

Portland State University

School Social Worker Curriculum

Council on Social Work Education Competencies
Measured for Two 500-hour Internships

Competency 1—Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession's history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Competency 2—Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Competency 3—Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and

responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Competency 4—Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Competency 5—Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Competency 6—Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate.

Competency 7—Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and

communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in the process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Competency 8—Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of inter-professional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, inter-professional, and interorganizational collaboration.

Competency 9—Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness.

Social Work with Children, Youth and Families

This concentration is focused on the development of social work practice with children, youth, and families. Courses throughout the year will provide the following content:

- Impact of the social worker's self-identity and social location on practice
- Ethics and ethical dilemmas in multi-system; multi-disciplinary practice contexts
- Culturally responsive and developmentally grounded interpersonal skills to engage effectively and collaboratively with children, youth and families; and their communities.
- Critical analysis of social, political, and historical influences on social inequities and disparities
- Effective engagement with diverse communities and organizations to promote culturally responsive, equitable, and transformational social work practices with children, youth, families; and their communities.

- Service user collaboration to analyze, select, and apply social work practice methods aimed at enhancing social, emotional, and physical well-being of children, youth, families, and their communities. Secondary trauma, burn out and self-care
- Policy development to address barriers to services that promote service user influence
- Research and evaluation methods to select and evaluate impact of advanced social work practice with children, youth, families, and their communities
- Consumer advocacy

Clinical Social Work Practice

This concentration is focused on the development of clinical practice skills to provide therapy and counseling to individuals and families. Courses throughout the year will provide the following content:

- Theories for clinical practice – Narrative or Attachment theory
- Development of intentionality and relational self awareness
- Legal issues; Ethics and ethical dilemmas in clinical practice
- Development of a therapeutic alliance and the impact of contextual factors on it
- Multidimensional bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment
- Development of responsive therapeutic treatment plans and contracts with clients
- Culturally response and informed engagement, assessment, and intervention processes
- Cultural context of practice
- Collaborative organizational change to address client and community needs
- Family centered practice using family theory and family of origin perspectives
- Evidence based practice principles and modification of practices to meet the needs of differing populations
- Collaboration with colleagues and clients to advocate for policy action that promotes social and economic justice
- Issues regarding clinical supervision

SSWL Field Requirements:

- Students pursuing a school social work license must complete a fingerprinting form with TSPC prior to beginning their school based field placement.
- Students must complete one year (3 academic terms equalling 500 hours) of field experience in a K-12 school setting **and** one year (3 academic terms equalling 500 hours) in a community based agency serving children, youth and families
- In addition, students are asked to complete 15 direct practice hours with each group: 3-8, 9-14, and 15-18. These hours can be completed over the span of the two field placements.

SSWL Required Electives: Students pursuing the license are required to participate in the following electives in addition to their concentration requirements:

- SW 564 Social Work in Schools
- ELP 581 US and Oregon School Law and Policy (offered through the School of Education)
- SW 563 Social Work with Children, Adolescents, and Families (Required for students in the Clinical and PLCO concentrations only.)