Student Orientation at the Practicum Agency

University of Montana School of Social Work
Online MSW – Field Education Program

Overview

• Student Developmental Stages
• Learning Styles
• Student Orientation at the Agency
• Student and Supervision Orientation
Student Developmental Stages

Settling In/Anxiety → Engagement → Basic Mastery → Closure
Learning Styles

Learning Style Assessment

• Kolb’s Learning Inventory - Identify the predominant learning style of your supervisee
• Help students integrate theory and practice through reflective supervision
Learning Style Assessment

• Build off of student’s predominant learning style
  • Thinkers – Facilitate a case presentation and identify the evidence-based practice model used
  • Observers – Observe an intake, write up the assessment, reflect on social worker’s techniques--how would you have performed similarly/differently
  • Doers – Process recordings with interview content, social worker and client observations, major themes, interventions
  • Feelers – Watch video recorded sessions--what do you notice? What came up for you
• Or, challenge the student to reflect in a different style

Agency & AFI Orientation
Orienting Students to Agency

- Introductions
  - Meet and Greet
  - Building Tour
- Policies & Procedures
  - Confidentiality
  - HIPPA etc.
  - Safety
  - Agency Norms (dress code, communication re. sick time/time off, social media use etc.)
- Agency Overview
  - Mission & Values
  - Population, Services, Eligibility
- Practicum Logistics
  - Weekly Supervision Time & other regular meetings
  - Student Schedule

Orienting Students to Supervision

- Supervision Time & Expectations
  - Past supervision experiences – what has worked or not?
  - How should student prepare for supervision?
- Communication Style
  - Preferred Methods of Communication
- Learning Goals & Activities
  - Collaborative approach to learning
“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” – J. Welch

More information about student support and supervision can be found in the next module on supervision.