

**University of Washington, Seattle, School of Social Work**  
**University of Washington, Tacoma,**  
**Master of Social Work Program**  
**T SOCW 525: Advanced Practicum**  
**Advanced Integrative Practice**

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### **Course Overview**

The Advanced Practicum is structured to support students in achieving the goals of the Advanced MSW Program Curriculum. Practicum teaching is conducted by professional social work practitioners selected by agencies and approved by the faculty of the School of Social Work. As part of the total MSW curriculum, the Advanced Practicum provides students with an opportunity for building on foundational knowledge, skills and competencies through practice in an area of concentration. Graduate Students in the MSW Advance Practicum are expected to meet and attain *Advanced Competencies & Practice Behaviors* as required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). During the advanced year students work towards autonomous practice by graduation under the supervision of an experienced Master's Level Social Worker trained as a Practicum Instructor.

### **Advanced Competencies and Practice Behaviors**

The Advanced Practicum is structured to support students in achieving the goals of the Advanced Integrative Practice concentration of the UWT MSW Program. Students and their Practicum Instructor will identify individualized Learning Activities within the agency setting designed to help students with practice behaviors and to achieve core competencies as determined by the Council on Social Work Education. They should be negotiated according to student interests and learning goals, agency need, and coursework requirements. Progress in achieving core competencies will be evaluated quarterly.

In the Advanced Practicum placement, students will:

- engage in **Learning Activities** in their advanced concentration
- develop related **Practice Behaviors**.
- demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills inherent in each of the ten advanced year **Core Competencies**

These Advanced Competencies and related Practice Behaviors are embedded in the SW 525 **Learning Contract** and quarterly **Evaluations**. Regular and focused supervision around the attainment of the Advanced Competencies facilitates the integration of theory and practice, as classroom concepts and coursework also teach to these competencies.

### **COMPETENCIES AND PRACTICE BEHAVIORS FOR ADVANCED INTEGRATIVE PRACTICE:**

#### **Competency #1: Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.**

##### **Practice Behaviors:**

- a. Understand and identify the role of a social worker in cross-disciplinary settings.
- b. Identify opportunities to assume leadership roles in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of research-informed intervention programs.

- c. Engage collaboratively with agency and community partners in developing programs to address a range of human and societal needs.

**Competency #2: Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Recognize and manage personal biases as they affect the professional relationship in the service of the clients'/constituents' interests.
- b. Apply social work ethical principles to the design, implementation, and evaluation of research-informed intervention programs.

**Competency #3: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Engage in reflective practice (e.g., regularly question and reflect on one's own assumptions and consider how these might affect practice).
- b. Apply critical thinking skills to the complexities of both the context(s) for change and the collaborative leadership necessary for the effective design, implementation, and evaluation of research-informed interventions.
- c. Evaluate, select, and implement appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative assessment tools to evaluate the efficacy of the program; and communicate effectively with diverse populations and with multi- or interdisciplinary colleagues.

**Competency #4: Engage diversity and difference in practice.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Understand the many forms of diversity and difference and how these influence the relationship with clients/constituents.
- b. Apply knowledge of the social constructions, dimensions, and intersections of the multiple aspects of human diversity to the design, implementation, and evaluation of research-informed interventions.

**Competency #5: Advance human rights and social and economic justice.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Articulate the potentially challenging effects of economic, social, cultural, and global factors on client/constituent systems.
- b. Advocate at all practice levels for the creation and implementation of intervention programs that promote social and economic justice and diminish disparities.
- c. Understand the relationship between the social and economic policies of the United States and their impact upon global social and economic justice.

**Competency #6: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Apply critical thinking to evidence-based interventions, best practices, and the evidence-based research process.
- b. Identify, evaluate, and select effective and appropriate intervention strategies.
- c. Apply research skills to the evaluation of intervention programs; and work collaboratively with evaluators/researchers to assess intervention efficacy and effectiveness.

**Competency #7: Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Apply the theories of human behavior and the social environment (e.g., biological, developmental, psychological, social, cultural, spiritual, systems, and/or structural).
- b. Relate appropriate theories, models, and empirical evidence to client circumstances.

**Competency #8: Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Recognize the interrelationship between clients/constituents, practice, organizational and public policy.
- b. collaborate with colleagues, clients/constituents, and others to advocate for social and economic justice to effect policy change.

