SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
University at Albany
State University of New York

BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WELFARE

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FIELD EDUCATION HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The School of Social Welfare is one of ten colleges and schools within the University at Albany, State University of New York. It was established in 1963 and the MSW Program was first accredited in 1969. The following degree-granting programs are currently offered: A two-year Master of Social Work Program, a four-year part-time MSW program, an advanced standing MSW program, a Ph.D. program, and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. The Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) degree program was implemented in 1971 and was first accredited in 1974. The School also offers several joint programs: an MSW and Master’s in Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, an MSW and Public Health at the University at Albany, an MSW and JD with Albany Law School and an MSW and Bioethics degree with Albany Medical College and Union College.

In keeping with Social Work’s historic and enduring commitments, the mission of the School is to further social and economic justice and to serve people who are vulnerable, marginalized or oppressed. This mission is implemented through education, knowledge development, and service that promotes leadership for evidence-based social work with a global perspective. The Undergraduate Field Handbook deals with undergraduate field instruction.

Field instruction is an important and integral component of the undergraduate learning experience in Social Welfare. It provides an opportunity for students to extend, deepen and integrate knowledge acquired in the classroom and to begin to apply this knowledge in the social agency or organization where the student is placed. It is virtually impossible to become an effective social worker without this opportunity to practice what is learned in the classroom in a supportive, supervised setting. The quality of a student’s field experience has an overriding effect, not only on how much he/she learned about social work practice, but also on the student’s overall experience in the program.

In 2008 the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) declared field education to be social work’s signature pedagogy. Field is where students can link classroom knowledge to real world application. The combined experience of classroom and field builds generalist practice capabilities which are demonstrated through mastery of the ten CSWE core competencies.
An Overview of Baccalaureate Social Work Education

The major purposes of social work have been described as (1) enhancement of the problem-solving, coping, and developmental capacities of people; (2) promotion of the effective, just and humane operation of the systems that provide people with resources and services; and (3) connecting people with systems that provide them with resources, services and opportunities.

Program Objectives

The primary goal of the Baccalaureate social work program is to prepare students for entry-level, generalist social work practice. A social worker with an undergraduate degree “has the tools to work in various settings with a variety of client groups, addressing a range of personal and social problems and using skills to intervene at practice levels ranging from the individual to the community” (Schatz, Jenkins & Sheafor, 1990). The specific objectives of the Baccalaureate social welfare program are as follows:

1. To prepare students for entry-level, generalist, social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities, that promotes social and economic justice, and a global perspective
2. To serve the educational needs of students interested in human services and provide opportunities for undergraduates to participate in community and public service.
3. To enrich the University’s general education and other undergraduate curricula.

The Baccalaureate social work curriculum consists of five major substantive areas: Practice, Policy, Human Behavior, Research, and Field Education. The courses in each foundation area form a sequence, which includes the knowledge, values, processes, and skills essential to generalist social work practice.

The Practice component of the curriculum attempts to transmit information on the generalist social work helping process: engagement, assessment, intervention, evaluation, and termination. The four courses in the practice sequence provide for the continuous, non-repetitive development of an entry-level generalist practice framework for practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. In this sequence students develop the skills to intervene on behalf of client systems, which are put into practice through the field practicum.

The Social Policy and Services component is focused on the description and development of an analytic framework for consideration of the U.S. Social Welfare system. Building on the liberal arts base and the elementary base in psychology, sociology, social psychology, and political science, the sequence aims to prepare a generalist social worker who: possesses descriptive knowledge of and the ability to critically analyze social welfare policies and services; understands the history of discrimination in the U.S. and the role of social welfare policy in the quest for equality; and who is knowledgeable about the policy making process and social work roles in the policy making process.
The purpose of the Human Behavior and Social Environment (HBSE) course is to give students an understanding of 1) the interrelationship of biological, psychological, social and environmental influences on the development of human behavior; and 2) human behavior in a range of social systems including families, groups, organizations and communities. In addition, there is a particular emphasis on “human diversity” content, i.e., knowledge about groups with special needs, such as women, ethnic minorities, the physically-challenged, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, the elderly, etc.

Evidence-based practice is emphasized throughout the curriculum with a specific focus on the topic when students take one Research course. The baccalaureate curriculum aims to convey to students that generalist practice is evidence-based. We aim to give students: 1) the ability to think critically about scientific evidence; and 2) the ability to use such evidence towards the amelioration of social problems and the improvement of social work practice.

The Role of the Field Practicum is an essential component of social work education. It is virtually impossible to become an effective social worker without the opportunity to practice what is learned in the classroom in a supportive, supervised setting. Students and faculty alike often view field work as the “heart” of social work education. The “real-world” is an experiential laboratory where students have the opportunity to apply classroom learning. The quality of a student’s field experience has an overriding effect not only on how much they learn about social work practice, but also on their overall experience of the program.

To prepare for entry-level generalist practice through field, students are exposed to practice at the micro, mezzo and macro levels. Experiences in the field include individual and family work, linkages to resources, supportive counseling, advocacy and community organizing. Although it is not necessary for a student to experience all levels each semester, there is an opportunity to work on some of these levels each semester. A diversity of organizations and social agencies are used for student field placements, ranging from schools, probation departments, residential treatment programs, elder care settings, and small community based nonprofits.

One of the most important ingredients for ensuring a high quality field instruction experience is effective communication between the many diverse settings in which students are placed and those at the School of Social Welfare who are charged with overall program responsibility. It is important that each of the parties involved understand what the other is doing and why. Consequently, this brief overview will serve as only the first step in a hopefully productive, mutually satisfying and stimulating interaction between instructors in field settings, classroom settings, and those with programmatic responsibilities.

Definition of Terms used in this handbook:

Baccalaureate and Undergraduate Terms - For the purpose of this handbook, the terms “Baccalaureate” and “Undergraduate” will be used interchangeably.

Field Instruction Agency – The human service organization that has agreed to host student(s) and support an employed social worker while she/he serves in the role of field instructor. In some instances, the field instruction agency will identify a task supervisor and contract with a social worker not employed with the agency to provide required social work supervision and education to students.

Field Instructor – Identified social worker who has an undergraduate degree in social work or MSW degree with at least two years of post-graduate social work practice experience. The field instructor will be the student’s supervisor and will educate/socialize the student on his/her role as a professional social worker.

Field Liaison – Employee of UAlbany who is assigned to work with the field instructor and student to problem solve, collaborate, etc. The field liaison could also be the Assistant Director and Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education.

Task Supervisor – Typically a professional in a related field employed at the field instruction agency who oversees the day-to-day tasks of the student. A task supervisor supplements, but does not replace a field instructor.

School – represents the School of Social Welfare.
 BASIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN THE BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK FIELD WORK PROGRAM

With the assistance of the School, the field instructor should ensure that the following learning experiences occur:

1) All students should have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their particular agency role and functions. They should be able to obtain information about the agency’s place in the community, its history, philosophy, mission, and structure. Students should have a sound idea of services provided by the agency and procedures for same.

2) All students should have an opportunity to know the neighborhood. Provisions should be made to involve the student in activities that expand their contacts beyond the confines of agency buildings. Outreach visits, home visits, contact with other agencies, etc., are helpful.

