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 UISSW 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.