

**Social Work 699a – SCI**

**Section #67363**

**Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education**

**4 Units**

*“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”*

**Khalil Gibran**  
Lebanese-American Poet (1883-1931)

*Summer Semester, 2018*

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**Course Days: N/A**

**Course Time: N/A**

**Course Site: N/A**

**I. COURSE PREREQUISITES**

This is an advanced master's level Field Education course. Students take this class concurrently with 698a. To participate in this course, students must successfully complete SOWK 589a, SOWK 588, and 589b.

**II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

Supervised field placement to develop depth of skill and practice in area of department focus. Graded CR/NC/IP/INC.

**III. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the third semester direct practice portion of the MSW program. It is a collaborative endeavor between the USC School of Social Work and agencies located throughout the world. This advanced course provides students the opportunity to practice social work skills and apply evidence-based interventions (EBIs) in their work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and businesses with higher competency expectations than the first two semesters of the MSW program. Each

student receives continual support provided by a Field Faculty Liaison who serves as an educator, consultant and coach for the field education internship experience to emphasize the Four C's of Field Education at USC: 1) collaboration, 2) communication, 3) creativity, and 4) critical thinking. Students utilize critical thinking and creativity through application of EBIs on the micro, mezzo and macro level of practice. Students utilize effective communication techniques in working with clients, agency employees and USC faculty to enhance their professional development as social workers.

In collaboration with the School, agencies provide learning opportunities and resources for an effective educational experience for students. Field Instructors are professional masters' level social workers who guide and teach students how to apply social work practice, values and ethics in a professional setting. Field Instructors also collaborate with students and preceptors, if applicable, to create and approve learning agreements, discuss and give feedback on Reflective Learning Tools, complete and sign end-of-semester evaluations, and ensure paperwork is completed on time.

SCI students will intentionally apply specialized practice coursework concepts, while practicing social work and developing competencies in their specialized area of practice in organizations, business and community settings. AMHW students will intentionally apply specialized practice coursework concepts, while practicing social work and developing competencies in their specialized area of practice in agencies serving adults. CYF students will intentionally apply specialized practice coursework concepts, while practicing social work and developing competencies in their specialized area of practice in agencies serving children, youth and families.

Students are expected to take an active role in their experiences through the use of three core learning processes: self-reflection, interaction, and risk-taking. This teaching method draws on Transformative Learning Theory which asserts that students develop integrative knowledge about self and others in a dynamic, multicultural society from multiple perspectives. A primary goal is to help students understand their own and others' cultural experiences, to challenge their preconceptions and stereotypes, and to develop an attitude of openness and flexibility in cross-cultural interactions.

This course provides an opportunity for School departments to implement research-influenced practices in multidisciplinary settings, thereby, contributing to the direct application of EBIs and influencing the capacity of organizations to provide EBIs. Infusing field education internships with EBIs provides a translational link between research and practice, further solidifying a developing science of social work, and underscores Field Education as the "signature pedagogy" of social work.

At semester end, the Field Faculty Liaison is responsible for assigning students a grade of Credit, In Progress, or No Credit.

#### IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objective #	Objectives
1	Intentionally integrate AMHW, CYF and SCI classroom theories and specialized concepts with micro, mezzo, and macro social work practice in a variety of community settings that address the effects of poverty, discrimination and oppression; influence changes at the individual, family and group level; and bring about organizational and societal change.
2	Connect the developing science of social work to practice by intentionally applying specific AMHW, CYF and SCI evidence-based interventions (EBIs) through internship placements.
3	Enhance skills across the spectrum of culturally appropriate social work services, may include direct practice skills such as engagement, assessment, goal-setting, intervention, evaluation, and termination; mezzo practice skills such as case management, resource/referral, family work, and support system engagement; and macro practice skills such as community organizing, fund development and grant writing, policy analysis, and program development, implementation, and evaluation.
4	Develop professional use of self through observation of professional social workers, self-reflection, understanding of social work values, and implementation of those values in internship placements.
5	Increase proficiency in the required Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Core Competencies as indicated in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation related to departmental (AMHW, CYF and SCI) specialized behaviors.
6	Intentionally develop and expand effective communication skills demonstrating critical thinking and creativity for intra/interdisciplinary collaboration, service delivery, oral presentation and written documentation within the specialized field education internship setting.