3) All students should have the opportunity to begin to understand the system challenges of working within an agency structure. Attendance to staff meetings, intra-agency conferences, or board meetings can help towards this end.

4) Students should receive educational experiences in both micro and macro practice levels. Micro practice should include at least two cases in which student has ongoing contact (at least three meetings) with a particular client system:

Micro-practice
- Individual client work – at least two each semester, preferably on an ongoing basis (i.e. 4-5 sessions), and/or
- Family work – e.g. home visits, outreach, etc., and/or
- Group work – either task groups (e.g., an ongoing committee) or therapeutically oriented groups.

Macro-practice
- Organizational work – such as attending staff, board of directors, or other meetings; learning about the agency as an organization.
- Community work – e.g. outreach, education, participation in neighborhood and community-wide meetings, etc.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COORDINATOR OF BACCALAUREATE FIELD EDUCATION

1) Planning, implementing and directing the overall Baccalaureate Field Instruction program.

2) Serving as the assigned field liaison for all Baccalaureate students in field.

3) Locating, developing and initiating new field instruction opportunities, and terminating those that fail to meet field instruction needs and requirements.

4) Evaluating the qualifications of field instructors.

5) Assisting in planning and coordinating field institutes with relevant workshops to enable field instructors to provide more meaningful learning experiences for students.

6) Orienting students to the range of available placements and interviewing students to determine appropriate placement.

7) Assigning students to their field placements.

8) Conferring with the Assistant Dean and Director of Field Education and field education team, especially where problems arise.

9) Assign grades for performance in field and the completion of assignments in the field seminar.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIELD LIAISON

(The Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education or designee)

The field liaison is a social worker with years of supervisory experience in social work practice serving as the first contact when challenges emerge in field. The liaison is a resource for students and field instructors throughout the duration of the field placement. The liaison can be consulted on the development and review of performance evaluations, provide guidance on ethical dilemmas or assist in the development of learning agreements. The liaison will contact the field instructor and student a minimum of once per semester, but can be contacted at any time during the field assignment.

The field liaison is also responsible for teaching the fall Field Seminar course, required for all students in field. The field seminar serves to enhance learning for students through comparative practice experiences and integrative coursework/field instruction. Students will attend seven sessions during the fall semester. The course requires attendance to seminar sessions, participation and completion of assignments. Grading for this course is A-E.

Field Liaison Overview

1) Monitoring of students’ field placements to insure the quality of the learning experience and to intervene when problems arise.

2) Teaching the integrative field seminar, including reviewing and grading assignments for the seminar.

3) Monitoring and maintaining a file of students’ field instruction evaluations.

4) Assigning grades in field instruction, after conferring with field instructors. Grades are based upon performance in the field placement, expressed in the student evaluation and rated “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory”. “Satisfactory” means the student has achieved at least the minimal objectives of the course.

5) Educating field instructors and students on 2008 EPAS Core Competencies, emphasizing the link between coursework and field education.
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF AGENCIES AND INSTRUCTORS

In reviewing agencies as potential settings for field instruction, the Field Education Office looks for evidence of commitment to the task of undergraduate social work education. Specifically, selection of agencies is guided by the following:

1) Clearly defined services, whose mission and values are compatible with those of the social work profession and a demonstrated ability to provide quality client care.

2) The availability of a qualified field instructor (someone with a BSW or MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited social work program and appropriate experience) either on-site, employed by the agency, or affiliated with the site in some way.

3) The willingness of the agency administration to release the field instructor from his/her normal duties for the time necessary to fulfill his/her responsibilities as a field instructor (at least one hour per week per student for individual supervisory conferences, plus time to read students’ written materials and plan educational experiences.)

4) The willingness of the agency to accept the student as a learner whose assignments must be geared to learning rather than to the agency workload.

5) The availability of physical space and technology for meeting with clients, writing reports, telephoning, etc., and the provision of adequate support services to meet learning objectives.

6) The agency’s willingness to allow the student to take part in staff meetings, in-service trainings, interagency conferences, and other such educational opportunities as might arise.

7) The provision of opportunities for students to work with individuals, families, or groups, as well as organizations and the community.

8) The agency fostering a climate conducive to student learning.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIELD INSTRUCTION AGENCY

1) The agency is responsible for providing a qualified field instructor whom the agency is willing to release from his/her formal duties for the time necessary to fulfill his/her responsibility as a field instructor. Supervision of students includes a weekly conference to discuss student’s work, attendance at field instruction seminars at the School (for first time field instructors), completion of learning agreements, providing feedback on process recordings, completing field evaluations, and general monitoring of the student’s progress.

2) Opportunities should be sought for students to engage in meaningful experiences which foster learning and are consistent with the field instruction objectives. The agency should permit, when feasible, the occasional use of case records in classroom discussions and assignments, assuming that confidentiality is maintained.

3) The agency must inform the School as soon as possible whenever a change in assignments of field instructors, location, hours, or philosophy of the agency is anticipated.

4) The agency should submit a Request for Students on the UAlbany School of Social Welfare website (http://www.albany.edu/ssw/About/field-survey-form-agency-field-survey-of-learning-opportunities.shtml). The request asks for an outline/overview of the opportunities available within the agency for undergraduate social work students. In addition, the agency should identify any special requirements affecting students (e.g., the necessity of a car, working hours which differ from the usual ones, etc.).

5) All students are required to complete an interview with the field instructor/field agency after being assigned by the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education. The field agency has the right to screen students as necessary and communicate concerns regarding any student to the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education.

6) Students are advised against transporting clients or clients’ families in their personal vehicles. The University does not cover liability insurance for use of students’ vehicles in the course of conducting field work. If the use of a personal vehicle for client transport is deemed a necessary part of the field work by an agency, the student has the right to request that the agency insure the vehicle for this purpose. Otherwise, the student will accept total liability for the use of a personal vehicle for client transport.

In this circumstance, a student’s request to decline a field assignment based on this stipulation will not be considered a refusal of a field assignment. The student will have the opportunity to discuss options with the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education. The Field Education Office reserves the right to assign an alternative field placement.
FIELD PLACEMENT AGREEMENT

The School of Social Welfare agrees:
1) To provide an orientation to social work education in general and to the curriculum of this School in particular for new field instructors.

2) To provide a liaison to the agency. This person is responsible for making contact with the field instructor and student in-person, by phone or via email at least once each semester. The liaison will provide guidance to the field instructor in selection of learning experiences and cases and in the handling of special learning needs or problems when necessary.

3) Prior to the beginning of the field placement, a Field Education Assignment Sheet (containing the student’s name, address, etc.) and a copy of the student’s resume are sent to the field instructor. In addition, the field instructor has access to the student’s record at the School. When there are special educational needs or learning problems, the School will have a conference with the appropriate agency persons regarding the placement and acceptance of a particular student.

4) To send the field instructor material, including syllabi and bibliographies related to the courses which the student is taking, when requested.

5) To accept the responsibility to have a consultant refer the student for indicated help should a serious medical or psychological problem occur.

The Agency agrees:
1) To release the staff member designated as field instructor from usual responsibilities to allow sufficient time for field instruction responsibilities. Included in this time is the weekly supervision with the student, preparation for supervision, attendance at the seminar in field instruction (first time instructors only), preparing and writing evaluations and conferences with the School.

