Social Work Field Education 2

Teaching Period: Sem 1 2012

Course Code: HWSS1143

School: 365H Global Studies, Soc Social & Planning

Career: Undergraduate

Campus: City Campus

Learning Mode: Workplace

Primary Learning Mode:

Primary learning mode is face to face through a 70 day supervised placement, preceded by a briefing in the previous summer semester and integrative seminars on campus during semester 1.

Credit Points: 36

Teacher Guided Hours: 36 per semester

Learner Directed Hours: 99 per semester

Course Coordinator: Linette Hawkins

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Course Coordinator Location: 8.7.19

Course Coordinator Availability: By appointment

Additional Staff Contact Details

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Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities

HWSS1137 Social work Field Education I, HWSS1139 Community Work (Social Work Theory and Practice 4A).

Course Description

The field education experience may focus upon a specific project or be generic, comprising direct practice and/or group work and/or involvement in project(s). Building upon the micro skills of the third year placement this course aims at integrating the macro theory from Community Work, Social Policy, Research and Program Planning and Evaluation courses with practice in the final placement. This is demonstrated through involvement in policy, programs, research and / or community
development areas as agreed upon with the organization. In some agencies the broader experience may be combined with the further development of micro skills through direct service.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development:

- There are 7 Core Learning areas you will be assessed against. These are:
  1. Values, ethics and professional practice
  2. Organisational context
  3. Use of knowledge in practice
  4. Processes, skills and relationships
  4.1 Communication Skills
  4.2 Assessment, Intervention, Referral and Evaluation
  4.3 Group & Team-work Skills
  5. Self learning and professional development
  6. Research
  7. Social policy

You must at achieve a level of capability (level 3) across all 7 areas, relevant to placement setting, by the end of the placement. The criteria in more detail will be provided in the full course guide.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course you will have be able to:

- Apply your knowledge of contextually relevant ethics and standards for social work practice in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics and Practice Standards.
- Describe the organisational, legal and political contexts of human services processes
- Reflect critically on the use and application of theories and methodologies relevant to social work practice
- Form constructive relationships with individuals, groups and communities including user groups, colleagues, professionals and people in other significant roles / positions
- Take maximum responsibility for your own learning and development, and to perform at a level of competence appropriate to a beginning social work practitioner, including the skills to manage your future career and the transition from university to professional practice
- Recognise research as an the integral part of social work practice: Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of all types and stages of social research
- Describe the legislative and social policies which influence the different fields of practice including knowledge of relevant legislative and policy frameworks.

Capabilities

- In this course the following graduate capabilities will also be developed and assessed:
  1. Apply the knowledge and practice skills to work with and for society’s most vulnerable and
marginalised individuals, families, groups and communities
2. Analyse issues of social disadvantage, oppression and marginalisation from a socio-political and economic framework recognising the impact of capitalism on social relations
3. Promote social justice and human rights within a global and international perspective
4. Understand the strengths and limits of the state’s policy, legislative and institutional arrangements on the context and practices for addressing social disadvantage
5. Acquire relevant interdisciplinary knowledge required for practice
6. Apply interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in range of practice settings reflecting the contexts and challenges of contemporary social work
7. Apply their knowledge and practice skills in a manner that confronts structural disadvantage arising from cultural and religious difference, patriarchy, racism, disability, age and discrimination of the basis of sexual preference
8. Recognise and work constructively with power differentials between human service organisations, practitioners and vulnerable marginalised individuals, families, groups and communities
9. Promote ethical, respectful, accountable and transparent practice processes
10. Participate robustly in contemporary and changing ideological and political debates impacting on society, in an informed, flexible and grounded manner.
11. Engage in life-long learning and on-going professional development

Overview of Learning Activities

You will be supported through placement planning and preparation in consultation with the 4th year field education coordinator and other relevant staff. Learning activities will include the 70 days field placement, development of a learning plan, and integrative seminars.

Details of Learning Activities

In accordance with the requirements of the professionally accrediting body for social work education (Australian Association of Social Workers - AASW) the principal learning activities for Field Education 2 will be provided through a placement structure that consists of 70 days (or equivalent, of the total 140 days stipulated for the BSW), in supervised practice in a relevant organisation. Field Educators who meet the accreditation requirements of the AASW will provide supervision. Through this course students will have the opportunity to strengthen and develop their professional skills, knowledge and values within a workplace-learning environment. Students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of organisational and community contexts of practice, as well as effectively dealing with the ethical dilemmas that are likely to be encountered. Placements may focus on community organisation, program development, policy development and/or research and may include a component of direct practice work. You will be expected to analyse the practice setting by
drawing on a range of theoretical perspectives, in particular those concerning power and exclusion, and to develop appropriate responses. This course requires students to actively draw from previous knowledge and experience when determining their specific learning goals while they are on placement. This includes integrating previously studies material, especially in social work theory and practice and in field education as well as prior workplace learning.

Teaching Schedule
Preliminary consultation leading to placement allocation and referral.
If you are undertaking placements in Victoria a series of three integrative seminars will be held monthly, dates to be advised. You are expected to attend seminars held whilst on placement. You will be assigned a liaison person responsible for: educational consultation, monitoring, evaluation of learning opportunities and performance, mediation and problem solving.

Overview of Learning Resources

RMIT will provide you with additional resources and tools for learning in this course through our online systems via myRMIT Studies. Additional sources, links and postings of relevant material will be made available online.

Learning Resources
RMIT University BSW Field Education Manual 2012
Course documents and pro formas - www.rmit.edu.au/gsssp/fielded/sw

RMIT Library
The University Library provides extensive services, facilities and study space as well as comprehensive collections of books, periodicals and other course related materials, such as DVD’s, magazines, slides, films etc. Computer laboratories with access to a wide range of desktop publishing software are also available. The library also has an expanding virtual collection of electronic resources and networks, including product data, e-books, electronic journals and newspapers, web based tutorials, online reference and document delivery services etc., all of which are accessible on campus, and off campus 24 hours per day. More information on library resources and services can be found at: http://www.rmit.edu.au/library
If you need additional support, visit RMIT’s Learning Lab, either in person or online: http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/

Overview of Assessment
You will be assessed on the above learning outcomes and capabilities.
Assessment tasks may include but are not limited to your contribution to integrative seminars, a Learning Plan, a mid placement Review, and Final Report.

**Assessment Tasks**

- Performance in field education will be assessed using the framework of 7 core learning areas, as developed by the Combined Schools of Social Work.
- Participation in integrative seminars whilst on placement
- Satisfactory completion of the 70 days field placement, or equivalent.
- Satisfactory completion of Learning Plan, Mid Placement Review and Final Report by student and field educator/supervisor on placement performance (Final Placement Report).

To pass field education 2 (final placement) students must at least reach a level of capability (level 3) across all 7 areas, relevant to placement setting, by the end of the placement. Level 3 Performance is defined as:


In order to demonstrate this and maximise their learning students will have, together with their field educator developed a learning plan that identifies tasks and ways to measure them against each of the 7 broad learning areas. This includes taking maximum responsibility for their own learning and professional development.