#### V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Field Education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of program competencies (Brooks, 2010). These competencies are articulated in the CSWE EPAs and make up the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation for field education internship. To prepare students for successfully achieving those competencies, a variety of instructional methods are utilized by both USC Field Faculty and agency Field Instructors.

Instructional methods consist of university-led trainings, activities, and guidance combined with community agency activities under the supervision of a designated Field Instructor, including hands-on interactions with clients, shadowing opportunities, trainings, individual supervision, group supervision, guidance on proper documentation, crisis management responses, didactic instruction, and experiential exercises. Students may also develop a working relationship with site-based employees, known as Preceptors, who help guide them in day-to-day operations and many of the activities listed above.

USC Field Faculty Liaisons are assigned to oversee the progress of the students in their field placements, including consultation for students' field education internship assignments. Working on behalf of the School of Social Work, the Liaisons meet with students as needed to facilitate their placement experiences and schedule Field Instructor and student contacts each semester to ensure the quality of students' learning opportunities. The Liaisons also clarify School expectations and serve as consultant and mediator for student and internship-related conflicts.

Reflective Learning Tools are teaching tools that reflect student interactions with clients, systems that impact clients, and agency or community decision-makers. They also provide opportunities for Field

Instructors' input and can influence future interventions. A teaching plan known as the Learning Agreement will be developed and/or revisited collaboratively between students and their Field Instructors. At the end of the first semester, Field Instructors will complete the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation and recommend a grade to the Field Faculty Liaison.

As discussion and participation are an integral part of the learning process, students are expected to prepare for supervision and to come to internship ready to apply the best practices of social work with clients and systems. Internship days are generally on Monday and Wednesday with a half-day on Friday, although some variations may occur. The number of hours required in the field (20 hrs/week) includes at least one eight-hour day.

## VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following table lists the nine Social Work core competencies as defined by the Council on Social Work Education's 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards:

<b>Social Work Core Competencies</b>	
1	<b>Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</b>
2	<b>Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice</b>
3	<b>Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</b>
4	<b>Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice</b>
5	<b>Engage in Policy Practice</b>
6	<b>Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</b>
7	<b>Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</b>
8	<b>Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities*</b>
9	<b>Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities</b>

\* Highlighted in this course

The following table shows the competencies highlighted in this course, the related course objectives, student learning outcomes, and dimensions of each competency measured. The final column provides the location of course content related to the competency.