2) To select learning experiences and clients for the student based on their value for the educational needs of the student.

3) The field instructor will have the primary responsibility for selecting learning experiences and instructing and evaluating the student. Other staff members may participate in the educational process and carry secondary responsibility for the instruction.

4) To make available suitable space and working facilities for the student. These will be consistent with those considered necessary for the proper functioning of any staff member.
5) To be in good standing with their accrediting body and strive to provide services based on their mission. Agencies will ensure that students are supervised by qualified field instructors who perform their primary duties satisfactorily.

6) To ensure that policies and procedures for achieving medical clearance and passing criminal background checks will be clearly outlined by the agency. Agencies will notify the Field Education Office in a timely manner of the need for such requirements prior to a student’s start date of field.

7) Students in field are not eligible for workers compensation. In the event that students are injured while in field, the cost of medical care is the responsibility of the student. Students should notify the Field Education Office of any injuries sustained while in field.

8) To make every effort to ensure the safety of students in field. Students will not be permitted:
   - To perform duties outside the scope of social work practice.
   - To work unsupervised nights or weekends.
Students will be advised of all agency safety standards. Agencies may permit students to drive an agency vehicle if they meet the agency requirements for operating vehicles.

9) Students will be instructed on the regulatory standards for protecting client confidentiality and other rules regarding the handling of client information. Students in practice are bound by the rules of confidentiality. The handling of client information must be protected while in practice and even after field has ended.

10) Students do not share the same status as employees. As a result, students are not eligible for fringe benefits given to employees. To avoid compromising the field placement assignment, the Field Education Office discourages agencies’ offers of employment to students at the same time that they are in field. However, if a student is offered a job at the same agency that he/she is interning, a new employment form must be completed and sent to the Director of Field Education within 30 days of the offer. The form can be provided, upon request, by the Field Office. A recommendation about continuation of the field placement assignment will be made after an investigation is completed.

11) As part of the binding agreement between the field agency and the School of Social Welfare, the agency will ensure that proper supervision is in place during a student’s placement. In the event that a designated field instructor terminates employment with an agency, the agency will notify the Field Education Office while it tries to secure another field instructor. If an agency is unable to maintain supervisory oversight of students in field, the Field Education Office will be immediately notified in order to find an alternative placement for the students.
The Field Instructor agrees:
1) To have the primary responsibility for the instruction of the student.

2) To provide at least one hour of individual supervision per week. Where there are two or more students at a placement site, group supervision is permitted, as part of the peer learning process. However, peer learning should be offered as a supplement to, not replacement for, weekly individual supervision.

When conducting individual supervision, field instructors are asked to track the dates of weekly supervision and document the status of learning. These notes will prove useful when writing up student evaluations.

3) To designate a set time each week to meet with the student for the instruction period.

4) To select learning experiences for the student which provide for the application and integration of social work theory and the development of skills.

5) To attend the Seminar in Field Instruction (new field instructors only) and any meetings at the School for field instructors.

6) To communicate with the field liaison either in person, email or phone at least one time per semester and more if needed or requested by the field liaison.

7) To submit to the School required educational assessments and evaluations when due.

8) To advise the School of any special educational, physical, or psychological difficulties that arises.

Field Instructor Classification/Benefits
The field instructor will receive a faculty appointment to the State University of New York at Albany. This is a non-salaried, part-time appointment at the rank of Adjunct Instructor. This appointment entitles the field instructor to the use of certain University facilities, cultural and recreational activities, and library privileges. The field instructor also earns a three-credit, nontransferable tuition waiver for each semester of field instruction. The tuition waiver is specifically designated for the field instructor and may be used for any course within the SUNY system (not including community colleges), during a period of up to 25 months after it is issued. Tuition waivers only cover the cost of tuition and do not apply to additional fees charged when registering for a course. Field instructors are sent the tuition waiver request form during the semester in which it is earned and must return the voucher form on the designated due date. Once issued, tuition waivers are considered taxable income, regardless of whether or not the waiver is actually used. Employees of the University who serve as field instructors are not eligible to receive these tuition waivers.
Responsibilities of the Field Instructor

Field instruction requires not only knowledge and skill in practice but also a deep interest in social work education. The field instructor should not only be able to demonstrate sound practice but should also be able to consciously explicate the concepts and principles that underlie social work practice. In reviewing potential agency field instructors, the School looks for professional competence, a strong interest in teaching and the potential for competent instruction. The responsibilities are as follows:

1) Field instructors must file with the School of Social Welfare a resume describing their relevant social work training and experience, including their social security number.

2) Field instructors are responsible for reviewing the background of students assigned to them.

3) Field instructors are responsible for selecting cases and other learning experiences appropriate to the student's level of development.

4) The student will normally provide service appropriate to their placement on the days he/she is in placement, typically Tuesdays and Thursdays. Should an emergency arise on the day the student is not in placement, the field instructor must be available to provide back-up service, as necessary and appropriate.

5) Field instructors are expected to gain a general understanding of the School's curriculum by attending orientations and training meetings conducted by the School. Syllabi, including bibliographies, are available to all field instructors. New field instructors are required to complete the Seminar in Field Instruction during their first year as a field instructor.

6) Field instructors are expected to work with students to develop a learning agreement that outlines expectations and learning expectations/goals for students that align with CSWE Core Competencies (Appendix A).

7) Field instructors will consult as needed with the School's field liaison regarding the student's progress.

8) Field instructors are responsible for preparing three written evaluations. Evaluations are available on the School's website (http://www.albany.edu/ssw/About/field-instructors.shtml) and by asking the student. Materials used to evaluate the student should be gathered throughout the semester and should be discussed on an ongoing basis with the student during supervisory sessions.

   a) Scores on the evaluation should never be a surprise, supervisory meetings should include reference to student's performance in evaluation competency areas
b) All evaluations must be read and signed by the student and field instructor.

c) Evaluations form the basis for the student’s grade in field instruction. It is important that the student be kept informed about his/her progress through the year so that the evaluations do not contain unanticipated information.

d) In the event that the student disagrees with all or part of the evaluation, he/she should identify (in writing) the areas of disagreement and the reasons for disagreement. Please refer to section VIII for further guidance.

9) Field instructors are responsible for informing the field liaison about problems which arise in field instruction, and which cannot be resolved by the instructor directly communicating with the student.
SEMINAR IN FIELD INSTRUCTION

The Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) is a required course offered to new field instructors. To ensure the quality of field supervision and the appropriateness of agency staff to supervise students, the Council on Social Work Education requires that field instructors, new to the role, be provided training in field supervision.

The SIFI is offered every year. To accommodate field instructors’ schedules, the Field Office offers three SIFI sections. Field instructors enrolled in a particular SIFI course remain with that section throughout the course cycle. Issues regarding attendance to SIFI should be brought to the attention of the Field Education Office as early as possible.

Upon completion, field instructors receive a certificate of attendance that permits ongoing supervision of students until they request to terminate the arrangement with the School. Completion of the SIFI course also provides 18 continuing education credit hours for social licensing requirements. Field instructors who have attended a SIFI course (either at the School or another institution) or other comprehensive supervisory training in the past may request to be excused from the SIFI requirement. Decisions about waiving the SIFI requirement based on past supervisory training experiences are made on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Field Education.

