

**University of Washington Seattle School of Social Work**  
**University of Washington Tacoma School of Social Work & Criminal Justice**

**T SOCW 525: Specialization Practicum (17 credits)**

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**Course Description:**

Builds on previous field work in the context of practice in an area of specialization. Develops specific, integrative social work knowledge and skills under supervision of an experienced professional at an approved practicum site. Achieves capacity for autonomous practice. Credit/no-credit only.

**Course Overview**

The Specialization Practicum is structured to support students in achieving the goals of the MSW Integrative Practice 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 Specialization Practicum provides students with an opportunity for building on generalist knowledge, skills and competencies through practice in an area of specialization. Graduate Students in the MSW Specialization Practicum are expected to meet and attain mastery of the Competencies and accompanying Behaviors as required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). During the specialization year students work towards autonomous practice by graduation under the supervision of an experienced Master's Level Social Worker trained as a Field Instructor.

**Learning Objectives:**

Learning Objectives for T SOCW 525 consist of the nine Competencies prescribed by the Council on Social Work Education:

- 1) Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
- 2) Engage diversity and difference in practice
- 3) Advance human rights, and social, economic, and environmental justice
- 4) Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
- 5) Engage in policy practice
- 6) Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- 7) Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- 8) Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- 9) Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

**Specialization Competencies and Behaviors**

The Specialization Practicum is structured to support students in achieving the goals of the Integrative Practice concentration of the UWT MSW Program. Students and their Field 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.

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

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

### **Competency #1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior**

- 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/or evaluation of research-informed intervention programs.
- c. apply social work ethical principles to the design, implementation, and/or evaluation of research-informed intervention programs.
- d. engage in reflective practice.

### **Competency #2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**

- a. recognize and manage personal biases as they affect the professional relationship in the service of the clients'/constituents' interests.
- b. understand the many forms of diversity and difference and how these influence the relationship with clients/constituents.

### **Competency #3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**

- 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. act as a change agent to promote social, economic, and environmental justice and diminish the impact of injustices.

### **Competency #4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice**

- a. apply critical thinking to evidence-based interventions and best practices.
- b. contribute to the theoretical knowledge base of the social work profession through practice-based research.

### **Competency #5: Engage in Policy Practice**

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

### **Competency #6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- a. engage collaboratively with agency and community partners in developing programs to address a range of human and societal needs.
- b. demonstrate the skills required for effectively engaging with clients/constituents.
- c. collaborate with multidisciplinary colleagues in program design and development.

**Competency #7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- a. apply appropriate theories of human behavior and the social environment in assessment of clients/constituents.
- b. evaluate, select, and implement appropriate assessment instruments, adapting them as appropriate to client/constituent circumstances.

**Competency #8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- a. apply knowledge of the social constructions, dimensions, and intersections of the multiple aspects of human diversity to the implementation of research-informed interventions.
- b. identify, evaluate, and select effective and appropriate intervention strategies.
- c. develop and implement collaborative, multidisciplinary intervention strategies.
- d. engage diverse groups appropriate to the area of focus in the design of intervention programs.

**Competency #9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- a. apply research skills to the evaluation of intervention programs.
- b. identify and utilize appropriate evaluation tools for specific interventions.

**Course Readings:**

The student should read, remain familiar with, and abide by the MSW Field Manual. The manual is available at the practicum website: <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/msw-field-education>. Students are expected to be familiar with all content located at the website as well.

A hard copy of the MSW Field Education Manual may be obtained at no cost to the student at the UWT Copy Center. It is also available on the course Canvas website.

**Specialized Practicum Schedule:**

MSW Specialized Practicum students complete 17 credits of T SOCW 525 for a total of 680 hours. Generally, these credits and hours will be completed as follows:

Summer quarter of 2<sup>nd</sup> year: 3 credits

Autumn quarter of 3<sup>rd</sup> year: 4 credits

Winter quarter of 3<sup>rd</sup> year: 5 credits

Spring quarter of 3<sup>rd</sup> year: 5 credits

In some cases alternative forms of scheduling (e.g. block placements; later start dates) are necessary based on agency availability, progress through the curriculum, or may be requested by the student for personal reasons. Such alternate scheduling will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Practicum courses are graded Credit/No Credit. Both the Field Instructor (and Task Supervisor where applicable) and student complete an online Quarterly Evaluation which reflects the degree of achievement in obtaining mastery of Competencies and Behaviors as indicated in the Learning Contract. The total numbers of hours completed in placement by the student is also indicated on the Evaluation. Both student and Field Instructor must sign the Evaluation to indicate the completion of their portion of

the document and a joint review of its content. 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.

Please note that if a grade of No Credit is given in any quarter, the student's continuation in the MSW Program may be reviewed by the program's Professional Standards Committee. Please also refer to the Policy on Dismissal from Field Placement in your Field Manual for more details.

### **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 do not receive credit for field 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 17 credits and 680 hours are required for the Specialization Practicum.

#### Integration of Class and Practicum Learning

Students are required to provide copies of their course syllabi to the Field 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.