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</b>            Social workers understand how the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant policies and regulations, may impact practice in community, organization, and business environments. Social workers apply their understanding of ethical decision-making and principles of critical thinking to workplace, community and organizational settings. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences, affective reactions, and biases influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand social work roles and the roles of other professionals involved in community, organizational, and business environments. Social workers use collaboration and advocacy skills to have a positive impact in a variety of contexts.</p> <p>Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and continual updating of knowledge and skills for effective and responsible practice. Social workers incorporate ethical approaches to the use of technology in meeting the needs of their clients in communities, organizations, and business environments. Social workers understand that work within complex systems can generate conflicting priorities and ambiguities that require professional value-based judgments.</p>	<p>4. Develop professional use of self through observation of professional social workers, self-reflection, understanding of social work values, and implementation of those values in internship placements.</p> <p>5. Increase proficiency in the required Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Core Competencies as indicated in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation.</p> <p>6. Develop and expand effective communication skills, demonstrating critical thinking and creativity for intra/ interdisciplinary collaboration, service delivery, oral presentation and written documentation within the field practicum setting.</p>	<p>a. Understand ethical harm and risks inherent in practice (including decision-making and conflicting values), and use this knowledge to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.</p> <p>b. Utilize ethical theories, principles, and guidelines in decision-making to address conflicting values to maximize and opportunities for change in community, organization and business environments.</p> <p>c. Effectively utilize professional judgment, critical thinking, knowledge of social work values and self-awareness to enhance practice with groups, communities and/or organizations.</p>	<p>Exercise of Judgement</p> <p>Values</p> <p>Skills and Critical Thinking</p>	<p>Units 1-2            Module 1: Orientation</p> <p>Units 3-6            Module 2: Engagement</p> <p>Units 7-9            Module 3: Assessment</p> <p>Units 10-13            Module 4: Intervention</p> <p>Units 14-15            Module 5: Evaluation</p> <p>Assignment #2            Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation</p> <p>Assignment #3            Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>2. Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice</b></p> <p>Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to identity formation across one's life span and in a variety of settings. 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 perspectives, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand how life experiences arising from oppression, poverty, marginalization, or privilege and power, can affect community and organizational culture and well-being. Social workers recognize the extent to which social structures, values and cultural systems, including those within communities, organizations, and businesses, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, exclude, or create or enhance privilege and power in arenas of intervention.</p>	<p>1. Integrate classroom theories and concepts with social work practice in vulnerable community settings where the effects of poverty, discrimination and oppression are pervasive in an effort to bring about change at individual, community, organizational and societal levels.</p> <p>3. Enhance skills across the spectrum of culturally appropriate social work services, from engagement to assessment, goal-setting, intervention, evaluation, and termination.</p> <p>5. Increase proficiency in the required Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Core Competencies as indicated in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation.</p>	<p>a. Understand the importance of diversity and difference in shaping one's own and others' life experiences and biases and their possible impact on practice across micro, mezzo, and macro levels, occurring in communities and organizations and business environments.</p> <p>b. Critically identify and select solutions that create inclusion and empowerment, based upon a scholarly understanding of human behaviors that drive exclusion, disengagement and conflict in diverse groups and organizations.</p>	<p>Skills and Affective Reactions</p> <p>Skills and Critical Thinking</p>	<p>Units 3-6 Module 2: Engagements</p> <p>Units 7-9 Module 3: Assessment</p> <p>Units 10-13 Module 4: Intervention</p> <p>Assignment #2 Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation</p> <p>Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</b></p> <p>Social workers understand that every individual, 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, theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers use strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers in order to ensure more equitable distribution of resources, access to opportunities, social goods, and services. Social workers recognize their responsibility to protect the human rights and well-being of individuals in communities, organizations, and businesses across the globe.</p>	<p>1. Integrate classroom theories and concepts with social work practice in vulnerable community settings where the effects of poverty, discrimination and oppression are pervasive in an effort to bring about change at individual, community, organizational and societal levels.</p> <p>5. Increase proficiency in the required Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Core Competencies as indicated in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation.</p>	<p>a. Understand and assess economic trends, business practices, social trends, and governmental actions nationally and globally to recognize the impact on the well-being of individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>b. Understand the tendency for human behaviors in communities, organizations, and businesses and for organizational structures and cultures to create oppressive, exclusive, or stressful environments.</p> <p>c. Identify and intervene effectively in oppressive, exclusive and/or stressful environments using knowledge of human behavior, culture, group dynamics, historical marginalization and other factors that impact the functioning of individuals, groups, communities, organizations and business environments.</p>	<p>Critical Thinking and Skills</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <p>Skills</p>	<p>Units 7-9 Module 3: Assessment</p> <p>Units 10-13 Module 4: Intervention</p> <p>Assignment #2 Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation</p> <p>Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>





Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>5. Engage in Policy Practice</b></p> <p>Social workers understand that policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels mediate human rights of individuals and social justice. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and service delivery systems, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers actively engage in policy practice to effect change in communities, organizations and businesses. Social workers understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy, and are knowledgeable about policy formulation.</p>	<p>5. Increase proficiency in the required Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Core Competencies as indicated in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation.</p> <p>6. Develop and expand effective communication skills, demonstrating critical thinking and creativity for intra/interdisciplinary collaboration, service delivery, oral presentation and written documentation within the field practicum setting.</p>	<p>a. Analyze policies that advance human rights and protect vulnerable populations and work environments or enhance access to employment across the life span.</p> <p>b. Develop policies that advance human rights and protect vulnerable populations and work environments or enhance access to employment across the life span.</p> <p>c. Advocate for policies that advance human rights and protect vulnerable populations and work environment or enhance access to employment across the life span.</p>	<p>Critical Thinking</p> <p>Critical Thinking, Knowledge and Skill</p> <p>Skill</p>	<p>Units 10-13 Module 4: Intervention</p> <p>Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</b> Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of practice with, and on behalf of, diverse communities, their constituencies, and the organizations that serve them. Social workers understand and utilize varied strategies to facilitate engagement with individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and communities. Social workers understand that their personal experiences, affective reactions, and biases may have an impact on their ability to effectively engage with diverse individuals, groups and communities. Social workers understand the role of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration in facilitating engagement with individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, communities and other professionals, as appropriate.</p>	<p>3. Enhance skills across the spectrum of culturally appropriate social work services, from engagement to assessment, goal-setting, intervention, evaluation, and termination.</p>	<p>a. Apply theories of human behavior and the social environment to raise awareness of the impact work-related environments can have on outcomes and behaviors.</p>	Knowledge	Units 3-6 Module 2: Engagement
		<p>b. Use reflection to enhance the use of interpersonal skills in engaging diverse clients across systems levels to develop a mutually agreed upon focus of work and desired outcomes.</p>	Reflection	Assignment #1 Learning Agreement  Assignment #2 Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation
		<p>c. Skillfully select and apply individual, group, organizational and community theories of behavior to facilitate effective engagement with organizations and communities.</p>	Knowledge	Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours
		<p>d. Develop and/or implement strategies to facilitate engagement of stakeholders in program development.</p>	Skills	

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</b></p> <p>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 communities, organizations, and businesses. Social workers understand and utilize theoretical and culturally relevant frameworks in the assessment of diverse community, organization, and business environments. Social workers recognize and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers are mindful of how their personal experiences, affective reactions, and biases may affect their assessment and decision-making.</p>	<p>3. Enhance skills across the spectrum of culturally appropriate social work services, from engagement to assessment, goal-setting, intervention, evaluation, and termination.</p>	<p>a. Demonstrate knowledge and practice skills needed to collect, organize and interpret data at multiple levels.</p> <p>b. Based upon knowledge of human and organizational behaviors, develop mutually agreed-upon intervention goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Skills</p> <p>Skills</p>	<p>Units 7-9            Module 3:            Assessment</p> <p>Assignment #2 Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation</p> <p>Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>

Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p><b>8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</b></p> <p>Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-based interventions that help them best address the goals of their clients and the systems that serve them. Social workers are able to intervene effectively at individual, group, and system levels. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to promote the well-being of individuals. Social workers value the importance of inter-professional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, inter-professional, and inter-organizational collaboration.</p>	<p>2. Connect behavioral science to practice by learning and applying evidence-based interventions (EBIs) in internship placements.</p> <p>3. Enhance skills across the spectrum of culturally appropriate social work services, from engagement to assessment, goal-setting, intervention, evaluation, and termination.</p>	<p>a. Use knowledge of evidence-informed interventions to initiate actions that enhance the capacity and sustainability of organizations.</p> <p>b. Utilize professional collaboration and teamwork within organization environments to help clients resolve problems.</p>	<p>Knowledge</p> <p>Skills</p>	<p>Units 10-13            Module 4:            Intervention</p> <p>Assignment #2 Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation</p> <p>Assignment #3 Development of Competencies and Field Hours</p>



**VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING**

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
1. Learning Agreement	Week 5	35%
2a. Ten Reflective Learning Tools	Weekly	30% (50% completed by week 9)
2b. Field Documentation	Week 15	
3. Development of Competencies and Field Hours**	Week 15	35%

**\*\*All field hours must be completed to pass this course. In order for students to receive credit (CR) they need to receive a minimum of 83% on assignments and must complete required field hours. (Partial credit for this requirement will not be given.)**

Each of the major assignments is described below.

**Assignment 1: Learning Agreement**

On the ground (OTG) students: Review education goals in the Learning Agreement and revise to incorporate department-specific competencies through collaboration with your Field Instructor and Preceptor (if applicable). Submit confirmation of review form to the Field Faculty Liaison.