Field instructors who have attended a SIFI course (either at the School or another institution) or other comprehensive supervisory training in the past may request to be excused from the SIFI requirement. Decisions about waiving the SIFI requirement are made on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Field Education. Inconvenience with work schedule is not an acceptable reason for requesting to be excused from SIFI. A field instructor’s agreement to accept students infers an endorsement of the teaching standards for Field Instruction designated by the School of Social Welfare.
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND FIELD PLACEMENT PROCESS

Eligibility
Students must successfully complete RSSW 301, 305, 306 and 322 in order to enter field the fall semester of their senior year with a grade of C or better.

Students must register and take RSSW 400, 401 and 405 concurrently in the fall semester. In order to progress to RSSW 410 students must pass RSSW 400, 401 and 405 with a grade of C or better and register for RSSW 406 and 410 in the spring semester.

Some placements require criminal background checks, and/or fingerprinting services. Students should report to the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education any legal issues that could impact field work with certain populations. Examples of legal issues include, but are not exclusive to: CPS findings, arrests and/or convictions, pending criminal charges. In the event that there is any question about what constitutes a legal issue, students are urged to contact the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education for guidance, instead of deciding not to report. This information may be disclosed directly to the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education or indicated on the field application. It is best to notify the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education as early as possible to avoid consequences that may result in suspension from field and/or subsequent dismissal from the BSSW program.

Placement Process
Students will be asked to complete an application for field the spring semester of their junior year. They will schedule an interview with the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education to discuss their application, field interests, etc. The Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education will make a determination on the placement match and notify students and field instructors by email. Once students receive information on their placement they will contact the field instructor or assigned contact to set up an interview. Completed interviews are documented on the Field Verification Form which is returned to the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education.

Matching Students with Placement Site
Student could be placed with a site that is a great distance from their residential location. When possible, it is advised that students obtain their driver's licenses and have access to a car for transportation. While some field placements are accessible by the bus line, these placement options are limited.

Changing Placements
Students are expected to complete two consecutive semesters in the same agency. Changing placements is the exception, and only considered after other attempts to enhance communication, clarify learning goals, etc. have not succeeded. Problems/concerns should be communicated to the field liaison as early as possible to obtain support and guidance for the current placement, and what action steps need to be taken. If a change in placement occurs, a plan for completion of hours, and a new learning contact will be required.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The student has primary responsibility for his/her own learning and is expected to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of the field instruction experience. While in the field instruction setting, the student is expected to maintain the ethical standards and practices of the social work profession.

The student is required to complete all assignments associated with field instruction. This includes an expectation that the student spend the equivalent of two workdays per week within the agency context during each of two consecutive academic semesters totaling 216 hours/semester. In addition, the student is required to complete three process recordings, two of which include an evaluation of the process requiring, and a macro project. **Students must keep a copy of all work as back up.**

It is recognized that variations do exist between the academic calendar of the School and the schedule of the agencies. Investment of time in field placement settings should not interrupt the student’s required classroom attendance. If illness or other emergencies require absence from field placement, the student is expected to make up this time. Students may be absent from field practice to attend special social work conferences if arrangements are made with the field instructor and the School.

It is important that the student understands and accepts the importance of planning and tracking his/her time, keeping appointments, maintaining office routine, completing reports and recordings promptly, and maintaining professional demeanor. All of these factors assist the field instructor in preparing for supervisory conferences, developing evaluations, and serve to enrich the student’s educational experiences.

**Use of Supervision**

The student is expected to prepare for and participate in weekly, one-hour conferences with the field instructor. The student is expected to contribute to supervision meetings by articulating learned skills and knowledge of agency operations. The focus of supervisory conferences will be on the student’s learning and application of social work concepts.

In an effort to promote integration of class and field instruction, the student is expected to share course materials and syllabi with the field instructor and relevant content from classroom discussions and experiences, when appropriate. The student is responsible for submitting a learning agreement that details the goals of the placement that align with CSWE Core Competencies and the plan for supervision.

**Use of Agency Materials**

It should be understood that agency methods might not necessarily be identical with those taught in the social work curriculum. The student should take responsibility for bringing to the attention of the field instructor or School personnel any confusion that may exist relative to this. Students may be asked to bring material from the field instruction setting to the Integrative Field Seminar. There should be a clear understanding between the agency,
the student, and the School about the use of such material. The student is expected to obtain approval for use of this information from the field instructor. Material coming from the field experience is used for educational purposes and should be appropriately disguised to maintain confidentiality.

**Transportation and Reimbursement**

Students should not use their own vehicle to transport clients. Students may however, drive an agency owned vehicle if they have the appropriate license, agency approval, and appropriate insurance coverage.

Some agencies may have multiple sites, or conduct home visits and ask that you use your own vehicle. Mileage reimbursement is not automatic, or required. Be sure to check the agency policy on transportation and mileage reimbursement.
GUIDELINES AND TOOLS TO FACILITATE LEARNING IN FIELD

THE LEARNING AGREEMENT

The learning agreement is an individualized learning plan for the student that is developed with the input of the student, field instructor and placement agency. The learning agreement should be developed within the first two weeks of the field placement. The purpose of the learning agreement is to outline the learning objectives for the year, along with the specific tasks that will formulate learning for the student. The learning agreement also clearly explains the responsibilities of both the student and field instructor to the learning process.

Learning agreements should be reviewed regularly to ensure adherence to the learning objectives of field. When applicable, a macro project should be jointly formulated by the student and field instructor early in the placement. The field liaison will review the learning agreement to ensure that objectives outlined in the agreement coincide with the Field Instruction course objectives.

The field instructor is responsible for selecting cases, projects and other learning experiences appropriate for the student’s professional development. Student learning styles and field instructor teaching styles should be considered and discussed as part of the early phase of supervisory relationship-building. Understanding one another’s style of teaching and learning will contribute to greater cohesion and an acceleration of the learning process.

FOCUSED LEARNING AGREEMENT

In the event that a student is underperforming in a way that impacts the timing for achieving practice skill development, field instructors may create a focused learning agreement. A focused learning agreement serves as a plan of correction and formally puts the student on notice that there are concerns regarding progress in field. It details the specific areas of concern and provides more specificity about the skills that need to be achieved, the timeline for reaching competency and the tasks that should be completed. Field instructors should have contact with their designated field liaisons prior to the development of the focused learning agreement. The field liaison can assist with developing a comprehensive focused learning agreement. A sample can be found in the Appendices.
SUPERVISION
Field instructors and students should be prepared to have weekly supervision. Students are advised to come to supervision with an agenda listing questions, learned skills and requests for resources. Students are expected to contribute to supervision meetings by articulating learned skills and knowledge of agency operations.

Field instructors can contribute to developing the weekly agenda. Documentation of student learning, performance concerns and the status of achieving learning objectives in the learning agreement should be assessed in weekly supervision. Progress should be tracked and documented. Documented supervisory notes should include dates and describe constructive feedback provided, along with suggestions for performance improvement. Field instructors should also document whether or when the student has incorporated constructive feedback into performance improvement, indicate if the skill deficits have been resolved and/or if additional action is needed. Documentation of problem areas is especially important in the event that performance does not improve and students are asked to leave their placements.

