



Learning Contract Directions

Purpose: Field Practicum

In social work, the signature pedagogy is field education. The intent of field education is to connect 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 field – are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated and evaluated, based on criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of program competencies.

-- [Taken from Council on Social Work Education Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards]

Purpose: Learning Contract

1. To provide a structure that enables students to organize their practicum learning experience around the opportunities available at their placement site.
2. To provide a method for documenting student progress
 - In learning within the placement environment
 - Graduates of the BSW and MSW programs will:
 - Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
 - Engage diversity and difference in practice
 - Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice
 - Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
 - Engage in policy practice
 - Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
 - Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
 - Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
 - Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

Purpose: Evaluation of Student Competency in Practicum

1. To provide a structure through which the Field Instructor and student assess the student's achievement of Social Work competencies as described above
2. To provide a method for communicating those findings to the Social Work Department
3. Informal evaluation occurs at mid-semester and formal evaluation occurs at the end of each semester

Learning Contract Development for the Practicum Year

Initial Contract – First Semester

- Complete the Learning Contract Cover & Overview Section
 - Review with your Field Instructor potential service populations and activities. Ideas about your learning opportunities often come from this discussion
 - Some of these service populations and activities may need more than one semester to achieve
- Use the provided form to identify tasks, evaluation methods, and anticipated completion dates for the Goals (Competencies) and Objectives (Sub-competencies) listed in the Learning Contract form
- You may use a task to address more than one competency or sub-competency but all competencies and sub-competencies **MUST** be addressed and evaluated
- The evaluation must be completed in collaboration with your Field Instructor and approved by your Seminar Instructor. A signed hard copy must be submitted to your Seminar Instructor.
- **Keep an electronic copy – you will use the document again when you revise the Learning Contract at the end of the semester**

EXAMPLE GOAL:

Goal #1: Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior

Learning Objectives	Tasks	Evaluation Method	Projected Completion Date	Outcome/ Completion Date
Learning Objective 1A: make 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	Task 1.1a: Refer clients to appropriate services to address their physical, emotional and mental health needs	Case log documentation	12/05/13	[e.g. completed 10/21, or revised 11/20, see Task 1.1c]
	Task 1.1b: Attend trainings to familiarize self with agency services	Documentation of trainings attended	9/01/13	

Revised Contract – Second Semester

- Revise Learning Contract Cover & Overview section, as needed
- Extend projected task completion dates, if applicable
- Document outcome of tasks w/ completion dates, as appropriate
- Revise, and/or add tasks in collaboration with Field Instructor, as appropriate
- Turn in revision and **keep a copy for your own records**