

Social Work Competencies for Practicum with Clinical Specialization

Adapted from the CSWE Social Work Competencies (2022)

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

- a) Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, and models for ethical decision-making to clinical practice;
- b) Demonstrate behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication appropriate to the practice setting and in accordance with social work values and UISW professional behavior standards;
- c) Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate clinical practice outcomes;
- d) Manage value conflicts between self, social work profession, and agency;
- e) Manage affective reactions and emotional self-regulation; and
- f) Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior in clinical practice.

Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice

- a) Implement strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to protect human rights and advance social, racial, economic, and environmental justice

Competency 3: Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Clinical Practice

- a) Demonstrate anti-racist and anti-oppressive clinical social work practice at the individual, family, and group levels; and
- b) Demonstrate cultural humility by applying critical reflection, self-awareness, and self-regulation to manage the influence of bias, power, privilege, and values in working in clinical settings, acknowledging them as experts of their own lived experiences.

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

- a) Apply research findings to select, inform, or improve clinical practice, policy, and/or programs; and
- b) Identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases for use in quantitative and qualitative research methods to advance clinical social work and evaluate client outcomes.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

- a) Use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to apply coalition-building strategies to inform policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, and Groups in Clinical Practice

- a) Apply theoretical perspectives that inform clinical practice to engage with individuals, families, and groups; and
- b) Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to engage in culturally responsive clinical practice with individuals, families, and groups.

Competency 7: Use Clinical Practice to Assess Individuals, Families, and Groups

- a) Apply theories of clinical practice, as well as other culturally responsive and anti-oppressive conceptual frameworks, when assessing clients in clinical settings; and
- b) Demonstrate respect for client self-determination during the assessment process by collaborating with clients to develop mutually agreed-upon treatment plans.

Competency 8: Use Clinical Practice to Intervene with Individuals, Families, and Groups

- a) Engage with clients to critically choose and implement culturally responsive, evidence-informed interventions to achieve client constituency goals; and
- b) Incorporate culturally responsive methods to negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of clients and constituencies in clinical practice.

Competency 9: Use Clinical Practice to Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups

- a) Select and use culturally responsive methods for evaluation of client outcomes; and
- b) Critically analyze outcomes and apply and disseminate evaluation findings to enhance and improve practice effectiveness.