Learning Contract: Students and Field Instructors develop and submit the Learning Contract by the end of the first three 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 last quarter of the program. Students will be notified when the Assessment tool appears on their STAR homepage. This tool asks for students to assess their own sense of mastery across the required Competencies as they complete both the 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 Field 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 of contact for both students and FI's to discuss concerns and challenges that may arise and will assist in problem solving and resolution.

#### 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 mastery 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 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.

#### **Campus Service Statements**

- **Plagiarism & Academic Honesty:** A major part of your experience at UW Tacoma will be reading, synthesizing, and using the knowledge and ideas of others. To plagiarize is to use the ideas—or unique phrasing of those ideas—without acknowledging that they originate from someone or someplace other than you. Attributing where you get your information builds your own authority to speak on that topic and provides valuable backing to the arguments you make. Attribution also distinguishes your ideas and words from those of others who came before you. At the University of Washington, plagiarism is a violation of the student conduct code, and the consequences can be serious. Though citing, quoting, and paraphrasing can be confusing at first, it is essential for your success at UWT that you familiarize yourself with these important conventions of academic writing. Additionally, plagiarism can be understood differently in various disciplines. For instance, the ways in which one summarizes others' ideas in texts, or attributes information from texts in one's own paper, are not the same in the sciences as they are in the humanities, or the social sciences. This means it is vital that you understand the specific expectations and guidelines for writing that will help you avoid plagiarizing in this class. If you have questions about what amounts to plagiarism, you are strongly encouraged to seek guidance from faculty and the Teaching and Learning Center as soon as possible. *This statement has been revised by Kelvin Keown and Asao Inoue and submitted to the UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly on 7-28-2014*
- **Classroom Civility** - All classes and activities on the UWT campus are about learning, which often involves the exchange of ideas. However, the tone and intention behind that exchange are important. Civility, politeness, reasonableness, and willingness to listen to others are expected at all times – even when passions run high. Behaviors must support learning, understanding, and scholarship.
- **Campus Safety Information**

- Escort Service: Safety escorts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, there is no time limit. Call the main office line at 253-692-4416.
  - In case of a fire alarm: During an emergency evacuation, take your valuables ONLY if it is safe to do so. You could put yourself or someone else at risk by delaying your exit. Plan to return to class once the alarm has stopped. Do not return until you have received an all-clear from somebody "official," the web or email.
  - In case of an earthquake: DROP, COVER, and HOLD. Once the shaking stops, take your valuables and leave the building. Do not plan to return for the rest of the day. Do not return to the building until you have received an all-clear from somebody "official," the web or email.
- **Safe Campus** - Preventing violence is a shared responsibility in which everyone at the UW plays apart. The SafeCampus website ([www.washington.edu/safecampus/uwt/](http://www.washington.edu/safecampus/uwt/)) provides information on counseling and safety resources, University policies, and violence reporting requirements help us maintain a safe personal, work and learning environment.
  - **Inclement Weather** - Always check the UWT Home Page: official campus closures or delays will be announced there first. Course Announcements and Email regarding assignments and expectations during a closure will follow once the severity of the situation is known.
    - "Call 253-383-INFO or check the UW Tacoma homepage to determine whether campus operations have been suspended or delayed. If not, but driving conditions remain problematic, call the professor's office number. This number should provide information on whether a particular class will be held or not, and/or the status of pending assignments. If the first two numbers have been contacted and the student is still unable to determine whether a class(es) will be held, or the student has a part-time instructor who does not have an office phone or contact number, call the program office number for updated information."
  - **Email Policy** - "UW Tacoma employees and students are issued a University of Washington NetID and email account. University email communications will only be sent to their University of Washington email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UW email accounts. Those who choose to forward their emails to a non-UW email address do so at their own risk. The University is not responsible for any difficulties that may occur in the proper or timely transmission or access of email forwarded to any email address, and any such problems will not absolve employees and students of their responsibility to know and comply with the content of electronic university communications sent to UW email addresses." *For the complete Policy Statement, follow the link in the heading title.*
  - **Electronic Devices** - Electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets and laptops) may only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor. Activities that are not relevant to the course, such as checking/ sending email, playing games and surfing the web, are considered disruptive activities when class is in session. *Check with your school/program about their electronic devices policy, or to see if it's at the discretion of the instructor.*
  - **Infants/Children in Class Policy** - Mothers who are breastfeeding an infant, or expressing milk, may do so in class without the permission of the instructor. Or if you prefer to breastfeed or breast-pump outside of class, you may take time out of class to use a lactation room (GWP 410 [& MAT 204A, pending keycode update. When available, announcement will be made to campus]). However, in either case, it is a good idea to communicate with the instructor ahead of time. If you want to bring an older infant or child(ren) to class, you must get permission from the instructor ahead of time. If permission is

granted, you are responsible for seeing that the child or children are not disruptive to the class and for ensuring that all additional University policies and rules are followed by those that you bring. There are some classes where it may not be safe for an infant, child or children to be present, and in those cases an instructor may restrict an infant, child or children from being present in class. - Approved by the Executive Council on 2/17/17

- **Religious Accommodations** Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/)