VAC students: Complete and ensure that the Learning Agreement portion of the Three Semester Learning Agreement and Comprehensive Skills Evaluation form is submitted to the Field Faculty Instructor/ Field Liaison. Completed in collaboration with the Field Instructor/ Preceptor (if applicable)/Field Liaison, the Learning Agreement requires the student to:

- Describe the agency and the community
- Develop a time management plan
- Clarify Field Education assignments
- Assess self-awareness
- Address expectations for supervision with Field Instructor
- Ensure that the Field Instructor teaching plan is filled out by Field Instructor
- Complete, sign and date the Orientation Checklist
- Develop learning activities for the Core Competencies (in collaboration with Field Instructor)
- Sign and date the agreement

**Due:** Unit 5

*This assignment relates to student learning outcome 6.*

**Assignment 2a/b: Reflective Learning Tools and Field Documentation**

Complete and submit weekly Reflective Learning Tools (RLT) (a minimum of 10/semester) to the Field Instructor. The Reflective Learning Tool Log needs to be completed on a regular basis and signed by the Field Instructor as verification that the requirements have been met. There are multiple Reflective Learning Tool forms to include:

- Individual
- Group

- Educational Meeting
- Macro Focused

For OTG students, the RLT Log needs to be completed on a regular basis and signed as verification that the requirements have been met. The log is due on the last date of field.

For VAC students, the Field Practicum Log needs to be signed by the agency field instructor or preceptor (if applicable) during weekly supervision to document the number of field hours completed and to verify that RLTs were completed and reviewed. The log is due monthly and uploaded to the LMS platform.

**Due 2a:** Reflective Learning Tools are due weekly to the Field Instructor and the signed Reflective Learning Tool Log. Field Liaison will do a monthly check-in with student reviewing Reflective Learning Tool Log.

**Due 2b:** Unit 15 – Reflective Learning Tool Log is due Field Liaison

*This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 1-4 and 6-9..*

### **Assignment 3: Development of Competencies and Field Hours**

For Credit in this assignment, students will:

- Demonstrate advanced skills in the CSWE Core Competencies as listed in the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation portion of the Learning Agreement and Comprehensive Skills Evaluation.
- Complete a self-assessment (suggested activity) by rating themselves on the Comprehensive Skills Evaluation and submitting it to the Field Instructor.
- Review and discuss the semester Evaluation completed by the Field Instructor, who makes the grade recommendation. If satisfied that the content accurately reflects progress, students sign in the space indicated.\*
- Ensure that the completed Evaluation is submitted electronically to the Field Liaison.
- Complete required number of Field placement hours (20/week). \*\*

**Due:** Student and Field Instructor will complete the Mid-Year Evaluation and submit electronically along with the signed Reflective Learning Tool Log to Field Liaison by Unit 15.

*This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 1-9.*

*\*If there are issues that are unresolved, discuss with your Field Instructor and, if needed, contact your Field Liaison.*

*\*\*Required hours in field education internship for the semester include a minimum of four hours of Department Immersion, with the remaining hours gained at the field placement. Students will not receive a Credit in this course if they do not complete the required hours. If discussed in advance and arranged with the Field Instructor, students are allowed eight (8) hours per semester for religious holidays. Students may take the equivalent of one eight (8) hour sick day per semester as long as they notify the Field Instructor in a timely manner. Make-up hours for time missed must also be discussed with the Field Instructor. Any attendance issues that arise should be addressed with the student's Field Liaison. Record keeping of required field hours is a joint responsibility of the student and the Field Instructor. To the fullest extent possible, students are expected to observe the site attendance and time schedule policies. However, Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education is a class and students must adhere to the course start and end dates as well as important Field Education activities and events in the USC Field Calendar. If the site is closed on a non-University holiday, the student is expected to make up this time.*

Course grades will be based on the following:

**\*\*All field hours must be completed to pass this course. In order for students to receive credit (CR) they need to receive a minimum of 83% on assignments and**

**must complete required field hours. (Partial credit for this requirement will not be given.)**

Assignment Grades		Final Grade	
Credit	83% or above	Credit	83% or above
No Credit	82% or below	No Credit	82% or below

**VIII. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES**

**Required Textbook**

OTG students: All field forms and information including the calendar can be found here:  
<http://sowkweb.usc.edu/master-of-social-work/MSW-degree/field-education/forms>

VAC students: All field forms and information including the calendar can be found in your Toolbox and here:  
<http://msw.usc.edu/field-forms/>

(Departments can choose a text and put it here as well as recommended readings.)