**Competency #9: Respond to contexts that shape practice.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

- a. Work collaboratively with others to effect systemic change towards sustainability.
- b. Act as a change agent to promote social justice and diminish the impact of social injustices.
- c. Advocate at multiple levels for the implementation of intervention programs that are flexible enough to meet needs in rapidly changing societal contexts.

**Competency #10: Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.**

***Practice Behaviors:***

**Engagement:**

- a. Demonstrate skills (e.g., leadership, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills) required for effectively engaging and intervening with clients/constituents.
- b. Engage diverse groups appropriate to the area of focus in the design of intervention programs.
- c. Collaborate with multidisciplinary colleagues in program design and development.

**Assessment:**

- d. Use multidimensional assessment (e.g., bio/psycho/social/spiritual/ structural).
- e. Evaluate, select, and implement appropriate assessment instruments, adapting them as appropriate to client/constituent circumstances.
- f. Relate theories, models, and research as appropriate to client systems and circumstances.

**Intervention:**

- g. Collaborate effectively and consult with other professionals/stakeholders to coordinate interventions.
- h. Apply types of intervention strategies across levels of intervention, including individual, family, group, organization, agency, community, or larger context.
- i. Develop and implement collaborative, multidisciplinary intervention strategies.

**Evaluation:**

- j. Contribute to the theoretical knowledge base of the social work profession through practice-based research.
- k. Apply research skills to evaluating interventions.
- l. Identify and utilize evaluations tools for specific interventions.

## Course Objectives

As part of the total MSW curriculum, the Advanced Practicum provides students with an opportunity for building on foundational knowledge, skills and competencies through practice in an area of concentration. Graduate Students in the MSW Advance Practicum are expected to meet and attain *Advanced Competencies & Practice Behaviors* as required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). During the advanced year students work towards autonomous practice under the supervision of an experienced Master's Level Social Worker trained as a Practicum Instructor.

## Course Requirements

### ***Student Responsibilities:***

#### Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend practicum regularly and reliably according to the schedule agreed upon with the Practicum Instructor. (Students are not required to attend practicum on University holidays. 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. A total of 18 credits and 720 hours are required for the Advanced Practicum.

#### 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. Students complete readings assigned by Practice Classroom Instructors in order to support and complement learning in the Practicum. In addition, students are required to complete readings assigned by the Practicum Instructor that are specifically relevant to the student's individual Practicum placement.

#### Completion Advanced Contract, Supervision and Quarterly Evaluations

- Completion of Advanced Contract
- Completion of Signed Acknowledgement of Risk Form
- Quarterly Evaluation to be completed by Student and Field Instructor (FI).
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Practicum Contract: Students and Field Instructors develop and submit the Learning Contract by the end of the first four weeks of the first quarter of the practicum. They should continue to review and monitor the contract and individualized assignments throughout the field placement. The student's progress towards competencies must be discussed and evaluated quarterly on forms which correspond to the Learning Contract. The Practicum Learning Contract includes an Acknowledgement of Risk form, which is a requirement for professional liability coverage while in practicum

Completion of Student Self-Assessment: Students are required to complete the Student Self-Assessment form as they complete their Advanced 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 Advanced 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 faculty member from the Office of Field Education, in their role as Practicum Liaison, will visit the agency twice during the course of the practicum and meet with the student & Field Instructor(s), as well as the Task Supervisor(s) (when applicable).

### Provide Guidance

The Field Faculty will provide information regarding UWT MSW Program expectations of the practicum; the integration of classroom assignments, and help the student and FI consider ways in which the student can integrate theory and practice to reach required competencies. They are also available to respond to questions from students, Field Instructor(s) or Task Supervisor(s) about the MSW Program educational programs and policies. Field Faculty are also the point person for both students and FI's to discuss concerns and challenges that may arise and will help with the resolution as needed.

### Participate in the Contract and Evaluation Process

Upon the completion of the Learning Contract and quarterly Evaluations, the Field Faculty will review the documents and provide approval and assign credit as described below.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

Field 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 registered for and completed in placement by the student are also indicated on the Evaluation. Both student and Field Instructor must provide an electronic "signature" on 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.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a temporary or permanent disability, contact the Manager for Disability Support Services (DDS) in the Mattress Factory Building, Suite 253. An appointment can be made by calling 253/692-4522. Appropriate accommodations are arranged after you've conferred with the DDS Manager and presented the required documentation of your disability to DDS.

Additional Practicum Policies and Procedures are contained in *the MSW Field Education Manual* available on Canvas and on the Social Work Program Field Education website at:

<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/msw-field-education>

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