999	D
80.0 - 83.999	B-	60.0 - 63.999	D-
77.0 - 79.999	C+	Below 60	F

The grade earned for this course will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison and will take the following into account:

- Demonstration of competencies as outlined in course objectives and on the evaluation
- Attainment of individualized learning contract objectives
- Quality of participation in Integrative Seminar
- Completion and quality of narrative self-evaluation
- Quality, completion and timeliness of required process recordings
- Quality, completion, and timeliness of weekly Practicum journals
- Quality and completion of simulation activities
- Successful completion of the required Practicum hours

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

All work in Practicum must be completed in a timely manner but no later than the last class day. An Incomplete in Practicum, or a failing grade, will be given if work is not completed by this date, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

Students must adhere to all Practicum policies and are responsible for the content in the MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

The Practice II and Practicum are taken concurrently. Therefore, satisfactory progress in both Practice and Practicum is expected. If a student fails Practicum and is able to retake Practicum the next semester is available, they may also be required to also retake the associated practice class concurrently regardless of grade previously earned in that class.

Although a C is a passing grade, it can be a warning sign of potential problems and will be reported to the Assistant Deans for Practicum Education and the MSSW Program. A student earning a C- or below will not earn credit for this course.

VII. PRACTICUM CLASS POLICIES

All Practicum policies may be found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and students are responsible for the content in the guides to Practicum. It should be noted that the Spring 2022 syllabus dates, hours, and policies supersede those in the guides to Practicum.

A. SAFETY AND COVID-19. Practicum is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high-quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for Practicum. For AY21-22, students may choose to intern completely remotely, completely onsite, or some hybrid combination of the two with the knowledge that agency internship offerings will have expectations of their own that can limit options and may subsequently delay graduation.

Students who choose to participate in onsite Practicum activities are strongly encouraged to:

- Wear a mask that covers both their nose and mouth at all times while inside buildings. Students may remove masks if they are able to be outside and at least six feet away from other people at their internships or in a secured office alone.
- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in Practicum settings. Six feet is recommended for areas without masks. With masks, the distance of three or more feet is recommended when possible. Limiting the number of people within shared spaces is an important aspect of social distancing. Students are expected to take responsibility for maintaining safe distances.
- Practice enhanced hygiene including frequent and thorough handwashing with soap, using Food and Drug Administration approved sanitizer when handwashing is not readily available, and minimal contact with surfaces and the student's face.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend Practicum for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment. Students are also required to notify their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison if they have a positive COVID-19 test. Students who test positive for COVID-19 are not allowed to intern onsite until five days after a negative test or the amount of time identified as best medical practice by the Centers for Disease Control at that time.

Fully vaccinated and/or boosted students and those with proof of COVID-19 antibodies are required to maintain the same safety practices listed above. These students are expected to consult with their Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons regarding the policies and procedures related to COVID-19 exposure in their internship settings.

Students are accountable for maintaining protective practices, policies, and procedures at their settings. Similarly, interns at shared sites are expected to support each other's accountability. Students must hold each other accountable to the same standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the Office of Practicum Education will support a student who chooses to leave a Practicum site for safety reasons. Of course, the student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety issue with their Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructors in adapting accordingly.

Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening using the Protect Texas Together application available online at the App Store. Students are responsible for information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms available at <https://protect.utexas.edu/>.

B. ATTENDANCE. Attendance and punctuality in Practicum demonstrate professional accountability. If, due to illness or emergency, a student is unable to report to Practicum or will be late, the appropriate agency personnel must be informed as early as possible. The Practicum Instructor must be informed of the reason, and the student is responsible for any missed Practicum obligations. Hours absent from Practicum, regardless of the reason, are not counted toward the required 400 (full block – spring) or 220 hours (extended block – spring/summer) per semester for AY2021-22. One Practicum hour is accrued for each week of attendance at the Integrative Practicum Seminar. Students who extend into the summer are required to attend Integrative Practicum Seminar every other week throughout the summer semester.

C. MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. Students must be covered by an adequate malpractice insurance policy before beginning Practicum. The School of Social Work, through the Office of Practicum Education, makes information available for students to purchase this policy prior to entering Practicum. Malpractice insurance does not cover transportation of clients. Students are never allowed to transport clients nor to handle bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice coverage is available in the Practicum database for both the intern and Practicum Instructor.

D. CHANGE IN PLACEMENT. The goal is for students to complete their 400-hour internship at the same site to allow for consistent professional growth, educational immersion, and skill acquisition. However, the Faculty Liaison may move a student to a different internship, due to a variety of reasons including the educational environment, student failure to progress, or the need to remove the student from Practicum. The decision to move a student to a different placement rests with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor but may be initiated by student concerns. Additional information may be found in the guide to Practicum at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

Students are required to express internship concerns within the educational team including the intern, Practicum instructor, faculty liaison, additional agency-based additional advisory staff, and the Office of Practicum Education members. Students are prohibited from expressing concerns in Practicum via social media, the agency supervisory communication chain, and/or agency human resources and may receive educational sanctions if they choose to step outside this process.

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

E. PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Students are expected to communicate professionally in and related to their internship settings including with clients, supervisors, colleagues, educators, and the public.

Under all circumstances, students are required to uphold client confidentiality with special attention to electronic communication including but not limited to social media accounts, videoconferencing, blogs, websites, and non-agency approved email, chat or other platforms. Identifiable client information should not be included in UT email.

Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics. UT-SHSSW interns are representing themselves, the School, and the profession in all Practicum related communications.

Mobile phone use in the Practicum placement has ethical, legal, and liability implications. It also has implications regarding professional boundaries and self-care. Use of a personal mobile phone for client communication is strongly discouraged, but if necessary, should be planned well and in advance with the agency Practicum Instructor.

Students are expected to follow agency protocols regarding recordings, informed client consent, and secure channels for remote communication. All UT students have access to secure Zoom accounts that can be used for communication but not confidential client recordings. Students are expected to take steps to present themselves and their surrounding video conferencing environments in a professional manner.

F. USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS. Faculty Liaisons manage Practicum communication and assignments using Canvas, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Use may include the following: to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas 24/7 by following these steps: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/how-do-i-access-24-slash-7-help>.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A. COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

B. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

C. DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

D. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement

and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

E. UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

F. POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

G. POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

H. USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

I. CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

J. UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

K. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

L. TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty,

Practicum instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

M. CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

N. SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

O. BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

P. EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made.

Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

DUE DATES. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. The specific due dates in each class are determined by the Faculty Liaison.

	Assignments	Due Date
1	Practicum Journals	Weekly
2	Practicum Expectations Checklist	February 11
3	Timesheets	Monthly
5	Learning Contract	Prior to Spring Break, March 11
6	Process Recording #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship
7	Faculty Liaison Visit #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship
	SPRING BREAK	March 14-18
8	Process Recording #2	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second half of internship
9	Midterm Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to end of week 10, April 1
10	Simulations	Prior to spring grades due, May 17
11	Faculty Liaison Visit #2	Prior to spring grades due, May 17
12	Final Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17
13	Student Narrative	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.
- MSSW Program Handbook available at: [Resources for Current MSSW Students - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](#)
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>

- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at:
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SIEVEHICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
 Beer, Calbow, Gaitan, Herman, Linseisen, Romero, Simmons, Sloan, Smith, Voss

Course Number:	SW694R/394S - APP	Instructor:	As assigned
Unique Number:	As assigned	Office:	As assigned
Semester:	Spring/Summer 2022	Office Phone:	As assigned
Meeting Time/Place:	As assigned	Office Hours:	As assigned

**Practicum Instruction
 III and IV**

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9-credit hour course is a 500-hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides macro social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (APP) must be taken concurrently.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for concentration Practicum. Building on Foundation Practicum competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence. The nine competencies can be found on the Practicum evaluation and are measured by the following outcomes.

Students graduating from the Clinical Social Work Concentration will be able to:

1. Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work
2. Recognize and actively engage in efforts to safe guard against personal biases as they affect the working relationship in the service of the clients' well-being
3. Utilize needs, values, and strengths in applying appropriate interventions for diverse client systems
4. Identify and utilize practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective
5. Utilize knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and trauma on clients and client systems to guide treatment planning and intervention
6. Advocate at multiple levels for mental health parity and elimination of

health disparities for diverse populations

7. Utilize research methodology to evaluate clinical practice effectiveness and/or outcome and apply empirically supported evidence for practice

8. Utilize critical thinking and the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients

Identify and evaluate agency programs and/or practices in relation to client

9. Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients

10. Integrate theory-based relational skills in all areas of client engagement

11. Recognize and address the interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the working alliance tools

12. Utilize multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment skills and

13. Conduct a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually driven process

14. Critically evaluate, select, and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions that demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns

15. Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions needs

16. Identify and evaluate agency programs and services in relation to client

17. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate practice effectiveness for a range of bio-psycho- social-spiritual needs

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

Using a common evaluation instrument, this course measures the implementation of knowledge, skills, values, and/or cognitive and affective processes to assess the following competencies:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Outcome 1.1: Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work

Outcome 1.2: Recognize and actively engage in efforts to safe-guard against personal biases as they affect the working relationship in the service of the clients' well-being

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Outcome 2.1: Utilize needs, values, and strengths in applying appropriate interventions for diverse client systems

Outcome 2.2: Identify and utilize practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Outcome 3.1: Utilize knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and trauma on clients and client systems to guide treatment planning and intervention

Outcome 3.2: Advocate at multiple levels for mental health parity and elimination of health disparities for diverse populations

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Outcome 4.1: Utilize research methodology to evaluate clinical practice effectiveness and/or outcome and apply empirically supported evidence for practice

Outcome 4.2: Utilize critical thinking and the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Outcome 5.1: Identify and evaluate agency programs and/or practices in relation to client needs

Outcome 5.2: Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients

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

Outcome 6.1: Integrate theory-based relational skills in all areas of client engagement

Outcome 6.2: Recognize and address the interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the working alliance

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Outcome 7.1: Utilize multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment skills and tools

Outcome 7.2: Conduct a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually driven process

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

Outcome 8.1: Critically evaluate, select, and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions that demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns

Outcome 8.2: Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions

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

Outcome 9.1: Identify and evaluate agency programs and services in relation to client needs

Outcome 9.2: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate practice effectiveness for a range of bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs

III. TEACHING METHODS

Methods will be individualized to each agency setting.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at: [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL. To be eligible for MSSW Final Practicum III & IV SW694R/394S, students must have completed all core coursework for the MSSW program including Practicum I & II.

For final Practicum, the placements align with the student's Clinical or APP concentration and responsibilities are assigned in Practicum under the supervision of the agency-based Practicum Instructor. In the placement process, the interests/needs of the student and the task/needs of the agency are the primary criteria for selection. The assignments vary from agency to agency, student to student.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained at the beginning of this course syllabi in and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>. The assignments are structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies. The majority of the internship will be focused on advanced work appropriate to an emerging professional and within their specialized concentration of Clinical or APP. Basic expectations for Practicum are identified in the Practicum Expectations Checklist.

B. HOURS. All final Practicum Clinical and APP Students enrolled for full-block spring or extended block summer placements must meet a minimum of 500 hours in their settings. Students selecting block placement should register for SW694R/394S concurrently. Students selecting to take extended block must be in Practicum placement for a minimum of 500 hours (i.e., ~22 hours a week for two semesters). A student choosing this option registers for each of

the final Practicum courses separately, and all work for SW694R must be completed before entering SW394S. It is the student's responsibility to register for the required course(s) for Practicum including the concurrent SW385T Capstone course, which is only offered in the spring.

Hours absent from Practicum are not counted toward the required 400-hour total, e.g., inclement weather closures, etc. The one exception is if there are COVID-related concerns, e.g., intern exposure or illness, and then the student is encouraged to coordinate with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison for alternative Practicum hour options. Faculty Liaisons are expected to consult with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education if a student misses more than 32 hours of Practicum for any reason.

Students are entitled to a week off for spring break and around graduation ceremonies (for extended internships) but should coordinate actual dates and times with their Practicum Instructor since agency responsibilities may require that the student take alternative dates. Students are not required to take either spring or graduation break.

C. INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION WITH THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR. Educational supervision is a collaborative relationship between the Practicum Instructor and the intern that facilitates the development of professional competence. It is an interactional process in which the primary purpose is to ensure the quality of client care, while the supervisee is gaining professional competence. Because performance as an adult, self-directed learner is the work pattern demanded in social work education, it is the student's responsibility to explore the balance between the personal and professional, evaluate their own work, and accept constructive feedback. A minimum of one hour per week of scheduled educational supervision with the agency-based Practicum Instructor is required. Full block spring students should receive an additional hour of supervision weekly through team meetings, group consultations, and/or other means.

D. PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS CHECKLIST. Students are expected to review the Practicum Expectations Checklist with their Practicum Instructor and secure signatures at their first supervisory meeting. Students are expected to upload their signed Practicum Expectations Checklist to the Practicum database by the end of week four, **February 11.**

To upload documents in the database, students should follow these steps:

1. Sign in: <https://candidate.gradleaders.com/UTSSWPracticum/Candidates/Login.aspx?pid=4842>
2. Click "My Profile" on the left menu
3. Select "Additional Documents"
4. Click "Upload New" above the Additional Documents title
5. Click under "Document Filename" and select your document
6. Click under "Document Title" to name the file
7. Click Save

The Practicum Expectations Checklist may be found at <https://practicum.com/993575974/cta/wf-1> and due by the end of week four, **February 11.**

E. TIMESHEETS. Students are responsible for keeping a time sheet documenting hours logged in Practicum. Timesheets should be completed by the student, approved by the Practicum Instructor, and available for review during the visits by the Faculty Liaison. Students are encouraged to use the agency timesheets provided or the template available at [Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/), not both.

A timesheet template with automatic hour summation can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

Timesheets are due to the Faculty Liaison through the Canvas page monthly.

The Capstone Seminar and Practicum are taken concurrently but are separate classes. No hours spent on Capstone projects may be counted toward Practicum.

F. FACULTY LIAISON VISITS. The Faculty Liaison will meet with the intern and Practicum Instructor at least two times (FULL) or three times (EXTENDED) a semester to confer regarding internship responsibilities, educational progress, and agency expectations. The format and schedule of visits will vary depending on the needs of agencies, students, and Faculty Liaison but should include a minimum of one onsite visit. Generally speaking, liaison visits should fall one in each half of the semester for full block, spring-only students and one in each third of the semester for extended, spring/summer semesters.

International students will journal weekly and have individualized faculty liaison connections and visits designed to support the student’s educational experience, acculturation, connection to the University, and the strength of the international partnership. The liaison will visit onsite once over the course of the internship.

Domestic long-distance interns will also have individualized faculty liaison connections and visits designed to support the student’s educational experience, connection to the University, and the strength of the agency partnership. Liaison visits will be exclusively remote unless the partnership with the University is ongoing.

Faculty Liaison Visits	Dates (FULL)	Target Dates (EXTENDED)
Visit #1	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to March 11	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to March 11
Visit #2	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, prior to May 17	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to May 20
Visit#3 (extended only)	N/A	July 25

G. LEARNING CONTRACT. The student should develop a written learning contract with the input and approval of the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison no later than the third week in placement. In general, this document should serve as a guide for (1) development of Practicum assignments; (2) further evaluation of a student's performance in Practicum; and (3) student readiness for more independent practice.

Periodic review and modification(s) of the contract are recommended throughout the semester. Copies of modified contracts are to be shared with the Faculty Liaison upon revision. Completion of the learning contract in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Interns and Practicum Instructors are encouraged to reference the Practicum Evaluation when developing the learning contract <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. Learning contracts are typically reviewed at the first liaison visit and copies signed by both the student and Practicum Instructor are due to the Faculty Liaison soon thereafter, prior to spring break.

H. PROCESS RECORDINGS. Process recordings are utilized for educational supervision and accountability with the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. All final Practicum students are required to complete a minimum of two process recordings over the course of the internship. Completion of process recordings in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved as an active participant, and that incorporates the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to the interaction.

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. Unlike the UT-SHSSW first Practicum experience, the Faculty Liaison does not provide additional written feedback. Instead, the Faculty Liaison reviews the PR to assess the student's educational progress.
3. The Faculty Liaison may adjust due dates for internship-based reasons.
4. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
5. The Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may require additional PRs as needed.

I. MIDTERM EVALUATION. The midterm evaluation enables students to self-evaluate and feedback from their Practicum Instructor. The evaluation process assists students in planning for and demonstrating growth in the competencies. The student and Practicum Instructor both contribute actively to creating both the midterm and final evaluation. The midterm evaluation survey serves as a first draft for the final evaluation. Students and Practicum Instructors will receive an individualized Qualtrics survey link from the Office of Practicum Education by February 12. The word document version of the evaluation can be viewed at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and may be especially helpful in planning student responsibilities. Expectations and further instructions will be conveyed by the Faculty Liaison.

The midterm evaluation includes:

1. The midterm evaluation survey using the individual survey link;
2. Timesheets to date;
3. Process Recording as appropriate; and
4. A midterm liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the

Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison. All Practicum assignment specific due dates are determined by the Practicum Instructor. Midterm evaluations are due near the mid-point of the internship, mid-to no later than the end of week 10 (less spring break) for full block students or the end of week 17 (less spring and graduation breaks) for extended students.

J. STUDENT NARRATIVE. The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of the final Practicum internship and is a guided reflection of the student's experience over the course of the placement. It allows the student to demonstrate integrating the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

Student narratives are due prior to spring grade submission, May 17 (FULL), or summer grade submission July 25 (EXTENDED).

K. FINAL EVALUATION. The final evaluation includes:

1. The student self-reflection;
2. The finalized evaluation form using the individual survey link;
3. Completed timesheets;
4. Process Recordings as appropriate; and
5. The final liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

The student is responsible for the self-reflective narrative, presenting accurate timesheets, and contributing to the final evaluation survey. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the finalized student evaluation and for signing off on accurate timesheets. The final evaluation form incorporates and updates the midterm evaluation. A complete visual of the form is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The final evaluation document is maintained in the student's folder at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and may be requested by alumni for proof of successful completion to licensure boards, higher education institutions, or government entities (for security clearance).

