

## University of Iowa School of Social Work Practicum with Clinical Specialization Learning Plan

**PART 1: Drafting the Learning Plan - Students:** Begin drafting at the start of your practicum so you have it ready by the end of the second week of the term a first draft for your practicum liaison to review.

1. Discuss with your practicum instructor and site supervisor possible activities and projects you can complete during your practicum. List the projects and activities in the Learning Activity column in the table below. It can be helpful to break large projects into smaller steps or tasks. Supervision meetings are a good time to do this.
2. Using the Social Work Competencies for Generalist or Specialist Practicum handout, identify the competencies you will demonstrate through each activity you have listed and check the box under the applicable competency indicators. Competency indicators are behaviors that demonstrate the broader competency. Most activities will demonstrate two or more competencies. You may need to give more detail, so the learning activity clearly connects to the competency and competency indicators. Your practicum instructor can help you connect activities with competencies and competency indicators.
3. Find the competency indicators you have not checked. Discuss with your practicum instructor and site supervisor additional activities you can engage in that will meet those competencies. Add those activities to the list.
4. This is a “living document.” Update this list throughout the practicum as opportunities change. Revisit this plan monthly and consider: What has changed? What have I completed? What supports, resources, trainings, etc. do I need to ask for to keep moving toward competence?
5. Your practicum liaison will review your learning plan prior to the first site visit. They will make suggestions for strengthening your learning plan even further – so you don’t need to worry that the document isn’t perfect.

Tips for writing learning activities:

1. Write them as SMART goals: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time bound. Refer to the SMART goal handout provided by the practicum administrator.
2. Give enough detail that someone with little knowledge of the agency can understand how that activity relates to the competency indicators. Sometimes this involves breaking a larger project into smaller tasks.
3. Use general terms most social workers will understand, rather than agency jargon and specific names.
  - a. Example: “Attend training on 4/5 on CBT practices,” instead of “Attend Dr. Schaffer’s training on 4/5.”
  - b. Example: “Appropriately manage confidential client information when entering case notes into client management system,” instead of “Appropriately manage confidential client information when entering case notes in Nexus Point 4.2.”



		<i>conflicts, biases, affective reactions, and professional use of self that arise in client and colleague interactions.</i>																			
Y		<i>Ex. Discuss with supervisor how the agency measures success. Discuss how this takes an ADEI lens – or not – and suggest a metric the agency should measure and monitor to know how well they are providing equitable services.</i>	x	x		x		x	x	x										x	x
	IP	<i>Ex: Research a state level policy (legislature) impacting clients related to SREEJ and discuss with supervisor the impact of the various aspects of the policy on those clients. Participate in a legislative advocacy day (NAMI) and speak with legislators about the impact of this policy.</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		

SAM

## PART 2: Competency Evaluation

---

**Students:** Complete this section at the end of each semester of practicum in preparation for your end-of-semester site visit.

1. Update your learning activity table from Part 1 to reflect what you accomplished. You can add and remove, but every competency indicator must be demonstrated by at least one completed (“met”) learning activity by the end of spring term.
2. In the Competency Narrative table below, provide a brief narrative description of how you demonstrated each of the social work competencies. Reflect on where you started and how you developed in competence through practicum. Use the Social Work Competencies handout to ensure you are reflecting on the appropriate knowledge, values, and skills.
3. Your practicum instructor will use the table and narrative in evaluating your competencies, in collaboration with the site supervisor (if applicable).

**Practicum Instructors and Site Supervisors:** Complete the scoring section for each competency after the student has written their competency narratives. You will do this at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

1. Review the table of learning activities and the competency narratives and consider the student’s performance throughout the practicum. Consider the totality of your observations of their performance as well as their growth trajectory throughout the semester.
2. Score the student on each competency based on the following scale:

**5. Superior Competence** - Student adapts the skill to the setting and demonstrates mastery of the skill in novel, diverse, and difficult contexts.

**4. Competence** - Student consistently understands the skill and its applicability, and effectively and routinely demonstrates the skills in practice. The student shows an ability to function independently with appropriate supervision and support.

**3. Emerging Competence** - Student understands the skill and demonstrates a beginning or growing ability to apply knowledge to practice. The student predominantly functions semi-independently with appropriate supervision and support.

**2. Limited Competence** - Student demonstrates limited and/or inconsistent understanding of essential knowledge and/or the application of knowledge to practice. More than the usual amount of supervision may be required. There is significant concern about the student’s knowledge and/or practice level. A remediation plan is required.

**1. Not Competent** - Student does not demonstrate command of essential knowledge and/or does not demonstrate application of knowledge to practice. The student is practicing well below a satisfactory level. A “1” at end of term receives an “unsatisfactory” grade.

**N/O Not observed yet** - only an option for specialist practicum fall term.

Rating scale adapted from *Appalachian State University – Department of Social Work BSW Learning Contract and Evaluation (Midterm and Final) 2020-2021*.

Competency Narrative	FALL Supervisor Score	SPRING Supervisor Score
1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	(drop- down)	(drop- down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		

2. Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
3. Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Clinical Practice	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
4. Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
5. Engage in Policy Practice	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, and Groups in Clinical Practice	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
7. Use Clinical Practice to Assess Individuals, Families, and Groups	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
8. Use Clinical Practice to Intervene with Individuals, Families, and Groups	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		
9. Use Clinical Practice to Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups	(drop-down)	(drop-down)
Student Narrative - Fall:		
Student Narrative - Spring:		

**Practicum Instructor: If any competency was scored a "2," please provide the rationale below.**

**PART 3: End of semester reflection and grade (Fall)**

---

This section is completed by the student, practicum instructor, and site supervisor.

Please answer the following questions in the space provided to reflect upon the student's performance in practicum:

1. What are the student's particular strengths and abilities?
2. In what areas should the student focus for future growth and development?

Student:

Practicum Instructor:

Site Supervisor:

Completed by STUDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Fall term practicum course credit hours

\_\_\_\_\_ Practicum hours completed by the date when signed (below)

Completed by PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR

(Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) Recommended Grade (Fall)

**Signatures**

Student

Practicum Instructor

Site Supervisor

Practicum Liaison

**PART 4: End of semester reflection and grade (Spring)**

---

This section is completed by the student, practicum instructor, and site supervisor.

Please answer the following questions in the space provided to reflect upon the student's performance in practicum:

1. What are the student's particular strengths and abilities?
2. In what areas should the student focus for future growth and development?

Student:

Practicum Instructor:

Site Supervisor:

Completed by STUDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Spring term practicum course credit hours

\_\_\_\_\_ Practicum hours completed by the date when signed (below), cumulative across semesters

Note: All students must complete 600 hours minimum of specialist practicum to graduate.

Completed by PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR

(Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) Recommended Grade (Spring)

**Signatures**

Student

Practicum Instructor

Site Supervisor

Practicum Liaison