

Overview

- UMSSW Background
- Meet the Field Education Team
- Purpose of Practicum
- Benefits to Agency Field Instructors & Agencies

University of Montana's School of Social Work

- History / Background of the SSW at UM
 - BSW Program – started in 1971; generalist practice
 - MSW Campus Program – started in 2002; advanced integrated practice
 - Online MSW Program – launched fall of 2021
- Commitment to Enhancing Rural Social Work Practice
- Commitment to Anti-Racist Principles, Policies, and Practices
- A Collaborative Approach To Education, Research and Practice
 - Center for Children, Families and Workforce Development

Meet the UMSSW Field Education Team!

- **Director of Field Education**
 - Oversees all aspects of field education programming at the UMSSW; develops field courses, trainings and curriculum; offers ongoing support to field faculty, students, and agency supervisors.
- **Assistant Director of Field Education**
 - Coordinates field education programming for the online MSW program; provides ongoing support to online MSW students and their agency supervisors; acts as field liaison to students and agencies.
- **Field Education Specialist**
 - Supports online students and agencies/ AFIs prior to and throughout the practicum process; provides tech support and ongoing resources to ensure successful placement process.
- **Field Liaisons**
 - Serve as the primary link between student field placements and the UMSSW; offer ongoing support to both students and Field Supervisors throughout the field experience.
- **Agency Field Instructors (AFIs)**
 - Mentors for students in field placements; provide initial training and ongoing supervision and support on site; help students integrate classroom learning into hands on practice.



Social Work Practicum

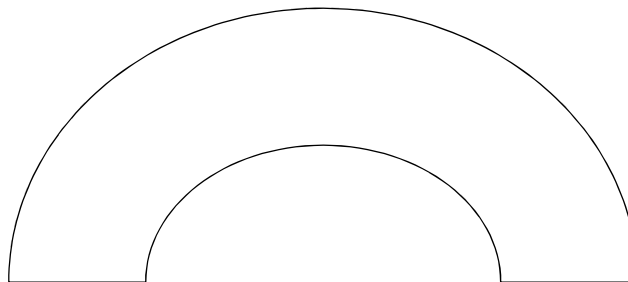
Heart of Social Work Education

Purpose of SW Practicum

Field is considered the “**signature pedagogy**” of social work education

- Develop and strengthen core competencies and practice behaviors in a field setting
- Develop self-awareness and apply social work knowledge, values, ethics, and practice skills
- Practice social work skills and theories
- Ethical decision making in the context of social work values and its code of ethics

Classroom Learning



Hands on Practice

Purpose of SW Practicum

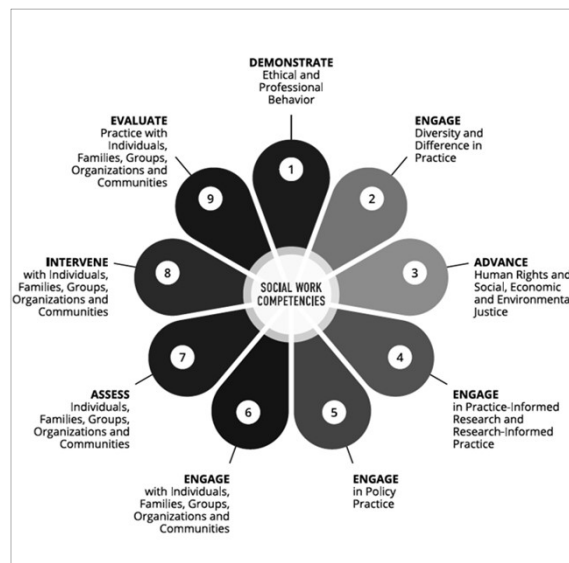
Learning Goals & CSWE Core Competencies

The UMSSW MSW Program addresses each of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors at the Foundation and Concentration levels.

- *“Social work competence is the ability to integrate and apply social work knowledge, values, and skills to practice situations in a purposeful, intentional, and professional manner to promote human and community well-being.” (CSWE, 2015 EPAS)*
- *“Each competency describes the knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes that comprise the competency at the generalist level of practice, followed by a set of behaviors that integrate these components. These behaviors represent observable components of the competencies, while the preceding statements represent the underlying content and processes that inform the behaviors.” (CSWE, 2015 EPAS)*

Core Competencies

- Framework for learning in practicum
- Learning Agreement
- Development at the beginning of practicum with support and input from agency supervisor and field liaison



Benefits for Agency Field Instructors (AFIs)

- Give back to the profession
- Collaborate with students on innovative projects & practices that support agency capacity
- Keep up with current research & curriculum
- Network with other professional social workers
- Teach & prepare a new generation of social workers
- Supervision experience
- Earn Free CEUs - Via the UMSSW *Lunch & Learn* sessions & other events



Benefits for Practicum Agencies

- Develop a workforce pipeline
- Support agency capacity:
 - How can students support agencies in building their capacity?
 - Increase client services & support
 - Engagement in research or policy projects
 - Train social work students to step into employee roles
 - Leadership development within the agency



Thank you!

Please find additional resources and more information
in the following modules and on the website.