## Program and Campus Resources

- **Disability Resources for Students (Office of Student Success)** - The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Resources for Students (DRS), 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 DRS at 253-692-4508, or email at [drsugt@uw.edu](mailto:drsugt@uw.edu) for assistance.
- **Library** - The UW Tacoma Library provides resources and services to support finding resources for your assignments. We guide students through the research process, helping you learn how to develop effective strategies and find and evaluate appropriate resources. In addition to research and instructional support, we manage course reserves and print and digital collections and provide spaces for group and individual study. For assistance or more information, visit our service desks, located in SNO and TLB, or our website, [tacoma.uw.edu/library/library](http://tacoma.uw.edu/library/library).
  - **Research Support** - Get assistance starting a research project.
  - **Subject Librarians** - Make an appointment with a subject librarian to talk about library resources, research strategies, focusing a topic, evaluating information and more.
- **Teaching and Learning Center** - The Teaching and Learning Center offers free academic support for students at all levels. We offer one-on-one consultations and group workshops in writing, math, statistics, science, and Spanish. We also work with students on questions about English grammar & vocabulary, reading, and learning strategies. We are located on the 2nd floor of the Snoqualmie building (Snoqualmie 260) and online. Our schedules for appointments and drop-in visits are posted on our website at [tacoma.uw.edu/tlc](http://tacoma.uw.edu/tlc). For special needs or subject tutoring requests, please email [uwtteach@uw.edu](mailto:uwtteach@uw.edu) or call 253-692-4417. Our services summarized:
- **Bias Incident Reporting Website** - A resource for anyone who needs to report an incident of bias or wants to explore and better understand issues like bias and discrimination, and how to effectively respond.

- **Center for Equity & Inclusion (WCG 104)** - Resources and support for students regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice issues.
- **Child Care Assistance (MAT 103)** - Parenting students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources provided on campus. These resources include the Huskies and Pups RSO, the Childcare Assistance Program, on-campus Family Friendly Spaces, priority access at the MUSE, and back-up/sick care at one of these locations Bright Horizons and KinderCare. On campus resources include lactation rooms and baby changing stations. For more detailed information, visit <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/childcare-family-support-services/childcare-family-support-services-0> or contact the Huskies and Pups RSO: [huskiesandpups@gmail.com](mailto:huskiesandpups@gmail.com).
- **Military-Connected Student Statement** - If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or national guard, or a military spouse or dependent, then stay in contact with your instructor if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your instructor aware of any complication, then he/she will work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resource for veterans, service members, and families are located in the Veteran and Military Resource Center, TLB 307A. The VMRC can be reached at [uwtva@uw.edu](mailto:uwtva@uw.edu), 253-692-4923
- **Counseling Center (Office of Student Success)** - The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW Tacoma students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. Counselors are available to help students cope with stresses and personal issues that may interfere with their ability to perform in school. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To schedule an appointment, please call 253-692-4522, email [uwtshaw@uw.edu](mailto:uwtshaw@uw.edu), or stop by the Student Counseling Center (SCC), located in MAT 354. Additional information can also be found by visiting [www.tacoma.uw.edu/counseling](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/counseling).
- **UWT Student Health Center** - All UW Tacoma students who pay the [Services and Activities Fee \(SAF\)](#) now receive student health services at six Franciscan Prompt Care clinics: [Bonney Lake](#), [Burien](#), [Gig Harbor](#), [Lakewood](#), [Puyallup](#), [Tacoma](#). The “distributive care model” provides students more ways to access health care through six CHI Franciscan Health prompt care facilities throughout the Puget Sound, as well as access to [Franciscan Virtual Urgent Care](#), at no additional cost. The Franciscan Prompt Care clinic located across the street from St. Joseph Medical Center, just up the hill from campus, is designated as the UW Tacoma clinic where students will receive priority treatment. The former Student Health Services clinic located in Laborer’s Hall on Market Street has closed. These changes do no affect which students can utilize Student Health Services. All current SAF-paying UW Tacoma students have access to Student Health Services, even those who have health insurance. **All appointments are now scheduled by calling 253.428.2200.**
- **The Pantry** - Providing supplemental, nutritional, and culturally relevant food as well as hygiene items to all UWT students and their families. Stop by during weekly drop-in hours (DOUGAN 104) Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm or complete the online Food Request Form at [tacoma.uw.edu/thepantry](http://tacoma.uw.edu/thepantry).
- **Short-Term, No Interest Loans** - The Office of Student Financial Aid has funds available for short-term loans to assist students with temporary cash flow problems. Funds are generally available within one to four working days, only to students who are currently attending the university (loans cannot be

processed between quarters). Repayment is due by the next quarter, or whenever additional funds such as financial aid arrive on account, whichever comes first. There is no interest on the short-term loans but there is a service charge added to the repayment amount. Students may apply online through [MyUW](#) under "Personal Services." Paper application forms are also available in the Financial Aid Office, but the processing time is longer. [Learn more about short-term loans](#)

- **Student Advocacy and Support** - The Office of Student Advocacy and Support assists students to set goals and find on campus supports to meet life challenges that create barriers to achieving their educational goals. For more information. <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/student-engagement/student-advocacy-support>