Final evaluations are due prior to spring grade submission deadline, **May 17 (FULL)** or summer grade submission deadline **July 25 (EXTENDED)**.

VI. GRADES

A grade of credit, no credit, or incomplete will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison. Credit reflects satisfactory and consistent demonstration of Practicum competencies.

The grade for this course will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison and will be a Credit/No Credit grade. In determining the final grade, the Faculty Liaison will take the following into account:

- The evaluation of competencies in Practicum by the Practicum Instructor with input from additional agency employees;
- Attainment of Practicum objectives;
- Attainment of individualized learning contract objectives;

- Completion and quality of narrative self-evaluation;
- Completion and timeliness of required process recordings; and
- Successful completion of the required Practicum hours.

A student may earn No Credit for final Practicum if they are terminated from their internship due to their own performance or ethical concerns as determined by the Faculty Liaison and Assistant Dean for Practicum Education with input from the student and Practicum Instructor. If the decision is made to place the student in a second internship, the student may expect additional hours or assignments that might delay graduation. A student who is terminated from their final Practicum internship twice due to their own performance or ethical concerns will receive No Credit.

Students who earn No Credit in final Practicum will be terminated from the program and ineligible for graduation from the SHSSW. For this reason and more, students are required to maintain self-awareness and care as required by the NASW and Texas Board of Social Work Examiners Code of Conduct and to utilize educational direction from their Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons.

All work in Practicum must be completed in a timely manner but no later than the last class day. An Incomplete in Practicum or No Credit, will be given if work is not completed by this date, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. **Students must adhere to all Practicum policies and are responsible for the content in the *Student Guide to Graduate Practicum*.** The guide can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

VII. PRACTICUM CLASS POLICIES

All Practicum policies may be found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and students are responsible for the content in the guides to Practicum. It should be noted that the Spring 2022 syllabus dates, hours, and policies supersede those in the guides to Practicum.

A. SAFETY AND COVID-19. Practicum is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for Practicum. For AY21-22, students may choose to intern completely remotely, completely onsite, or some hybrid combination of the two with the knowledge that agency internship offerings will have expectations of their own that can limit options and may subsequently delay graduation.

Students who choose to participate in onsite Practicum activities are strongly encouraged to:

- Wear a mask that covers both their nose and mouth at all times while inside buildings. Students may remove masks if they are able to be outside and at least six feet away from other people at their internships or in a secured office alone.
- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in Practicum settings. Six feet is recommended for areas without masks. With masks, the distance of three or more feet is recommended when possible. Limiting the number of people within shared spaces is an important aspect of social distancing. Students are expected to take

responsibility for maintaining safe distances.

- Practice enhanced hygiene including frequent and thorough handwashing with soap, using Food and Drug Administration approved sanitizer when handwashing is not readily available, and minimal contact with surfaces and the student's face.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend Practicum for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment. Students are also required to notify their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison if they have a positive COVID-19 test. Students who test positive for COVID-19 are not allowed to intern onsite until five days after a negative test or the amount of time identified as best medical practice by the Centers for Disease Control at that time.

Fully vaccinated and/or boosted students and those with proof of COVID-19 antibodies are required to maintain the same safety practices listed above. These students are expected to consult with their Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons regarding the policies and procedures related to COVID-19 exposure in their internship settings.

Students are accountable for maintaining protective practices, policies, and procedures at their settings. Similarly, interns at shared sites are expected to support each other's accountability. Students must hold each other accountable to the same standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the Office of Practicum Education will support a student who chooses to leave a Practicum site for safety reasons. Of course, the student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety issue with their Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructors in adapting accordingly.

Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening using the Protect Texas Together application available online at the App Store. Students are responsible for information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms available at <https://protect.utexas.edu/>.

B. ATTENDANCE. Attendance and punctuality in Practicum demonstrate professional accountability. If, due to illness or emergency, a student is unable to report to Practicum or will be late, the appropriate agency personnel must be informed as early as possible. The Practicum Instructor must be informed of the reason, and the student is responsible for any missed Practicum obligations. Hours absent from Practicum, regardless of the reason, are not counted toward the required 400 (full block – spring) or 220 hours (extended block –

spring/summer) per semester for AY2021-22. One Practicum hour is accrued for each week of attendance at the Integrative Practicum Seminar. Students who extend into the summer are required to attend Integrative Practicum Seminar every other week throughout the summer semester.

C. MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. Students must be covered by an adequate malpractice insurance policy before beginning Practicum. The School of Social Work, through the Office of Practicum Education, makes information available for students to purchase this policy prior to entering Practicum. Malpractice insurance does not cover transportation of clients. Students are never allowed to transport clients nor to handle bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice coverage is available in the Practicum database for both the intern and Practicum Instructor.

D. CHANGE IN PLACEMENT. The goal is for students to complete their 400-hour internship at the same site to allow for consistent professional growth, educational immersion, and skill acquisition. However, the Faculty Liaison may move a student to a different internship, due to a variety of reasons including the educational environment, student failure to progress, or the need to remove the student from Practicum. The decision to move a student to a different placement rests with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor but may be initiated by student concerns. Additional information may be found in the guide to Practicum at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

Students are required to express internship concerns within the educational team including the intern, Practicum instructor, faculty liaison, additional agency-based additional advisory staff, and the Office of Practicum Education members. Students are prohibited from expressing concerns in Practicum via social media, the agency supervisory communication chain, and/or agency human resources and may receive educational sanctions if they choose to step outside this process.

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

E. PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Students are expected to communicate professionally in and related to their internship settings including with clients, supervisors, colleagues, educators, and the public.

Under all circumstances, students are required to uphold client confidentiality with special attention to electronic communication including but not limited to social media accounts, videoconferencing, blogs, websites, and non-agency approved email, chat or other platforms. Identifiable client information should not be included in UT email.

Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics. UT-SHSSW interns are representing themselves, the School, and the profession in all Practicum related communications.

Mobile phone use in the Practicum placement has ethical, legal, and liability implications. It also has implications regarding professional boundaries and self-care. Use of a personal mobile phone for client communication is strongly discouraged, but if necessary, should be planned well and in advance with the agency Practicum Instructor.