TASK SUPERVISION
Students may be assigned to a task supervisor who oversees an area of service that the student will be learning about. The task supervisor may manage specified training, assign tasks related to services and/or evaluate proficiency in service provision. A task supervisor may be a supervisor without the requisite years of social work practice experience or be a professional in a related field. The task supervisor would be responsible for reporting students’ progress to the designated field instructor of record, who must be a social worker meeting the qualifications for Field Instruction.

Field instructors serve as the supervisors of record by the Field Education Office. Field instructors are responsible for the development of learning agreements, contact with the School and determination of competency of social work practice. Field instructors are responsible for the completion of performance evaluations, which may incorporate input received by task supervisors.

PROCESS RECORDING ASSIGNMENT
The objective of this assignment is for students to learn how to write a process recording and after doing so, to learn to gain perspective on their work with the client by evaluating their work in a structured way. A process recording is a dialogue account of an interview with a client. There is an example of a process recording which students may use as a guide in Appendix C.

Process recordings are to be used as a supervision tool. Field instructors should receive process recordings by the date indicated on the field calendar. Often several readings of the process recording and some reflection will reveal issues not seen at first. Prior to the next supervisory conference the field instructor should provide the student with written comments on his/her work. Comments can then be discussed in the following supervisory
session. Students truly appreciate feedback from field instructors on these recordings. Field instructors will find that attention to recording is well rewarded by improvement in performance and appreciation of honest feedback.

Students are required to complete one process recording in the first semester of field and two in the second semester. All process recordings are to be handed in with the field instructor’s comments. Due dates can be found in the Field Calendar.

Process recordings 2 & 3 should have a particular focus determined by the field instructor and student during supervision.

- The focus should be on a particular area where the student may be having difficulty or needing feedback. Some examples are assessment skills, ending a session, group sessions, or two (2) full sessions with the same client to see progress over time.
- The field instructor should record written comments and return it to the student. Comments should be discussed in the following supervisory session.

Process recordings 2 & 3 also have an additional evaluation piece to be completed following the process recording (Appendix D). An electronic copy of the process recording evaluation can be found on Blackboard. This should be attached to the process recording and handed in to the field liaison on the due date listed on the field calendar.

**MACRO PROJECT ASSIGNMENT**

The macro project is intended to provide you with an experience of initiating change at a larger systems level. Ideally it should take place in the agency or community beyond the level of working with individuals or small groups. The student and field instructor should mutually agree on the content of the macro project. It should be something that complements the skills you are using in your placement, is helpful to the agency community, and is a learning experience for you.

The outline of the macro project must be included in the spring learning agreement (due date can be found on the field calendar) if it has not been submitted earlier. The field liaison will review and send email confirmation of approval or request additional information. If the macro project idea is developed in the fall semester after the initial learning agreement has been submitted, it can be written on a separate paper and include signatures from the field instructor and student. The student should not begin her/his macro project until it has been approved by the field liaison.

Examples of projects in the past have included planning and giving workshops, developing a short video, doing some community organizing, political action, policy work, grant writing, fundraising, developing directories, resource manuals, etc. The amount of time devoted to this project varies widely among settings, and should be determined by field instructor and student, based on its potential merits as compared with other learning assignments. After the macro project has been completed a write-up must be submit to the liaison by the date indicated on the field calendar.
Levels of Intervention

1. Resource Development
   a) Developing a resource manual for new students
   b) Developing a resource manual for agency clients

2. Data Collection/Research
   a) Developing client satisfaction surveys
   b) Developing a socio-cultural assessment of the organization
   c) Developing a client needs assessment instrument

3. Program/Group Development
   a) Developing the procedure to form a new therapeutic group
   b) Developing a parents advisory committee in a day care center
   c) Developing the curriculum for a peer support group in a school setting

4. Alliances and Coalitions
   a) Outreach and coalition development with other agencies
   b) Developing a monthly luncheon of area providers

5. Community Based Initiatives
   a) Identifying & developing outreach relationships with community organizations
   b) Identifying already existing neighborhood initiatives

6. Social Action/ Lobbying/Advocacy
   a) Contacting county and state legislators to secure the legislative process
   b) Develop a voter registration drive
   c) Organize demonstrations to protest budget cuts
   d) Compile a list of federal, state and local public officials serving on key committees

7. Administration and Supervision
   a) Supervision of agency volunteers
   b) Attend board meetings and complete a report/analysis based on an agency need

8. Fund Raising
   a) Organizing an agency fund raising event
   b) Develop new strategies for capital campaigns
   c) Organizing potential sources for volunteer involvement
MACRO PROJECT ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Complete the following questions regarding your macro project assignment.

1. Describe the goal of your project. What did you intend to accomplish? Why is this significant to your setting?

2. What steps did you proceed through in an attempt to reach your goal?

3. Describe the final outcome to your project and to what degree it was successful.

4. What recommendations might you have for someone working on this topic at your placement in the future?

__________________________________
Print Name

__________________________________
Student’s Signature

__________________________________
Field Instructor’s Signature

Date

Date
ATTENDANCE, EVALUATION AND GRADING IN FIELD INSTRUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Students are in their field placements on Tuesday and Thursday of each week that the School of Social Welfare is in session. A field calendar is provided to each student and field instructor upon placement. The field calendar has taken into consideration University holidays and vacations.

A student who is absent from field instruction in placement for any reason is required to call in to the field agency before the reporting time, and inform the supervisor that they will be absent. Students are required to make up any lost time before the semester grade is recorded. The method of student contact should conform to agreed-upon procedures specific to the field instructor/field site. In some settings, such as school systems, vacation periods differ widely from the University vacations, interfering with continuity of both the student’s learning and the client’s treatment. In those situations, students are to make up the required number of days at a time arranged with the field instructor.

Important points to remember:
- Students are not given sick time and must complete the required number of hours for field in each semester.
- Time spent traveling to and from placement is not considered part of the field instruction day.
- Students can count a 30 minute lunch as part of their field hours.

EVALUATION

Evaluation is a continuous process and an integral part of the educational program. Students are evaluated on their progress in the following six areas: Student as learner; Development of professional attitudes, values and ethics; Knowledge and skills for agency-based work; Communication skills; Assessment skills and Intervention skills. The skills are applicable to individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The written evaluations should summarize details previously discussed in supervisory conferences. Copies of the evaluation forms can be found on the School of Social Welfare website and by asking a student. Please refer to the evaluations in planning the student’s learning experiences.

1) Written evaluations of the student’s performance will be made by the field instructor three times during the academic year to verify the student’s progress in the field course.
2) The evaluation must be discussed with the student by the field instructor. Both the student and instructor must sign the evaluation. The student’s signature does not indicate agreement with the content. It indicates that he/she has read the evaluation and discussed it with the field instructor. A student who disagrees with all or part of the evaluation may write a rebuttal that will become part of the official record.

3) Field instructors must give the students a copy of their evaluations of performance and progress.

4) The evaluation is sent to the School, reviewed by the field liaison and placed in the student's file.

5) The first evaluation is a brief summary and assessment of the student's learning which is due approximately the second week of October. (Please refer to the current Undergraduate Field Calendar for the exact due date.)

