

University of Washington, Seattle, School of Social Work
University of Washington, Tacoma,
Master of Social Work Program

TSOCW 524: Foundation Practicum

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Course Description

The MSW Foundation Practicum incorporates content, competencies, and program objectives from the Social Welfare program curriculum, and builds skills for practice by helping students learn to apply theories and knowledge of human behavior in the social environment. In an approved practicum site the student is provided the opportunity to develop social work knowledge and skills under the supervision of an experienced social worker. Emphasis is placed on development of the breadth of knowledge, perspectives and skills needed for practice with individuals (*micro* level), families and/or groups (*mezzo* level) and organizations and/or communities (*macro* level). In addition, the development of culturally responsive practice and planned social change skills are an integral part of the Social Work Practicum and are seen as critical for the effective delivery of social services.

Field Instruction is an integral component of social work education. Practicum teaching is conducted by professional social work practitioners selected by agencies and approved by University of Washington Tacoma Social Welfare Program faculty. As part of the total MSW curriculum, the Practicum provides students with an opportunity for the development and enhancement of social work knowledge and skills as well as an understanding and appreciation of a scientific and analytic approach to knowledge building and practice.

The Field Coordinator, who may be assisted by other faculty members, will: (1) visit the agency at least twice during the practicum; (2) provide information regarding university expectations of the practicum; (3) provide information regarding classroom experiences and how to coordinate classroom and practicum activities; (4) assist with the development of the educational contract and/or evaluation if requested; (5) answer questions from the Field Instructor and student about the Social Work Program's educational programs and policies; (6) review and approve the educational contract and quarterly evaluation and determine grade (credit/no credit).

Course Objectives

Students in the MSW Foundation Practicum are expected to develop professional social work *Core Competencies* as required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In the MSW Foundation practicum placement, students will:

- engage in **learning activities** in micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice that
- demonstrate development of the knowledge, values, and skills inherent in each of the ten **Core Competencies**
- through the achievement of related **Practice Behaviors**.

Practice Behaviors provide specific outcome expectations for each of the Core Competencies as the follows:

Core Competency	Practice Behaviors
<p>#1 Competency Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for just social structures • Practice personal and critical reflection • Attend to professional roles and boundaries • Demonstrate professional demeanor • Demonstrate the ability to engage in career long learning
<p>#2 Competency Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and manage personal values • Make ethical decisions by critically applying ethical standards • Tolerate and respect ambiguity • Apply ethical reasoning strategies • Understand the role of consultation
<p>#3 Competency Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish, evaluate and integrate multiple sources of knowledge • Critically analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation in relation to cultural relevance and promotion of social justice • Demonstrate effective listening skills and written communication
<p>#4 Competency Engage diversity and difference in practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and articulate the ways in which social and cultural structures oppress some groups while enhancing privilege and power of dominant groups • Develop and demonstrate sufficient critical self-awareness • Dialogue with others about their understanding of the role of oppression and privilege in shaping identity • Demonstrate the ability to be life-long learners
<p>#5 Competency Advance human rights and social and economic justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and approaches to advancing social justice and human rights • Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice • Engage in practices that address disparities and advance justice
<p>#6 Competency Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use knowledge and practice experience to inform scientific inquiry • Use qualitative and quantitative research to inform practice • Apply research on social disparities in selecting and evaluating services and policies
<p>#7 Competency Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply theories and conceptual frameworks to understanding people and environments across system levels • Apply these theories and frameworks to assessment, intervention, and evaluation at multiple system levels
<p>#8 Competency Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a critical understanding of the history and current form of US social welfare and social service policies and use this to formulate policies and strategies that advance social well-being and social and economic justice • Collaborate with colleagues, clients/constituents to advocate for social and economic justice and to effect policy change
<p>#9 Competency Respond to contexts that shape practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously discover, appraise and attend to changes and societal trends to provide culturally relevant services • Engage in efforts to promote sustainable changes in service delivery • Recognize and develop understanding of local-global context of practice