Students are expected to follow agency protocols regarding recordings, informed client consent, and secure channels for remote communication. All UT students have access to secure Zoom accounts that can be used for communication but not confidential client recordings. Students are expected to take steps to present themselves and their surrounding video conferencing environments in a professional manner.

F. USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS. Faculty Liaisons manage Practicum communication and assignments using Canvas, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Use may include the following: to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas 24/7 by following these steps: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/how-do-i-access-24-slash-7-help>.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A. COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

B. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

C. DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of

any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

D. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

E. UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

F. POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client

material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

G. POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

H. USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

I. CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

J. UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

K. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable

accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

L. TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, Practicum instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

M. CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

N. SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

O. BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

P. EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.

- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

DUE DATES. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. Accordingly, due dates listed herein have a “due by” date, with the expectation that assignments may be completed prior to the date listed which is intended to be a latest date possible. Due dates may be negotiated beyond this latest date possible with prior approval from the Faculty Liaison.

	Assignments	Due Date (FULL)	Due Date (EXTENDED)
1	Practicum Expectations Checklist	February 11	February 11
2	Timesheets	Monthly	Monthly
3	Learning Contract	Prior to Spring Break, March 11	Prior to Spring Break, March 11
4	Process Recording #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship
5	Faculty Liaison Visit #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First third of internship
	SPRING BREAK	March 14-18	March 14-18
6	Process Recording #2	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second half of internship
7	Midterm Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to end of week 10, April 1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to end of week 17, May 20
8	Faculty Liaison Visit #2	Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second third of internship
9	Final Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25
10	Student Narrative	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25
11	Faculty Liaison Visit #3	N/A	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available ~~at the link~~
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at:
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Beer, Calbow, Gaitan, Herman, Linseisen, Romero, Simmons, Sloan, Smith, Streeter, Voss

Course Number:	SW694R/394S - APP	Instructor:	As assigned
Unique Number:	As assigned	Office:	As assigned
Semester:	Spring/Summer 2022	Office Phone:	As assigned
Meeting Time/Place:	As assigned	Office Hours:	As assigned

**Practicum Instruction III and IV
Administration and Policy Practice Concentration**

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building on Practicum Instruction I and II, this 9-credit hour course is a 500-hour supervised practicum within an organization that provides macro social work services. The internship can be designed as a block of 500 hours for one semester or with approval, extended to two semesters for 250 hours each semester in the same agency. Advanced Integrative Capstone in Social Work Knowledge and Practice (APP) must be taken concurrently.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

The educational objectives for Practicum align with the Council on Social Work Education Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) competencies and represent the continued expectations for concentration Practicum. Building on Foundation Practicum competency levels, they serve as a guide to learning, teaching, and evaluation of the students' competence. The nine competencies can be found on the Practicum evaluation and are measured by the following outcomes.

Students graduating from the APP Social Work Concentration will be able to:

1. Identify as social work professionals, demonstrate professional use of self, and articulate the social work role
2. Critically examine personal values, attitudes and expectations to enhance professional self-awareness and demonstrate competency in managing value differences and ethical dilemmas in practice in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics
3. Utilize strengths of differing life experiences to build inclusive communities and multicultural organizations
4. Engage with and ensure participation of diverse and marginalized community and organizational constituents by identifying and accommodating multilingual and nonliterate

needs, gender power dynamics, and access for disabilities in assessing, planning and implementing interventions

5. Advocate for human and civil rights individually and collectively
6. Demonstrate understanding of indicators that show improved well-being for communities and organizations and, where possible, incorporate evaluative measures of well-being that integrate improvements in social, economic, political and environmental realms
7. Utilize theories of community and organizational behavior in assessment and analysis of macro interventions
8. Construct and utilize best practice and evidence-informed research to develop and implement community and organizational interventions
9. Analyze policies from historical, current, and global perspectives with particular understanding of the role of social, economic, and political forces on policy formulation and the implications for less powerful and oppressed groups
10. Actively engage in the policy arena on behalf of community and organizational interests, working collaboratively to formulate policies that improve the effectiveness of social services and the well-being of all people
11. Use participatory methods to engage with diverse communities, their constituencies, and/or the organizations that serve them
12. Use the principles of relationship building and inter-professional collaboration to guide professional practice that cuts across multiple levels of practice
13. Assess the range of information, based on research, evidence, and practice strategies, that will enhance planning for programs and services to improve human wellbeing
14. Work with communities, their constituents and the organizations that serve them to assess their capacities, strengths and needs
15. Collaborate with other professionals to develop interventions that prevent social problems, expand opportunities, and enhance quality of life
16. Advocate for and support the most inclusive strategies to help all community members reach their full potential
17. Apply appropriate evaluation methods to develop and recommend program and/or policy changes that enhance practice outcomes
18. Use participatory models to involve community and organizational constituents in evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in order to recommend future actions

EPAS Competencies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

Using a common evaluation instrument, this course measures the implementation of knowledge, skills, values, and/or cognitive and affective processes to assess the following competencies:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Outcome 1.1: Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work

Outcome 1.2: Recognize and actively engage in efforts to safe-guard against personal biases as they affect the working relationship in the service of the clients' well-being

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Outcome 2.1: Utilize needs, values, and strengths in applying appropriate interventions for diverse client systems

Outcome 2.2: Identify and utilize practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Outcome 3.1: Utilize knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and trauma on clients and client systems to guide treatment planning and intervention

Outcome 3.2: Advocate at multiple levels for mental health parity and elimination of health disparities for diverse populations

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Outcome 4.1: Utilize research methodology to evaluate clinical practice effectiveness and/or outcome and apply empirically supported evidence for practice

Outcome 4.2: Utilize critical thinking and the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Outcome 5.1: Identify and evaluate agency programs and/or practices in relation to client needs

Outcome 5.2: Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients

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

Outcome 6.1: Integrate theory-based relational skills in all areas of client engagement

Outcome 6.2: Recognize and address the interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the working alliance

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Outcome 7.1: Utilize multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment skills and tools

Outcome 7.2: Conduct a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually driven process

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

Outcome 8.1: Critically evaluate, select, and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions that demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns

Outcome 8.2: Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions

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

Outcome 9.1: Identify and evaluate agency programs and services in relation to client needs

Outcome 9.2: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate practice effectiveness for a range of bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs

III. TEACHING METHODS

Methods will be individualized to each agency setting.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available at <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>
- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at: [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL.