Recommended readings are available online through electronic reserve (ARES) or through the links provided in the unit descriptions.



## Course Overview Course Schedule—Detailed Description

### Guidelines for SOWK 699a: Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education

The USC School of Social Work places MSW students in thousands of internships nationally and internationally in a variety of different settings: health, mental health, public child welfare, schools, in-person or virtual, etc. This syllabus serves as a general set of expectations for our students and their instructors. However, given the challenges of standardizing direct social work practice, a variety of experiences within these guidelines is expected. Therefore, all stakeholders involved in field education activities should view this document as best practice guidelines.

Unit	Topics	Assignments
<b>Units 1-2:</b>	Module 1: Orientation	
<b>Units 3-6:</b>	Module 2: Engagement	Weekly RLT's Learning Agreement
<b>Units 7-9:</b>	Module 3: Assessment	Weekly RLT's
<b>Units 10-13:</b>	Module 4: Intervention	Weekly RLT's
<b>Units 14-15:</b>	Module 5: Evaluation	Weekly RLT's Semester Evaluation RLT Log

### **Unit 1-2: Module 1: Orientation**

#### **Topics**

## Unit 1-2: Module 1: Orientation

- Meet with agency and complete all required background checks and paperwork
- Participate in agency-run MSW intern orientation,
  - gain exposure to policies, protocols, and procedures,
  - establish relationship with Preceptor and other agency staff
  - Review confidentiality standards and their specific application to the field placement
  - Review skills as described in CSWE's 9 Core Competencies
  - Develop educational relationship with Field Instructor by exploring expectations, discussing teaching and learning styles, and setting field instruction schedule for one (1) hour per week
  - Explore the surrounding neighborhood and how the agency interacts with the community
- Participate in agency focused trainings to include Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) specific to field education internship
- Tasks:
  - ▼ Attend agency orientation and learn about agency's mission, service, structure, community served, and role in the community

This Unit relates to student learning outcome 1.

### Required Readings

University of Southern California. Academic Calendar

University of Southern California School of Social Work Field Manual

### Recommended Reading

Mertz, L.; Fortune, A.E.; & Zendell A.L. (2007): Promoting Leadership Skills in Field Education. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 50(1-2), 173-186.

(Department-specific readings should be included here)

## Unit 3-6: Module 2: Engagement

### Topics

- Observation of Field Placement
  - Observe social work professionals and/or Preceptors interacting with clients, colleagues, administration, and/or community partners
  - Understand key roles and agency hierarchy based on formal organizational chart and informal power structures within placement site
  - Recognize the interplay between agency needs, client needs, and community resources including how information flows into and out of the organization
  - Understand risk factors and strategies for minimizing risks in carrying out agency functions both in agency and community settings
- Direct Service and/or Macro Assignments Begin
  - Begin direct practice and/or macro practice assignments with an emphasis on enhancing interviewing skills in cross cultural contexts
  - Continue to develop relationship with Field Instructor in weekly supervision times and, if applicable, the Preceptor by sharing information, discussing concerns, and exploring learning experiences
  - Incorporate self-care strategies to maintain emotional and physical well-being and balance competing demands on time inherent in the MSW program
- Utilize engagement and rapport building skills with individuals, groups, communities/organizations
  - Refine psychosocial assessment skills such as gathering data and personal history, identifying concrete needs, recognizing psychosocial stressors, and assessing strengths and problems in individual, group, family, community and environmental milieus
- Apply mandated reporting knowledge to moderate-to-high risk situations in consultation with Field Instructor
  - Review agency guidelines, legal standards, and ethical issues regarding child abuse and neglect, dependent adult abuse and neglect, danger to self, and danger to others
- Understand confidentiality parameters within internship placement
- Tasks:
  - ▼ Complete Learning Agreement
  - ▼ Create Reflective Learning Tool based on observations and/or interactions in the agency and submit to Field Instructor

This Unit relates to student learning outcomes 1, 2, and 6.

