Course Title: BSW  Field Education 2

Part B: Course Detail

The following link provides important information on the following topics that relates to all courses:

Teaching Period: Sem 2, 2010

Course Code: HWSS1143

Course Title: Social Work Field Education 2

School: 365H Global Studies, Soc Sci & Plng

Career: Undergraduate

Campus: City Campus

Learning Mode: Face-to-Face

Primary Learning Mode:

Primary learning mode is face to face through a 70 days supervised placement, complemented by a briefing in semester 1 and integrative seminars at University during placement.

Credit Points: 36

Teacher Guided Hours: 476 per semester

Learner Directed Hours: 78 per semester

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Offering Coordinator Availability: telephone, email, by appointment and liaison visits

Additional Staff Contact Details

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Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities

Field Education I, Community Work.

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:

At the completion of this course students will have the capacity to

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.

At the conclusion of the course you will have:

1. Demonstrated competence in planning and completing a project;
2. Demonstrated consultation skills with relevant individuals, groups and communities;
3. Demonstrated organisational, legal and political understanding of human service processes;
4. Demonstrated ability to use relevant theory in practice;
5. Demonstrated the ability to take maximum responsibility for your own learning and development, and perform at a level of competence appropriate to a beginning social work practitioner; and,
6. Demonstrated the skills to manage your future career and the transition from university to professional practice.

Satisfactorily complete 70 days of placement demonstrating the ability to begin practice in a basic mainstream social work position without further formal and/or substantially supervised learning.

Refer to Capability Development above.
Overview of Learning Activities

Field Education Briefing in first semester.

Placement planning and preparation in consultation with the 4th year field education coordinator and other relevant staff.

70 days field placement

Learning plan

Integrative Seminars. Each of the integrative seminar groups meet three times over semester 2.

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. Students 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.

For students undertaking placements in Victoria a series of three integrative seminars will be held monthly, dates to be advised. Students are expected to attend seminars held whilst on placement.

Student is assigned a liaison person responsible for: educational consultation, monitoring, evaluation of learning opportunities and performance, mediation and problem solving.

Overview of Learning Resources

Prescribed Text

9780170131988. Library

Other Resources

RMIT University BSW Field Education Manual 2009

Course documents and pro formas on at : http://www.rmit.edu.au/socialservices/fieldeducation

Overview of Assessment
1. Values, ethics and professional practice
Awareness of contextually relevant ethics in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics.

• Adhere to the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) Code of Ethics which promotes social justice and demonstrates a commitment to the dignity, value and uniqueness of individuals, social units, communities and cultures
• Have an understanding of power relationships and structures that can give rise to and perpetuating relationships of inequality and social marginalisation for the target populations of welfare services; but also to work constructively with issues of power and authority particularly within statutory settings
• Maintain an open and respectful perspective towards the values, views and opinions of others and able to seek to incorporate notions of individual rights and needs and collective responsibilities
• Demonstrate an ability to recognise and understand one’s own assumptions and values and their ability to impact on practice, especially within situations of conflicts of values and interest
• Demonstrate an understanding of social work as a profession and how it differs from other related professions

2. Organisational context
An understanding of the organisational, legal and political contexts of human services processes and ability to satisfactorily carry out or contribute substantially to a project within these in the context of the placement:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the local and wider context in which the organisation operates and in particular the direct practice and social policy priorities of people living in the local region
• Demonstrate an appreciation of the connection between individual problems, public issues and structural disadvantage
• Develop working relationships to deliver services to clients
• Be aware of and adhere to, duty of care, risk management and the organisational policies and procedures, including the legal rights of consumers
• Demonstrate an understanding of current debates, social issues and/or politics which influence the field of practice

3. Use of knowledge in practice
An understanding of theories and methodologies relevant to macro level practice and an ability to reflect critically upon their use and application

• Demonstrate the ability to apply a range of social work theories to practice settings
• Demonstrate the ability to clearly articulate a sound understanding of the relationship between theory and social work practice
• Demonstrate the ability to understand and explain the nature of power and disadvantage

4. Processes, skills and relationships
4.1 Interpersonal Skills
An ability to form constructive relationships with individuals, groups and communities including user groups, colleagues, professionals and people in other significant roles / positions

• Demonstrate clear, fluent and effective interpersonal communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal communication skills, with individuals, groups and communities
• Develop purposeful strategies to engage individuals, groups or communities are demonstrated
• Implement strategies to support and assist clients to find new ways of coping
• Demonstrate an ability to conduct single, joint or multiple interviews and demonstrate ability to practice strategically: to engage, mobilise, challenge and encourage people in the change process
• Demonstrate an understanding of group processes within groups, committees and organisations
• Demonstrate competence in participation in group discussions, in initiating group approaches to problem-solving
• Demonstrate the capacity to deal with situations involving anger, conflict and challenging behaviour