To be eligible for MSSW Final Practicum III & IV SW694R/394S, students must have completed all core coursework for the MSSW program including Practicum I & II.

For final Practicum, the placements align with the student's Clinical or APP concentration and responsibilities are assigned in Practicum under the supervision of the agency-based Practicum Instructor. In the placement process, the interests/needs of the student and the task/needs of the agency are the primary criteria for selection. The assignments vary from agency to agency, student to student.

Course objectives that must be met for this placement are contained at the beginning of this course syllabi in and the competencies and related behaviors are further expanded upon and operationalized in the Practicum evaluation forms found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms>. The assignments are structured in such a way that the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all the required competencies. The majority of the internship will be focused on advanced work appropriate to an emerging professional and within their specialized concentration of Clinical or APP. Basic expectations for

Practicum are identified in the Practicum Expectations Checklist.

HOURS.

All final Practicum Clinical and APP Students enrolled for full-block spring or extended block summer placements must meet a minimum of 500 hours in their settings. Students selecting block placement should register for SW694R/394S concurrently. Students selecting to take extended block must be in Practicum placement for a minimum of 500 hours (i.e., ~22 hours a week for two semesters). A student choosing this option registers for each of the final Practicum courses separately, and all work for SW694R must be completed before entering SW394S. It is the student's responsibility to register for the required course(s) for Practicum including the concurrent SW385T Capstone course, which is only offered in the spring.

Hours absent from Practicum are not counted toward the required 400-hour total, e.g., inclement weather closures, etc. The one exception is if there are COVID-related concerns, e.g., intern exposure or illness, and then the student is encouraged to coordinate with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison for alternative Practicum hour options. Faculty Liaisons are expected to consult with the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education if a student misses more than 32 hours of Practicum for any reason.

Students are entitled to a week off for spring break and around graduation ceremonies (for extended internships) but should coordinate actual dates and times with their Practicum Instructor since agency responsibilities may require that the student take alternative dates. Students are not required to take either spring or graduation break.

B. INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION WITH THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR.

Educational supervision is a collaborative relationship between the Practicum Instructor and the intern that facilitates the development of professional competence. It is an interactional process in which the primary purpose is to ensure the quality of client care, while the supervisee is gaining professional competence. Because performance as an adult, self-directed learner is the work pattern demanded in social work education, it is the student's responsibility to explore the balance between the personal and professional, evaluate their own work, and accept constructive feedback. A minimum of one hour per week of scheduled educational supervision with the agency-based Practicum Instructor is required. Full block spring students should receive an additional hour of supervision weekly through team meetings, group consultations, and/or other means.

C. PRACTICUM EXPECTATIONS CHECKLIST.

Students are expected to review the Practicum Expectations Checklist with their Practicum Instructor and secure signatures at their first supervisory meeting. Students are expected to upload their signed Practicum Expectations Checklist to the Practicum database by the end of week four, **February 11.**

To upload documents in the database, students should follow these steps:

1. Sign in: <https://candidate.gradleaders.com/UTSSWPracticum/Candidates/Login.aspx?pid=4842>
2. Click "My Profile" on the left menu

3. Select “Additional Documents”
4. Click “Upload New” above the Additional Documents title
5. Click under “Document Filename” and select your document
6. Click under “Document Title” to name the file
7. Click Save

The Practicum Expectations Checklist may be found <http://bitstream/ark:/61906/3/5974/vrtafwg-1ad> is due by the end of week four, **February 11.**

D. TIMESHEETS. Students are responsible for keeping a time sheet documenting hours logged in Practicum. Timesheets should be completed by the student, approved by the Practicum Instructor, and available for review during the visits by the Faculty Liaison. Students are encouraged to use the agency timesheets provided or the template available at [Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work \(utexas.edu\)](http://Practicum Education Forms and Guides - Steve Hicks School of Social Work (utexas.edu)), not both.

A timesheet template with automatic hour summation can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

Timesheets are due to the Faculty Liaison through the Canvas page monthly.

The Capstone Seminar and Practicum are taken concurrently but are separate classes. No hours spent on Capstone projects may be counted toward Practicum.

E. FACULTY LIAISON VISITS. The Faculty Liaison will meet with the intern and Practicum Instructor at least two times (FULL) or three times (EXTENDED) a semester to confer regarding internship responsibilities, educational progress, and agency expectations. The format and schedule of visits will vary depending on the needs of agencies, students, and Faculty Liaison but should include a minimum of one onsite visit. Generally speaking, liaison visits should fall one in each half of the semester for full block, spring-only students and one in each third of the semester for extended, spring/summer semesters.

International students will journal weekly and have individualized faculty liaison connections and visits designed to support the student’s educational experience, acculturation, connection to the University, and the strength of the international partnership. The liaison will visit onsite once over the course of the internship.

Domestic long distance interns will also have individualized faculty liaison connections and visits designed to support the student’s educational experience, connection to the University, and the strength of the agency partnership. Liaison visits will be exclusively remote unless the partnership with the University is ongoing.

Faculty Liaison Visits	Dates (FULL)	Target Dates (EXTENDED)
Visit #1	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to March 11	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to March 11

Visit #2	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, prior to May 17	TBD by the Faculty Liaison, goal prior to May 20
Visit #3 (extended only)	N/A	July 25

F. LEARNING CONTRACT. The student should develop a written learning contract with the input and approval of the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison no later than the third week in placement. In general, this document should serve as a guide for (1) development of Practicum assignments; (2) further evaluation of a student's performance in Practicum; and (3) student readiness for more independent practice. Periodic review and modification(s) of the contract are recommended throughout the semester. Copies of modified contracts are to be shared with the Faculty Liaison upon revision. Completion of the learning contract in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Interns and Practicum Instructors are encouraged to reference the Practicum Evaluation when developing the learning contract <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. Learning contracts are typically reviewed at the first liaison visit and copies signed by both the student and Practicum Instructor are due to the Faculty Liaison soon thereafter, prior to spring break.