<p>#10 Competency Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare for engagement on various levels and diverse settings ○ Use listening, empathy, interpersonal skills to develop rapport with diverse populations ○ Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and outcomes ○ Affirm and engage the strengths of at micro, mezzo and macro levels • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collect, organize and interpret data ○ Assess strengths, stressors and limitations ○ Identify and select appropriate and culturally responsive intervention strategies • Intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiate actions to achieve goals ○ Implement prevention interventions that enhance capacities ○ Help and empower clients to resolve problems ○ Negotiate, mediate and advocate for clients ○ Facilitate transitions and endings • Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critically analyze, monitor and evaluate interventions
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Student Responsibilities

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend practicum regularly and reliably according to the schedule agreed upon with the Field Instructor. (Students are not required to attend practicum on University holidays, but must make up any missed hours). Students do not receive credit for those hours when holidays fall on a scheduled practicum day unless they complete their usual hours at the practicum placement. Any hours missed due to University holiday or inclement weather must be made up). Students are expected to fully participate in practicum learning experiences and practicum supervision. MSW Foundation students complete nine credits of 523 & 524 for a total of 360 hours.

Integration of Class and Practicum Learning

Students are required to provide copies of their course syllabi to the Practicum Instructor(s) by the third week of each quarter. Students are responsible for including discussion of course concepts during practicum supervision, relating practicum experiences to concepts addressed in class discussions, and completion of course assignments related to practicum learning.

Immunizations

All Health Sciences Immunization Program (HSIP) immunization requirements must be met in order to receive credit for the TSOCWF 524 course. Any student who is not compliant with immunization requirements will not be authorized to begin MSW Practicum hours.

Learning Contract

The student will work with their Field Instructor(s) and Task Supervisor(s) in developing appropriate learning activities that meet the expectations of the Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors for a generalist MSW Practicum. The Learning Contract is due no later than the third week after the student starts the placement. Students and Field Instructors should continue to review and monitor the Contract and Work plan throughout the Field placement and revise as needed. Field Faculty review and approve all assignments, Learning Contracts, and Quarterly Evaluations, and assign credit/no credit.

Completion of Student Self-Assessment: Students are required to complete the Student Self-Assessment form as they complete their Foundation level curriculum. Students will be notified when the Assessment tool appears on their STAR homepage. This tool asks for students to assess their own sense of competence across the required Competencies and Practice Behaviors as they complete both the Foundation classroom and field instruction portion of the MSW degree. No final field grade will be issued without completion of the Self-Assessment.

Field Faculty Responsibilities

Agency Site Visits

A Field Faculty member will visit the agency at least twice during the course of the practicum and meet with the Field Instructor(s), Task Supervisor(s) where applicable, and the student.

Provide Guidance

The Field Faculty will provide information regarding UWT Social Work Program expectations of the practicum, facilitate integration of classroom and field experiences and assist with the development of the Learning Contract and/or Evaluation as needed. The Field Faculty will respond to questions from students, Field Instructor(s) or Task Supervisor(s) about the UWT Social Work educational programs and policies.

Participate in Evaluation Process

Upon the completion of the Learning Contract and quarterly Evaluations, the Field Faculty will review the documents and provide approval as appropriate.

Evaluation and Grading

Practicum courses are graded Credit/No Credit. Both the Field Instructor (and Task Supervisor where applicable) and student complete a Quarterly Evaluation which reflects the degree of achievement in obtaining competency as indicated in the Learning Contract. The total numbers of hours completed in placement by the student are also indicated on the Evaluation. Both student and Field Instructor must sign the Evaluation to indicate the completion of their portion of the document. After a satisfactory review of the Evaluation, the student's Field Faculty then approves the Evaluation and assigns the final grade to the student. Students or instructors may be asked for clarifications or additions to the Evaluation, if needed for satisfactory completion.

Disability Support Services (Office of Student Success)

The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS), located in MAT 354, functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. If you have a physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]," and will require accommodation in this class, please contact DSS at [\(253\)692-4508](tel:2536924508), email at dssuwt@uw.edu, uwtshaw@uw.edu or visit www.tacoma.uw.edu/dss for assistance.

A hard copy of the MSW Field Education Manual may be obtained at no cost to the student at the UWT Copy Center.