

Student Learning Contract
Central Michigan University
Social Work Baccalaureate Program

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Field Instructor: _____

Agency: _____

Course: SWK 470 SWK 480

Learning contract instructions: Student and field instructor should work together to develop suitable and sound learning experiences appropriate to the agency that will work toward achievement of each practice behavior. Upon completion of this document both student and field instructor sign the document, confirming that they are in agreement of the educational experience for that semester.

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly: Social workers serve as representatives of the profession, its mission, and its core values. They know the profession's history. Social workers commit themselves to the profession's enhancement and to their own professional conduct and growth.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
a. Advocate for client access to the services of social work.	
b. Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.	
c. Attend to professional roles and boundaries.	
d. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.	
e. Engage in career-long learning.	
f. Use supervision and consultation.	

Comments:

2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice: Social workers have an obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. Social workers are knowledgeable about the value base of the profession, its ethical standards, and relevant law.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
g. Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.	
h. Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.	
i. Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts.	
j. Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.	

Comments:

3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments: Social workers are knowledgeable about the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and reasoned discernment. They use critical thinking augmented by creativity and curiosity. Critical thinking also requires the synthesis and communication of relevant information.

<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
k. Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.	
l. Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.	
m. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues.	

Comments:

4. Engage diversity and difference in practice: Social workers understand how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim.

<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
n. Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.	
o. Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.	
p. Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.	
q. View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.	

Comments:

5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice: Each person, regardless of position in society, has basic human rights, such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers recognize the global interconnections of oppression and are knowledgeable about theories of justice and strategies to promote human and civil rights. Social work incorporates social justice practices in organization, institutions, and society to ensure that these basic human rights are distributed equitably and without prejudice.

<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
r. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.	
s. Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice.	
t. Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.	

Comments:

6. Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research: Social workers use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. Social workers comprehend quantitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
u. Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.	
v. Use research evidence to inform practice.	

Comments:

7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment: Social workers are knowledgeable about human behavior across the life course; the range of social systems in which people live; and the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well-being. Social workers apply theories and knowledge from the liberal arts to understand biological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
w. Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation.	
x. Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.	

Comments:

8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services: Social work practitioners understand that policy affects service delivery, and they actively engage in policy practice. Social workers know the history and current structures of social policies and service; the role of policy in service delivery; and the role of practice in policy development.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
y. Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.	
z. Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action.	

Comments:

9. Respond to contexts that shape practice: Social workers are informed, resourceful, and proactive in responding to evolving organizational, community, and societal contexts at all levels of practice. Social workers recognize that the context of practice is dynamic, and use knowledge and skill to respond proactively.	
<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student lists activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
aa. Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.	
ab. Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services.	

Comments:

10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities: Professional practice involves the dynamic and interactive processes of engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluations at multiple levels. Social workers have the knowledge and skills to practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Practice knowledge includes identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-based interventions designed to achieve client goals; using research and technological advances; evaluating program outcomes and practice effectiveness: developing, analyzing, advocating, and providing leadership for policies and services: and promoting social and economic justice.

<i>The student's work will develop the ability to:</i>	<i>Student list activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
Engagement ac. Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes	
ad. Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	
ae. Use empathy and other interpersonal skills	
Assessment	
af. Collect, organize, and interpret client data	
ag. Assess client strengths and limitations	
ah. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives	
ai. Select appropriate intervention strategies	
Intervention	
aj. Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals	
ak. Implement prevention interventions that enhance client capacities	
al. Help clients resolve problems	
am. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients	
an. Facilitate transitions and endings	
Evaluation	
ao. Social workers critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.	

Comments:

11. Identify social work practice considerations for working with people living in rural areas.

<i>The student's work reflects the ability to:</i>	<i>Student list activities and experiences during field to demonstrate practice behaviors</i>
ap. Identify informal and formal resource systems within a specific rural area.	
aq. Describe specific challenges of the rural context to the agency's social service delivery system.	
ap. Identify methods of handling dual relationships and if they occur, resolve them.	
ar. Identify and help resolve client needs that are specific to the rural setting (.e.g. transportation)	
as. Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.	

Comments:

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Field Instructor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Developed By: Allison Putnam, MSW

This document is due to the Field Office by 4:00 PM Friday of the fourth week of the semester.