6) In evaluations 2 & 3, students receive a summary rating on a continuum from 1 – 5.

   a) A summary grade of “Unacceptable” (1) or “Needs Improvement” (2) may only be assigned after a discussion between field instructor and field liaison.
   b) When a student’s performance is rated “Unacceptable” or “Needs Improvement” on the 2nd evaluation, the School has the responsibility to meet with the field instructor and student for the purpose of deciding what additional steps, if any, must be taken by the student and/or field instructor to assist the student in improving his/her performance and achieving course objectives.
   c) The School will, in conferring with the field instructor and student, examine whether some factor in the placement itself might be an impediment to the student’s learning.
   d) If there are sound educational reasons for replacing the student, the student will be placed with a different agency or instructor selected by the School.
   e) If the student remains with the agency a plan should be written up by the field liaison in consultation with the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education (if different), with copies provided for the student, field instructor and Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education. The plan shall include date(s) when the student, instructor and School's designee will meet again to evaluate the student's progress.
   f) At the end of the following semester, the student’s performance will be evaluated by the field instructor. The field liaison may review the student’s work and provide input into the assignment of a final grade.

7) At the end of each semester, a student’s performance must be graded “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory”. “Satisfactory” means the student has achieved at least the minimal level of competence as outlined in the evaluation and completed the assignments related to the field seminar course.
8) When a student receives a grade of “U” in SSW 400, or a C- or below in SSW 401, and/or 405 he/she may not enroll in SSW 410 Field Instruction II or SSW 406 Social Work Practice IV. However, the student may take SSW 409 Social Policy Analysis and/or other University courses. If a student has failed more than two courses or the same course twice, he/she will be terminated from the program (See Baccalaureate Student Handbook). Passing all courses, including field, is required in order to successfully complete degree requirements.

9) A student may be suspended from field placement when his/her behavior does not meet the criteria set forth in the University at Albany Standards for Social Work Education (Attachment B).

**GRADING**

Students receive grades of Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Incomplete for the field placement. The Director of Field Education determines the final grade for field education. The following are all taken into consideration when assigning the final grade: field evaluations, satisfactory completion of field assignments, attendance at field and the recommended grade of the field instructor and field liaison. Please note the scheduling of evaluations. A final grade cannot be assigned until the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field receives a field evaluation signed by the student and field instructor.

**RETENTION IN FIELD**

1. In the event that a student is asked to leave a field placement or requests another field placement, the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field should be notified immediately. Students experiencing significant challenges at their field placements should first be in contact with the field instructor and field liaison. If early intervention efforts between the field liaison, student and field instructor are unsuccessful, the Director of Field Education will conduct a thorough investigation of the placement challenges. Following the investigation, the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field and Director of Field Education, will make a final decision regarding the student’s placement. The final determination may include, but is not exclusive to, one of the following:
   a. Assignment to a new field placement mid-year
   b. Withdrawal from Field Instruction
   c. Administration of a grade of Unsatisfactory for Field Instruction

Assignment of a new field placement may be delayed while the Field Education Office tries to secure a new field placement. Students will be required to make up any missed field hours at their new field assignment in order to earn full credit for Field Instruction.
2. A student may be suspended from a field placement for behavior that is deemed detrimental to self, the client, agency or community (See Suspension from Field Instruction Section).

3. Students may not end their field placements independently. They must follow the intervention procedures for retention in field and adhere to the final decision from the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field, under the direction of the Director of Field Education, about the status of the field placement.

4. In the event that a field placement assignment is suspended and the student is allowed to be reassigned, only one new assignment is permitted for that field sequence. If two field assignments are suspended within a field sequence, this will trigger a formal review by the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field and Director of Field Education of the student’s overall readiness to practice social work in field. Following the review, a final determination about retention in field will be (a) Assignment to a new field placement or (b) Administration of a grade of Unsatisfactory and withdrawal from field.

5. Special consideration is given for medical withdrawals. Students requesting medical withdrawal from school (and consequently Field Instruction) have up to two semesters after the semester withdrawn to re-enroll in field. In this case, students may have to repeat the field course (see Medical Withdrawals section).

6. Title IX is a federal law that protects people from discrimination based on sex, and this includes pregnancy and parental status. This law is upheld by the SUNY Office of General Counsel and is enforced university-wide at the University at Albany. The law protects pregnant students by granting a leave for a period that is deemed medically necessary by a medical provider, and then reinstating the student “to the status held when the leave began”. With regards to matters of field, the Field Office will work with the student to develop a plan for completion of field when having to take a leave of absence due to pregnancy.

**Suspension from Field Instruction**

When using the phrase, “suspension from field”, it shall be defined as the ending or interruption of a field assignment before the completion of a field sequence. In accordance with the School of Social Welfare’s Standards for Social Work Education, and with the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, students must demonstrate understanding of and adherence to the professional and ethical standards for social work practice. A student may be suspended from a field placement for behavior that is deemed detrimental to self, the client, agency or community. The determination of detrimental behavior is made by the Director of Field Education, with input from the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education and/or the field instructor/agency. It should be noted that there is a difference between detrimental behavior and performance below an acceptable level. Lack of knowledge and skill may be contributory to performance below an acceptable standard. The Director of Field Education will make this determination following an investigation of the behavior or practices in question. Lack of knowledge or skill may warrant further instruction and training for skill development.
The decision to suspend a student from field is determined after a comprehensive review of the practices or behaviors being investigated. To ensure safety and further undue risk, students may be suspended from field pending the outcome of a formal review.

During an investigation of behavior in field, the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education and Director of Field Education will carefully examine the student’s professional behavior as reflected in written records or reports and statements made by the student, field instructor and other agency personnel. Client information is protected throughout the review process. During the review process, the student’s input will be given consideration via interviews and/or the submission of a personal reflection statement regarding the suspension of the placement. At the conclusion of the formal review, the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education will submit a written report to the Director of Field Education. The report will include a recommendation for the student to: (1) continue in the same placement, (2) be assigned to a different placement or (3) be dismissed from field and assigned a “U” Unsatisfactory grade.

Students may appeal a decision by the Director of Field Education to suspend field. A formal request to appeal an unsatisfactory grade may be given to the Committee on Standards for Social Work Education. The Committee will review the suspension paperwork and the student’s appeal to overturn the decision.

**Suspension of Field for Medical or Personal Reasons**
A student may request to withdraw from the Baccalaureate Social Work program due to medical reasons for self or family members. Requests for medical withdrawal should be submitted to the University at Albany’s Office of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. There are specific criteria and steps regarding medical withdrawal and readmission processes. Information about withdrawal for medical/psychological reasons can be found at [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/withdrawal.php](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/withdrawal.php).

If a student’s request for a medical withdrawal from the University is approved, the student’s transcript will include a “W” for the semester in which the medical withdrawal is effective. Students in Field Instruction intending to return to the Baccalaureate Social Work Program should schedule a meeting with the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education to discuss the withdrawal and the plan for returning to field Instruction. When possible, this discussion and plan should occur prior to the medical withdrawal. The Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education, under the direction of the Director of Field Education, has the discretion to allow or disallow field hours completed prior to the medical withdrawal as applicable toward the Field Instruction course after return from the medical leave.