G. PROCESS RECORDINGS. Process recordings are utilized for educational supervision and accountability with the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. All final Practicum students are required to complete a minimum of two process recordings over the course of the internship. Completion of process recordings in a thorough and timely fashion contributes to the final Practicum grade for this course.

Process recordings at their most basic consist of a transcribed section of an interaction in which the intern is involved as an active participant, and that incorporates the intern's authentic recounting and reflection upon their knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes related to the interaction.

1. The intern must be an active party in the PR.
2. The intern submits the PR to the Practicum Instructor for comments in time to get that to the Faculty Liaison with comments for review. Unlike the UT-SHSSW first Practicum experience, the Faculty Liaison does not provide additional written feedback. Instead, the Faculty Liaison reviews the PR to assess the student's educational progress.
3. The Faculty Liaison may adjust due dates for internship-based reasons.
4. Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may choose to substitute a video role play in lieu of a PR.
5. The Practicum Instructor/Faculty Liaison may require additional PRs as needed.

I. MIDTERM EVALUATION. The midterm evaluation enables students to self-evaluate and ~~and~~ receive feedback from their Practicum Instructor. The evaluation process assists students in planning for and demonstrating growth in the competencies. The student and Practicum Instructor both contribute actively to creating both the midterm and final evaluation. The midterm evaluation survey serves as a first draft for the final evaluation. Students and Practicum Instructors will receive an individualized Qualtrics survey link from the Office of Practicum Education by February 12. The word document version of the evaluation can be viewed at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and may be especially helpful in planning

student responsibilities. Expectations and further instructions will be conveyed by the Faculty Liaison.

The midterm evaluation includes:

1. The midterm evaluation survey using the individual survey link;
2. Timesheets to date;
3. Process Recording as appropriate; and A midterm liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

All Practicum assignment specific due dates are determined by the Practicum Instructor. Midterm evaluations are due near the mid-point of the internship, mid-to no later than the end of week 10 (less spring break) for full block students or the end of week 17 (less spring and graduation breaks) for extended students.

J. STUDENT NARRATIVE. The self-reflection narrative is due at the end of the final Practicum internship and is a guided reflection of the student's experience over the course of the placement. It allows the student to demonstrate integrating the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom with experiences in Practicum. In addition, the narrative helps the student demonstrate critical analytical skills to identify issues, place them in context, and evaluate results. The intern is solely responsible for creating the narrative and submits it to both the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison.

Student narratives are due prior to spring grade submission, May 17 (FULL), or summer grade submission July 25 (EXTENDED).

K. FINAL EVALUATION. The final evaluation includes:

1. The student self-reflection;
2. The finalized evaluation form using the individual survey link;
3. Completed timesheets;
4. Process Recordings as appropriate; and
5. The final liaison visit with the intern, relevant internship staff particularly the Practicum Instructor, and the Faculty Liaison.

The student is responsible for the self-reflective narrative, presenting accurate timesheets, and contributing to the final evaluation survey. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for the finalized student evaluation and for signing off on accurate timesheets. The final evaluation form incorporates and updates the midterm evaluation. A complete visual of the form is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/Practicum/forms/>. The final evaluation document is maintained in the student's folder at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and may be requested by alumni for proof of successful completion to licensure boards, higher education institutions, or government entities (for security clearance).

Final evaluations are due prior to spring grade submission deadline, **May 17 (FULL)** or summer grade submission deadline **July 25 (EXTENDED)**.

VI. GRADES

A grade of credit, no credit, or incomplete will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison. Credit reflects

satisfactory and consistent demonstration of Practicum competencies.

The grade for this course will be assigned by the Faculty Liaison and will be a Credit/No Credit grade. In determining the final grade, the Faculty Liaison will take the following into account:

- The evaluation of competencies in Practicum by the Practicum Instructor with input from additional agency employees;
- Attainment of Practicum objectives;
- Attainment of individualized learning contract objectives;
- Completion and quality of narrative self-evaluation;
- Completion and timeliness of required process recordings; and
- Successful completion of the required Practicum hours.

A student may earn No Credit for final Practicum if they are terminated from their internship due to their own performance or ethical concerns as determined by the Faculty Liaison and Assistant Dean for Practicum Education with input from the student and Practicum Instructor. If the decision is made to place the student in a second internship, the student may expect additional hours or assignments that might delay graduation. A student who is terminated from their final Practicum internship twice due to their own performance or ethical concerns will receive No Credit.

Students who earn No Credit in final Practicum will be terminated from the program and ineligible for graduation from the SHSSW. For this reason and more, students are required to maintain self-awareness and care as required by the NASW and Texas Board of Social Work Examiners Code of Conduct and to utilize educational direction from their Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons.

All work in Practicum must be completed in a timely manner but no later than the last class day. An Incomplete in Practicum or No Credit, will be given if work is not completed by this date, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the Practicum Instructor and the Faculty Liaison. **Students must adhere to all Practicum policies and are responsible for the content in the *Student Guide to Graduate Practicum*.** The guide can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/Practicum/forms/>.

VII. PRACTICUM CLASS POLICIES

All Practicum policies may be found online at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/> and students are responsible for the content in the guides to Practicum. It should be noted that the Spring 2022 syllabus dates, hours, and policies supersede those in the guides to Practicum.

A. SAFETY AND COVID-19. Practicum is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for Practicum. For AY21-22, students may choose to intern completely remotely, completely onsite, or some hybrid combination of the two with the knowledge that agency internship offerings will have expectations of their own that can limit options and may subsequently delay graduation.

Students who choose to participate in onsite Practicum activities are strongly encouraged to:

- Wear a mask that covers both their nose and mouth at all times while inside buildings. Students may remove masks if they are able to be outside and at least six feet away from other people at their internships or in a secured office alone.
- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in Practicum settings. Six feet is recommended for areas without masks. With masks, the distance of three or more feet is recommended when possible. Limiting the number of people within shared spaces is an important aspect of social distancing. Students are expected to take responsibility for maintaining safe distances.
- Practice enhanced hygiene including frequent and thorough handwashing with soap, using Food and Drug Administration approved sanitizer when handwashing is not readily available, and minimal contact with surfaces and the student's face.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend Practicum for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment. Students are also required to notify their Practicum Instructor and Faculty Liaison if they have a positive COVID-19 test. Students who test positive for COVID-19 are not allowed to intern onsite until five days after a negative test or the amount of time identified as best medical practice by the Centers for Disease Control at that time.

