



PRACTICUM OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING GOALS

1. To help students translate into practice in a particular setting the concepts and principles taught in the classroom.
2. The learning opportunities are designed to enable a candidate for a Human Social Services degree to develop and exhibit a professional level of work performance. Students are expected to accomplish this through:
 - a. Indicating by their performance an internalized sense of professional identity that causes them to (1) think, feel and act in accordance with the values and responsibilities of that profession, (2) analyze and assess their own professional activities, and (3) accept a continuing responsibility for their own professional development.
 - b. Approaching problem-solving tasks or helping interventions in a way that reflects a spirit of inquiry, a capacity for conceptual thinking, a grasp of the structure of knowledge and theory pertinent to a particular problem, an ability to transfer to a specific situation applicable concepts and principles, and a readiness to seek new knowledge when needed to guide their professional activities.
 - c. Using in a variety of problem-solving tasks involving individuals, groups and communities, the technique essential to all professional practice, inquiry, analysis, assessment, planning and action to implement change strategies.
 - d. Using in purposeful professional relationships a disciplined self-awareness and control a genuine concern for people, and understanding of them, their capacities, their problems and the social systems with which they interact.
 - e. Demonstrating in discussion and field practice, a personal and professional commitment to participate responsibly in efforts to alleviate social problems, improve social functioning, effect social change and contribute to the research and knowledge needed to achieve these objectives.



Developing a Learning Contract

The learning contract is the learner's agreement with the Agency and college. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative in developing this contract, which is comprised of learning and functional objectives. The learning contract is very similar to a job description and will be used as the primary basis for evaluating the student's performance in the placement. The practicum instructor is available to assist individual students and agency field supervisors in the development of contract objectives.

Practicum Learning Agreement

Student's Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Supervisor's Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Agency _____

Address _____

Beginning Date _____ Ending Date _____

Hours/Weeks on site _____ Credit Hours _____

Faculty Advisor's Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Summarize the planned activities of the practicum for the practicum placement.

Sample Learning Tasks

Profession

- Act as an advocate for clients in need of community resources
- Provide case management services to clients served by the agency
- Plan, organize and facilitate a support or educational group
- Participate in grant writing activities on behalf of the agency
- Research model programs similar to those of the agency
- Develop process for dealing with ethical issues

Organizational Context of Practice

- Attend staff meetings
- Attend staff in-service trainings
- Plan and conduct in-service training for staff
- Orient other students/volunteers to practicum agency
- Assist in reviewing and updating agency policies and procedures
- Interview administrators about agency effectiveness measures
- Assist with fund raising projects

Community Context of Practice

- Read/Create community needs assessment
- Develop resource file/database of serves related to practicum agency
- Refer clients to appropriate community agencies
- Visit agencies with which the agency regularly works
- Attend interagency coalition meetings
- Research demographic data regarding community
- Attend meetings of various community groups to understand a variety of options

Assessment

- Read/Create individual and family assessments
- Read assessments completed by other helping professionals
- Make home visits
- Perform intake interviews with clients
- Plan and conduct needs assessments for agency programs
- Conduct ongoing assessment activities through interventions with clients
- Review assessment tools used by other agencies and professionals
- Include identification of strengths in all assessments

Planning and Intervention

- Write treatment plans
- Include clients in the development of treatment plans
- Observe case presentations by other agency personnel
- Identify theories underlying commonly used interventions utilized in agency
- Develop curriculum for client group
- Facilitate committee meetings
- Facilitate therapeutic groups for clients
- Revise treatment plans
- Articulate reasons for selection of interventions

Termination and Evaluation

- Manage client cases through the entire helping process from assessment to termination
- Apply agency policies of termination to helping process
- Terminate client interventions according to accepted practice guidelines (e.g., summarizing progress, empowerment, avoiding dependence, making appropriate referrals)
- Utilize measurement tools to evaluate client progress toward agree upon goals and objects
- Solicit feedback from supervisor regarding practice skills
- Design and utilize methods for soliciting client feedback regarding services

Understanding Social Problems

- Summarize agency purpose and mission
- Research statistics regarding causes, incidence, severity and consequences of issues addressed by agency
- Attend meetings of organizations whose understanding of these problems provides a different perspective or view point than held by agency
- Make a presentation on a social problem addressed by the agency to a local service organization or student group
- Compare local, state, and national statistics regarding incidence and nature of problems addressed by the agency

Policy

- Read state and federal laws guiding services of practicum agency
- Read state and federal laws pertaining to clients served by the agency
- Assess social policies' effects on clients served by the agency
- Observe legislative functions
- Prepare and give written and/or oral testimony at legislative hearings
- Assist advocacy groups

Diversity

- Become informed about the history, culture, beliefs and values of the major cultural groups served by the agency
- Attend cultural events sponsored by groups served by the agency
- Attend training in cross cultural skills
- Seek assistance from supervisor in identifying personal biases or misconceptions related to groups served by the agency

Communication Skills

- Read case files and other agency documentation
- Write assessments of clients
- Write treatment plans
- Write reports for courts or funding sources
- Write public service announcements, brochures, advertisements
- Write agency policies and procedures
- Develop active listening skills
- Utilize basic helping skills with clients
- Obtain training in non-verbal communication

Knowledge and Metacognitive Skills

- Seek feedback from supervisor in identifying any personal issues which could impact relationship with clients
- Compare personal values with Human Service Code of Ethics and that of the agency
- Utilize supervision to identify areas of professional strengths and skills
- Attend conferences and workshops on topics needed for professional growth
- Journal



Learning Objectives
Instructions for student and site supervisor

Describe 4 learning objectives to guide the student's experience.

Learning objectives are statements of what the student will LEARN as a result of their experience and activities. The learning objectives should be followed by a brief description of the activities to be performed to meet the learning objective. This format allows the student, the site supervisor, and the practicum instructor to see how the activities relate to what the student will learn as a result of performing the activity. When the learning objectives and activities have been agreed upon between the site supervisor, student, and the practicum instructor, the student should complete the following section:

Learning Objective: As a result of the specified activity, the student will be able to: (use verbs to demonstrate skills and knowledge to be learned) such as: analyze, synthesize, utilize, construct, develop, etc.)

Activities: Briefly describe the activities the student will do to achieve the learning objective. There should be a clear association between the learning objective and the activities.

1. Learning
Objective_____

Activities_____

2. Learning
Objective_____

Activities_____

3. Learning

Objective _____

Activities _____

4. Learning

Objective _____

Activities _____

Describe how the combined activities will produce a product or services that will benefit the host agency:

Approval Signatures

Student

Date

Site Supervisor

Date

Practicum Instructor

Date