Generally, all field assignments have to be completed in order to satisfactorily meet requirements for the Field Instruction course. Students requesting to withdraw from field for personal reasons should notify the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education as soon as possible. Exceptions to completing field are investigated on a case by case basis.
and determined by the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education and the Director of Field Education.

**Grievance Process for Field Grades**
If the student is assigned a "U" grade, a formal written appeal can be made to the Committee on Standards for Social Work Education. The grievance process can be explained by the School of Social Welfare's Director of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program.

If the Committee on Standards for Social Work Education recommends a reversal of a “U” grade, the Director of Field Education has the discretion of whether to accept the Committee's recommendation. If a “U” grade is reversed, notification of grade change, along with instructions regarding the field course is documented and sent to the student. The student must contact the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education and complete all necessary paperwork for new field assignments within 30 days of the notification of a reversal of a “U” grade. Failure to contact the Coordinator of Baccalaureate Field Education within 30 days of notice will be considered a voluntary withdrawal from the Field Instruction course.
PROBLEM RESOLUTION

On occasion, students encounter problems in the course of field instruction that they feel unable to resolve on their own. These may include such things as feeling as though one is not getting sufficient supervision or is not getting along well with the field instructor; not getting enough cases; getting too many cases, feeling that the agency staff do not act in a professional manner or do not have client’s best interests in mind, etc. When problems such as these arise, it is important for students to understand the channels for problem resolution.

There are several possible means by which the student might seek help in resolving these difficulties: 1) the field instructor 2) the field seminar, and 3) the field liaison. When the problem pertains primarily to the field instructor, it is usually desirable to approach him or her directly, although it is recognized that this might be difficult under some circumstances, particularly if the student is unsure whether there really is a problem or being able to articulate the real problem.

The field seminar provides a good forum for exploration of some perceived problems, and this is in fact one of the objectives of the seminar. The types of concerns which are most appropriate for seminar are those which might also be experienced by, or be of interest to, other students. An example could be feeling that you don’t have sufficient knowledge to really help your client, as opposed to concerns about the political affiliations of your field instructor. Unresolved concerns or problems encountered by both students and field instructors may be addressed to the field liaison.

Hopefully the resolution of such concerns and problems will be addressed at the site or in seminars. Persistent, unresolved issues may call for written documentation and action on the part of the Coordinator of Undergraduate Field or field liaison (if different) in conjunction with the Assistant Dean and Director of Field Education.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

As indicated in the School of Social Welfare Graduate Faculty and Student Handbook, sexual harassment in the educational setting or workplace is a serious civil rights violation upheld by the University at Albany. Sexual harassment is any unwanted verbal or physical sexual advance or sexually explicit derogatory statements made by someone in the classroom or workplace, which are offensive or which cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation or which interfere with the recipient’s education or job performance. It can include: leering at a person’s body; verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature; unnecessary touching, patting, pinching, or constant brushing against a person’s body; subtle pressure for sexual favors; demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning one’s grades, recommendations, job, performance evaluation, promotion, etc.; physical assault. NOTE: Although the majority of incidents involve a male supervisor, coworker, or instructor harassing a woman, the law also covers women harassing men, women harassing women, and men harassing men.

A Violation of the Law and University Policy
Sexual harassment is a violation of the law (Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment (or education);
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

(from: Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex: EEOC Sec. 1604.11, November 1980)

What to Do if You Feel You Have Been Subjected to Sexual Harassment
1. As a student in field, contact your Field Liaison, Director or Assistant Directors of Field Education immediately.
2. You may contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (518) 956-8110. This can be confidential.
3. Contact Public Safety Emergency Number (911) if you were assaulted or raped on or off campus.
4. Contact University Police at their non-emergency number (518) 442-3130 to provide or obtain information.
HIV/AIDS and Field Education: Policy Statement

Motion: It was moved that the Committee in Field Education (© 1990) adopt the following guidelines regarding HIV/AIDS and procedures relating to the operation of the Field Education program of the School of Social Welfare. These standards have been consistently upheld by the Director of Field Education and remain current.

1. The School of Social Welfare will not exclude agencies that serve clients with HIV/AIDS in its selection process for field placements.

2. Social work graduate and undergraduate students are expected to be willing to serve clients living with HIV/AIDS or who are at high risk for transmission of HIV/AIDS.

3. Students will be expected to maintain the confidentiality of any patient health information pertaining to clients receiving HIV/AIDS services.

4. Students with special interest in working with persons with HIV/AIDS may request such placements. The Field Education Office will actively seek partnerships with agencies that serve clients living with HIV/AIDS or who are at high risk for HIV/AIDS transmission.

5. The School of Social Welfare's knowledge about the HIV status of students will be kept in the strictest confidence and will not be disclosed for any reason without the students' written consent.

6. In those situations where agency personnel become aware of a student’s HIV status, this knowledge will have no impact on acceptance or continuation in their field placement.
DISABILITY SERVICES

Students living with a disability may obtain services through the University at Albany's Disability Resource Center. Students requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center and complete an assessment. Upon request and authorization for release by the student, the Disability Resource Center can notify the Field Office of any needed accommodations regarding Field. The Field Office will work with the Disability Resource Center to try to meet the necessary accommodations.

The website for the Disability Resource Center is http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml.
Appendix a – CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards 2015
Appendix B – Standards for Social Work Education
Appendix C – Process Recording Sample
Appendix D – Evaluation of Process Recording
Appendix E – Sample Focused Learning Agreement
Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice. Social workers:

- make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
- use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
- demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
- use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
- use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. 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 expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Social workers:

- apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
• present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
• apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

**Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**
Social workers understand that every person 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, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected. Social workers:

- apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and
- engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

**Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice**
Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice. Social workers:

- use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research;
- apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings; and
- use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.

**Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice**
Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational,
environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation. Social workers:

- Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;
- assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services;
- apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

**Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness.

Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate. Social workers:

- apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
- use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

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 individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making. Social workers:
• collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies;
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies;
• develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies; and
• select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. 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. Social workers:

• critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies;
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies;
• use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes;
• negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies; and
• facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery
effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness. Social workers:

- select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;
- apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;
- critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and
- apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
**APPENDIX B – STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

School of Social Welfare, University at Albany – State University of New York

**Introduction**

All students are expected to meet and maintain the academic standards established by the School of Social Welfare. The academic standards established by the School of Social Welfare are comprised of expectations regarding both scholastic performance and professional behavior. Students are expected to meet and maintain these standards in the classroom, in field, and in other contexts where the student is acting as a social worker or social work student. Adherence to these standards will be the basis upon which students will be evaluated by faculty, including field instructors, responsible for evaluating student performance in the classroom and field. Meeting the criteria for scholastic performance is necessary but is not the sole measure to ensure continued enrollment in a program. Students must also demonstrate professional competency and an understanding of and a commitment to the values and ethics of the social work profession. Advancement through the program is a privilege, not a right.

The School of Social Welfare evaluates the academic performance of its students in four core areas: Basic Skills Necessary to Acquire Professional Competence; Coping Skills; Professional Performance Skills; and Scholastic Performance.