Fully vaccinated and/or boosted students and those with proof of COVID-19 antibodies are required to maintain the same safety practices listed above. These students are expected to consult with their Practicum Instructors and Faculty Liaisons regarding the policies and procedures related to COVID-19 exposure in their internship settings.

Students are accountable for maintaining protective practices, policies, and procedures at their settings. Similarly, interns at shared sites are expected to support each other's accountability. Students must hold each other accountable to the same standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the Office of Practicum Education will support a student who chooses to leave a Practicum site for safety reasons. Of course, the student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety issue with their Faculty Liaison, Practicum Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructors in adapting accordingly.

Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening using the Protect Texas Together application available online at the App Store. Students are responsible

for information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms available at <https://protect.utexas.edu/>.

B. ATTENDANCE. Attendance and punctuality in Practicum demonstrate professional accountability. If, due to illness or emergency, a student is unable to report to Practicum or will be late, the appropriate agency personnel must be informed as early as possible. The Practicum Instructor must be informed of the reason, and the student is responsible for any missed Practicum obligations. Hours absent from Practicum, regardless of the reason, are not counted toward the required 400 (full block – spring) or 220 hours (extended block – spring/summer) per semester for AY2021-22. One Practicum hour is accrued for each week of attendance at the Integrative Practicum Seminar. Students who extend into the summer are required to attend Integrative Practicum Seminar every other week throughout the summer semester.

C. MALPRACTICE INSURANCE. Students must be covered by an adequate malpractice insurance policy before beginning Practicum. The School of Social Work, through the Office of Practicum Education, makes information available for students to purchase this policy prior to entering Practicum. Malpractice insurance does not cover transportation of clients. Students are never allowed to transport clients nor to handle bodily fluids. Proof of malpractice coverage is available in the Practicum database for both the intern and Practicum Instructor.

D. CHANGE IN PLACEMENT. The goal is for students to complete their 400-hour internship at the same site to allow for consistent professional growth, educational immersion, and skill acquisition. However, the Faculty Liaison may move a student to a different internship, due to a variety of reasons including the educational environment, student failure to progress, or the need to remove the student from Practicum. The decision to move a student to a different placement rests with the Faculty Liaison and Practicum Instructor but may be initiated by student concerns. Additional information may be found in the guide to Practicum at: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/Practicum/forms/>.

Students are required to express internship concerns within the educational team including the intern, Practicum instructor, faculty liaison, additional agency-based additional advisory staff, and the Office of Practicum Education members. Students are prohibited from expressing concerns in Practicum via social media, the agency supervisory communication chain, and/or agency human resources and may receive educational sanctions if they choose to step outside this process.

A student may be replaced at a new internship after termination with cause from their original internship. A student whose internship is terminated with cause at two internships will fail Practicum.

Agency-based reasons for replacing an intern in a new setting will not impact a student's grade. The faculty liaison discusses and determines the cause for termination in consultation with the student, Practicum instructor, relevant agency members, and the Assistant Dean for Practicum Education.

E. PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Students are expected to communicate professionally in and related to their internship settings including with clients, supervisors, colleagues, educators, and the public. Under all circumstances, students are required to uphold client confidentiality with special attention to electronic communication including but not limited to social media accounts, videoconferencing, blogs, websites, and non-agency approved email, chat or other platforms. Identifiable client information should not be included in UT email.

Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics. UT-SHSSW interns are representing themselves, the School, and the profession in all Practicum related communications.

Mobile phone use in the Practicum placement has ethical, legal, and liability implications. It also has implications regarding professional boundaries and self-care. Use of a personal mobile phone for client communication is strongly discouraged, but if necessary, should be planned well and in advance with the agency Practicum Instructor.

Students are expected to follow agency protocols regarding recordings, informed client consent, and secure channels for remote communication. All UT students have access to secure Zoom accounts that can be used for communication but not confidential client recordings. Students are expected to take steps to present themselves and their surrounding video conferencing environments in a professional manner.

F. USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS. Faculty Liaisons manage Practicum communication and assignments using Canvas, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Use may include the following: to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas 24/7 by following these steps: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/how-do-i-access-24-slash-7-help>.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A. COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

B. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

C. DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing).

D. A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

E. **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM.** The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

F. **UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS.** Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

G. **POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.** Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client

material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

H. POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

I. USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

I. CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

J. UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

K. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable

accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

L. TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, Practicum instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

M. CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

N. SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

O. BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

P. EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.

- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

DUE DATES. It is important to note that students are placed in a wide range of educational settings, and that work in social services can be particularly variable. Accordingly, due dates listed herein have a “due by” date, with the expectation that assignments may be completed prior to the date listed which is intended to be a latest date possible. Due dates may be negotiated beyond this latest date possible with prior approval from the Faculty Liaison.

	Assignments	Due Date (FULL)	Due Date (EXTENDED)
1	Practicum Expectations Checklist	February 11	February 11
2	Timesheets	Monthly	Monthly
3	Learning Contract	Prior to Spring Break, March 11	Prior to Spring Break, March 11
4	Process Recording #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship
5	Faculty Liaison Visit #1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, First third of internship
	SPRING BREAK	March 14-18	March 14-18
6	Process Recording #2	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second half of internship	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second half of internship
7	Midterm Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to end of week 10, April 1	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to end of week 17, May 20
8	Faculty Liaison Visit #2	Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Second third of internship
9	Final Evaluation	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25
10	Student Narrative	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to spring grades due, May 17	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25
11	Faculty Liaison Visit #3	N/A	TBD by Faculty Liaison, Prior to summer grades due, July 25

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- MSSW Graduate Guide to Practicum available ~~at the link below~~
- NASW Code of Ethics available at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

- NASW Standards for Social Work Education available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/>
- NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence available at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>
- Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct available at:
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=34&ch=781&rl=301)
- Other readings and resources as assigned by agency Practicum Instructor and/or Faculty Liaison