### Recommended Readings

(Department-specific readings should be included here)

## Unit 7-9: Module 3: Assessment

### Topics

- Practice intake and assessment skills with clients and organizations, depending on focus of field education internship
  - Utilize and learn effective methods and protocols of assessing clients, programs and/or organizations
- Strengthening a Professional Social Work Identity
  - Assess levels of commitment from key stakeholders, determine approaches to address resistance, and set short-term and long-term objectives
  - Strengthen professional role and relationships, apply social work values to ethical dilemmas, and seek consultation in decision-making process
  - Continue to utilize EBI principles and techniques in carrying out intervention plans
  - Continue to develop relationship with Field Instructor by clarifying expectations for student's learning and Field Instructor's teaching
- Utilize consultation protocols with Field Instructor when working with an assessing individuals, groups, and communities/organizations
- Tasks:
  - ▼ Create and submit weekly Reflective Learning Tools

This Unit relates to student learning outcomes 1-4 and 7.

### Recommended Readings

(Department-specific readings should be included here)

## Unit 10-13: Module 4: Intervention

### Topics

- Connect theory to practice
  - Explore and begin to apply theoretical frameworks, concepts and approaches at field placement in relationship to working with individuals, groups and/or communities/ organizations
- Apply EBI's and other innovative strategies in working at all levels of practice: micro, mezzo, and macro
- Exploring Clinical and Organization Complexities
  - Explore funding base of agency, including the relationships between finance, budget, and development departments as part of continual organizational assessment
  - Incorporate middle-phase skills in work with clients and/or systems: Plan and implement EBI and goal attainment strategies; integrate advanced skills such as additive empathy interpretation, and confrontation as appropriate; and utilize and enhance support systems (Hepworth, et al, 2010)
  - Maintain accurate, timely, and well-written case notes and other agency paperwork
  - Participate in bi-weekly group supervision, if applicable, for a minimum of one (1) hour to include case conferencing, discussions, role plays, and didactic presentations
  - During field instruction, discuss current experiences of transference or counter transference, building on past experiences with clients and how those issues were managed
- Expanding Linkage with Community Resources and Partners
  - Recognize the importance of community partnerships as they relate to funding, in-kind services, collaborations, client referral systems, and overall community goodwill
  - Build resource/referral contacts benefiting clients, reinforce importance of community support systems, and/or enhance agency relationships with community partners
  - Apply clinical case management skills as appropriate
  - Utilizing consultation, feedback loops, and client self-reporting, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions with clients and make appropriate modifications
- Advocating for Economic and Social Justice
  - Find common themes of economic and social justice that connect the organization with the community in order to exert influence on key stakeholders
  - Take action with clients, support systems, and/or the community to increase economic and social justice efforts at the agency/organization
  - Increase direct practice opportunities that expand understanding of treatment planning and interventions
  - Continue to improve communication and interviewing techniques; further develop skills of assessment, treatment planning, and service delivery; and introduce family or group modality
  - Review self-care strategies to maintain emotional and physical well-being and balance competing demands on time inherent in the MSW program
- Tasks:
  - ▼ Create and submit weekly Reflective Learning Tools

This Unit relates to student learning outcomes 1-5 and 8.

### Recommended Readings

Council on Social Work Education. (2008) Educational Policy & Accreditation Standards and Handbook. Retrieved on 12/14/2011: <http://www.CSWE.org/Accreditation/2008EPASDescription.aspx>.