**Criteria for Evaluating Academic Performance**

1. **Basic Skills Necessary to Attain Professional Competence**

**Communication Skills**
The social work student must demonstrate sufficient written and oral skills to:

- Communicate ideas and feelings clearly, effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals
- Understand and articulate the content presented in the program and to complete adequately all written and oral assignments
- Demonstrate a willingness and ability to listen to others.

**Interpersonal Skills**
The social work student must demonstrate interpersonal skills to relate effectively with other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals. These include flexibility, empathy, nonjudgmental attitude, respect, and the abilities to listen, communicate and negotiate.

**Cognitive Skills**
The social work student must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of social work and clarity of thinking to process information and apply it to situations in the classroom and field and other professional situations. The student must demonstrate the ability to conceptualize and integrate knowledge and apply that knowledge to social work practice.
Appreciation of Diversity
Social work practice requires understanding, affirmation and respect of another individual’s way of life and values. The social work student must demonstrate respect and sensitivity toward other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals and others who are different from him/herself regardless of the person’s age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, race, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or value system.

2. Coping Skills Necessary for Performance in the Program and Professional Practice
The social work student must demonstrate the capacity to interact positively and effectively with other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals at all times and to execute sound judgment and performance in the program. The student must demonstrate appropriate coping skills in the face of personal or other circumstances, including seeking counseling or other sources of support and assistance, to ensure that such circumstances do not:
- compromise academic performance;
- interfere with professional judgment and behavior; and
- jeopardize the best interests of those to whom the social work student has a professional responsibility.

3. Professional Performance Skills Necessary for Work with Clients and Professional Practice

Professional Commitment
The social work student must demonstrate a strong commitment to further social and economic justice and to serve persons who are vulnerable, marginalized or oppressed.

Professional Conduct
The social work student must act professionally and responsibly in matters of punctuality, attendance, appearance and presentation of self.

The social work student must be able to advocate for her/himself in an appropriate and responsible manner. The student must be able to receive and accept feedback and supervision and apply such feedback to enhance professional development and self-awareness. The student must demonstrate the capacity to recognize and maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries and appropriately use self-disclosure.

Self-awareness
Self-awareness is a key component of social work practice. The social work student must be aware of how his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions and past experiences affect his or her thinking, behavior and relationships with other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals, including those in authority. The student must be able to accurately assess his or her own strengths, limitations, and suitability for professional practice. The
student must be able to examine and appropriately modify his or her behavior when it interferes with his or her professional work.

**Ethical Obligations**
The behavior of the social work student must adhere to the ethical expectations and obligations of professional practice as delineated in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics.

4. **Scholastic Performance**

**Undergraduate Students**
Undergraduate social welfare majors must meet the academic standards defined in the Baccalaureate Social Welfare Program Student Handbook and the Field Education Handbook.

**Graduate Students**
MSW students must meet the academic standards defined in the Graduate Faculty and Student Handbook and the MSW Field Education Handbook of the School of Social Welfare.
**Scenario (Summarize the discussion – identify the speakers; summarize the purpose of the discussion; location, etc.):** Meeting with 65 year old female client living in a skilled nursing facility. The client has been dealing with depression and regularly reports feeling alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialogue</th>
<th>Thoughts/Feelings</th>
<th>Interpretations</th>
<th>Supervisor Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have been talking with the client for a while. Apparently, both her kids recently came to visit for Easter and brought their families.</td>
<td>This should have been a celebration.</td>
<td>I know this made her day.</td>
<td>It’s excellent to see how you initially assumed the client’s response to her children’s visit as being positive. However, you later recognized some of the distortions in her thinking that impact her mood. Great observation!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client: I had a tough childhood. I didn’t have a mom.</td>
<td>How did we get on this subject? Does she want to talk about her childhood?</td>
<td>Recognizing that family events can trigger unresolved feelings in a person’s life, especially in relation to their family history. I should see where this goes.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Me: Did your mom pass away when you were a child?</td>
<td>Warmth, caring, eliciting information to better understand client’s feelings about family.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Client:</td>
<td>Yeah, when I was 4. Then my father married that witch!</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Me:</td>
<td>Are you talking about your stepmother?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client:</td>
<td>Yeah, I hated her!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me:</td>
<td>In what ways did she hurt you?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Client:</td>
<td>Ah, she wasn’t all bad. She helped us out, especially when my father lost his job. But, she was trying to take my mom’s place. I never got over that.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She still has a lot of anger about this and cannot keep attention on the recent visit from her children.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better understand client’s tendency to think negatively about her past and future. She has trouble placing attention on positive events, even present matters. This has happened before and may be contributing to her depression.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring with client her past experiences that may contribute to her mental health in the present.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicates client’s difficulty adjusting to change, which may be life-long.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Good observation.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
APPENDIX D – EVALUATION OF PROCESS RECORDING

(AVAILABLE ON THE FIELD EDUCATION - INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WEBSITE: http://www.albany.edu/ssw/About/field-students.shtml)

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

A. Data. Identify new information you learned about your client and the main issues brought up by client.

B. Assessment. Write your interpretation of what this data means in terms of your overall picture of client (underlying dynamics).

C. Goals.
   1) What were the goals in this particular interview?
   2) Did you meet your goals? If not, why not?
   3) Based on your assessment, what are your future goals?

D. Plan. Explain how you will meet these goals.

Practitioner Self-Evaluation

A. My best work in the interview was:

B. An area for improvement in the interview was:

C. What I learned about myself as a practitioner from the interview was:
APPENDIX E – FOCUSED LEARNING AGREEMENT SAMPLE

Student:
Field Instructor:
Field Liaison:
Date:

The student, field instructor and field liaison have agreed that the following performance targets will be established and attained in order to meet the requirements for proceeding with field 752, 753. Progress toward these performance targets will be reviewed after completion of the first 6 weeks of the internship. Continuance at this field site is predicated on sufficient progress in the areas targeted below as determined by the field instructor and field office staff. Initiative and communication skills will be the focus for these goals.

1. Establish and Maintain Relationships with Multidisciplinary Team Members:
   a. In order to develop competence in this area, [student] will assist in the initiation, cultivation and active maintenance of key working relationships with professional staff as designated by her field instructor. In addition [student] will contribute during case review meetings by presenting a well-organized synopsis/update of the social work perspective related to individual clients.
   b. Student will demonstrate active participation in the discussion by offering suggestions, asking for clarification, providing feedback.
   c. For the term of this agreement [student] will also provide her field instructor a process recording of a transaction involving [student] and another hospital staff member. These written process recordings should be submitted once weekly and in advance of scheduled supervision in order to allow review time.

   Evaluation Method:
   Direct observation by supervisor.

2. Supervision Initiative:
   a. In order to demonstrate the ability to initiate and sustain a shared dialogue [student] will begin supervision by coming prepared to discuss the following as an agenda: synopsizing current cases, provide a description of [student’s] own assessment, present options formulated for consideration, have specific questions for supervisor that pertain to discrete aspects of the case, use of self and personal reactions to the work.

   Evaluation Method:
   Direct observation by supervisor.

Signatures:

Student _____________________________ Date __________
Field Instructor _________________________ Date ________
Field Office Staff _________________________ Date ________

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