4.2 Team work
Demonstrate ability to work effectively in teams and networks by establishing relationships with colleagues and/or team members, consumers/consumer groups and authority figures
Participate in the management of meetings through assuming formal roles, e.g. secretary/scribe, note taker, chairperson
Reflect on, critique and maintain productive and purposeful working relationships with colleagues and other key stakeholders of the placement agency

4.3 Assessment, Intervention, Referral and Evaluation
• Undertake an assessment of individuals and groups across a diverse range of life circumstances.
• Demonstrate an ability to use the assessment and referral frameworks within and between the organisation
• Demonstrate an ability to implement the intervention plan, engaging in activities such as: working with an interpreters, negotiating and advocating on behalf of service users, mediation, crisis intervention, counselling, facilitation, education and skill transference, coordination and liaison with other service providers, in collaboration with the client/service user
• Demonstrate understanding of both formal and informal methods for evaluating Social Work interventions and ability to articulate these to both service user and supervisor

4.4 Report Writing
• Present and promote ideas to a range of audiences through report writing, presentation of research analysis, etc.
• Demonstrate ability to write with clarity and purpose, reflecting correct use of writing conventions
• Demonstrate ability to write analytically and to distinguish between fact and opinion
• Demonstrate ability to incorporate formal knowledge and professional principles into documentation
• Prepare written assessment report that demonstrates ability to gather relevant information about and with the client/group or community
• Adhere to documented policies within the agency: necessary recording processes – reports, assessment schedules, administrative documentation, statistical procedures, letters, etc.
• Use information technology for recording information, word-processing and data analysis
• Demonstrate understanding of issues such as privacy and confidentiality in relation to the ethical management of client records, including relevant legislation and agency policies.
• Demonstrate ability to co-ordinate and liaise when necessary with other service providers, in collaboration with the client/service user.

5. Self learning and professional development
The ability to take maximum responsibility for one’s own learning and development, and to perform at a level of competence appropriate to a beginning social work practitioner
The skills to manage one’s future career and the transition from university to professional practice.
• Demonstrate the ability to participate proactively in negotiating and developing the supervisory relationship
• Demonstrate an ability to formulate and articulate one’s own learning needs and objectives
• Demonstrate a willingness to take risks and expose practice for scrutiny from supervisor
• Demonstrate an awareness of personal feelings and experience and how these effect practice in diverse social work settings.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the theory of critical reflection and an ability to use this approach to critically examine own practice
• Demonstrate the capacity to work with increasing autonomy and professional responsibility
• Demonstrate an ability to function effectively in complex practice situations
• Identify areas for future learning and development and recognise the importance of future professional development as a social worker
• Manage workload efficiently and effectively
• Ability to demonstrate appropriate responsibility, accountability, reliability and initiative within the work setting

5. Research
• Recognition of research as an integral part of social work practice
• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all types and stages of social research which includes:
  - the ability to effectively engage stakeholders in the research process
- the ability to undertake, critically assess and draw upon relevant literature searches to plan and conduct research
- the ability to conduct research and program evaluation with groups and communities using sound methodological approaches
- the ability to analyse and communicate results of the research through preparation of clear, concise, organised and well argued research reports

7. Social policy

- Knowledge of relevant legislative and policy frameworks demonstrated by
- An ability to interpret and analyse the impact of relevant legislation, policies and regulations on practice
- An ability to understand policy development, community and political processes involved in linking direct practice experience with broader social change objectives.

Assessment Tasks

* Attendance at placement orientation / briefing
* Participation in integrative seminars whilst on placement
* Satisfactory completion of the 70 days field placement, or equivalent.
* Satisfactory completion of an evaluation report by student and field educator/supervisor on placement performance (Final Placement Report).

At the conclusion of this course students will have demonstrated capability appropriate to the placement setting in all seven areas of assessment listed:

1. Awareness of contextually relevant ethics in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics
2. An understanding of the organisational, legal and political contexts of human services processes
3. An understanding of theories and methodologies relevant to practice and ability to reflect critically upon their use and application.
4. An ability to form constructive relationships with individuals, groups and communities including user groups, colleagues, professionals and people in other significant roles/positions, demonstrating skills in communication; assessment, intervention, referral and evaluation; group work and team-work.
5. The ability to take responsibility for one’s own learning and development, and to perform at a level of competence appropriate to a beginning social work practitioner, including the skills to manage one’s future career and the transition from university to professional practice.
6. Recognition of research as an integral part of social work practice; demonstrating knowledge and understanding of all types and stages of social research.
7. An understanding of the legislative and social policies which influence the different fields of practice including knowledge of relevant legislative and policy frameworks.

Other Relevant Information

Pre-requisite Courses: Field Education 1 and Community Work.

Course Overview: Access Course Overview

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URL: http://www.rmit.edu.au/courses/hwss11431010
Authorised 03 March 2010 by Karly Train