(Department-specific readings should be included here)

**Topics**

- Exploring Clinical, Program and/or Organizational Evaluation processes
  - What are the current methods of evaluating services, programs and the organization
  - Utilizing critical thinking and judgment skills in evaluating clinical, program and/or organizational processes
  - Apply effective communication skills in discussing key evaluation processes with Field Instructor and/or other individuals at field placement
- Termination Preparation and Self-Assessment
  - For macro placements, review process of project development, including in-group and out-group dynamics, resource allocation, and managing barriers to change
  - For clinical placements, apply ending phase skills to appropriate cases, including addressing termination and its implications, reviewing progress, identifying unresolved issues, and providing referrals
  - Ensure that Field Instructor, Preceptor, clients, and/or systems are prepared for planned absence
  - Continue group supervision with discussion, role play, and didactic presentations (if applicable)
- Completion of 699a Semester and end of semester evaluation
  - Finalize preparation for internship recess with Field Instructor, including a review of the impact your planned absence may have on self, clients, systems, and the organization
  - Confirm client and/or project coverage during planned absence
  - Evaluate effectiveness of EBIs by measuring progress of clients toward short-term and long-term goals as identified in their treatment plans
  - Set learning goals for second semester and develop timeline for deliverables by the end of the internship
- Tasks:
  - ▼ Create and submit Reflective Learning Tool
  - ▼ Complete hours required for first semester
  - ▼ Review, sign, and submit semester Comprehensive Skills Evaluation and Reflective Learning Tool Log to Field Liaison (Unit 15)

This Unit relates to student learning outcomes 1 and 5

## University Policies and Guidelines

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### VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class and to remain in class for the duration of the unit. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by email ([xxx@usc.edu](mailto:xxx@usc.edu)) of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations which conflict with students' observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements *in advance* to complete class work which will be missed, or to reschedule an examination, due to holy days observance.

Please refer to Scampus and to the USC School of Social Work Student Handbook for additional information on attendance policies.

### VII. ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

### VIII. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

- *Virtual Academic Center (VAC) Students can access counseling services through Perspectives – (800) 456-6327 – 24/7 on call. [www.perspectivesltd.com](http://www.perspectivesltd.com)*

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student  
EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

*USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.*

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>

## **IX. STATEMENT ABOUT INCOMPLETES**

The Grade of Incomplete (IN) can be assigned only if there is work not completed because of a documented illness or some other emergency occurring after the 12th week of the semester. Students must NOT assume that the instructor will agree to the grade of IN. Removal of the grade of IN must be instituted by the student and agreed to be the instructor and reported on the official “Incomplete Completion Form.”

## **X. POLICY ON LATE OR MAKE-UP WORK**

Papers are due on the day and time specified. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. If an assignment is late without permission, the grade will be affected.

## **XI. POLICY ON CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AND/OR COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus during the semester in order to respond to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. Adjustments that are made will be communicated to students both verbally and in writing.

## **XII. CODE OF ETHICS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (OPTIONAL)**

*Approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly and revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly [http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp]*

### **Preamble**

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual wellbeing in a social context and the wellbeing of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. “Clients” is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and



implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.

### **XIII. COMPLAINTS**

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If you feel cannot discuss it with the instructor, contact the 699a Lead Instructor (VAC students contact [vacfield@usc.edu](mailto:vacfield@usc.edu) and Ground students contact [sswfield@usc.edu](mailto:sswfield@usc.edu) for the Lead Instructor's contact information). If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact Senior Associate Dean Dr. Marleen Wong and MSW Chair Dr. Leslie Wind for further guidance.

### **XIV. TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THIS COURSE (OPTIONAL)**

- ✓ Be mindful of getting proper nutrition, exercise, rest and sleep!
- ✓ Come to class.
- ✓ Complete required readings and assignments BEFORE coming to class.
- ✓ BEFORE coming to class, review the materials from the previous Unit AND the current Unit, AND scan the topics to be covered in the next Unit.
- ✓ Come to class prepared to ask any questions you might have.
- ✓ Participate in class discussions.
- ✓ AFTER you leave class, review the materials assigned for that Unit again, along with your notes from that Unit.
- ✓ If you don't understand something, ask questions! Ask questions in class, during office hours, and/or through email!
- ✓ Keep up with the assigned readings.

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*Don't procrastinate or postpone working on assignments.*

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