



**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK  
OFFICE OF FIELD INSTRUCTION**

**OBJECTIVES FOR GRADUATE FIELD INSTRUCTION I  
SOW 5532 - 10 Credit Hours**

**Course Description**

The introductory graduate level field course generally taken in the first year of the MSW program. The student generally spends approximately 27 hours per week in an agency placement, a total of 432 clock hours (as a minimum requirement) and earns 10 credit hours. The student provides direct services to various client systems (individuals, families, groups, and communities). The generalist practice model, currently being taught in the classroom, is reinforced and supported by the wide range of agencies available for placement.

Field Instruction I provides the educational component where knowledge, values, and skills learned in the classroom are tested, reinforced and integrated in a disciplined manner. The purpose of field instruction is to provide students with opportunities for development and reinforcement of competence through performance in actual service situations. As students undertake learning tasks within the reality of agency life, a vehicle is established whereby constructive use of theory, acquired through course work, can be applied, attitudes and values examined, and skills developed and refined.

**Course Objectives**

Graduate Field Instruction I am intended to identify the range of minimal competencies which students are expected to achieve within the framework of professional foundation areas, social work values and ethics, and agency/client services. The learning experiences focus on knowledge and skills emphasized in the foundation curriculum, e.g. individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Placements are selected on the basis of their potential for providing the range and depth of learning experiences necessary to achieve the educational objectives. It is understood that the reality of agency purpose and structure may not permit a concentrated experience at all levels of intervention. It is expected, however, that students be provided opportunities for exposure to a range of social work roles and learning tasks.

**Grading**

Upon completion of one-half (approx. 216 hours) of this course, (mid-term), students must be receiving ratings in the 50% range (indicated by at least half of the rating

scores at "3") in order to receive an "S", Satisfactory, on the mid-term evaluation. Upon completion of the course, students must be receiving ratings of 50% to 75% or above (indicated by no rating scores below "3") in order to receive an "S", Satisfactory, in the course. Any student that has not completed the mandatory 432 hours required for this placement will receive an "I", Incomplete, for the course. Students with scores below "3" on any item, will complete a corrective action plan with their agency supervisor and faculty liaison. Continued performance below expected levels will result in the student's termination from the placement. (Please refer to the Office of Field Instruction "Termination Policy PG 20-24).

#### I. PERFORMANCE IN THE LEARNING ROLE

- Actively utilizes and appropriately seeks supervision.
- Participates in developing/updating the learning contract.
- Identifies and discusses strengths and limitations in knowledge, skills and learning needs.
- Demonstrates openness to learning and feedback for own professional development and growth.
- Seeks direction as needed, without excessive reliance.
- Displays the appropriate use of learning opportunities (training, reading, tapes, etc.).
- Demonstrates an ability to analyze and apply learning from practice experience and supervisory feedback.
- Demonstrates the increasing ability to link theory with practice.
- Applies critical thinking skills to practice experience.

#### II. PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS, VALUES AND ETHICS

- Demonstrates a commitment to social work values and ethics.
- Understands the history of social work and current issues.
- Demonstrates compliance with professional expectations of the agency, College of Social Work and Code of Ethics.
- Demonstrates the ability to address and resolve professional ethical dilemmas.
- Protects the clients right to confidentiality.
- Protects the client's right to self-determination.

- Understands the concepts of oppression and discrimination.
- Understands and practices culturally competent practice by recognizing client differences based on values, ethnic, sexual and cultural identities.
- Prevents personal values and biases from interfering with practice decisions in the best interest of the client.
- Forms and sustains appropriate and effective professional relationships.
- Demonstrates professional behavior through appropriate work attire, language, attendance, punctuality and presentation of self.

### III. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR GENERALIST PRACTICE

- Understands agency policy and procedures, organizational structure and the channels of communication.
- Applies relevant policies and procedures to practice.
- Understands the strategies and skills for change related to social and economic justice.
- Identifies the client needs and differences base on race, gender, culture, sexual identity, religion, SES, etc.
- Identifies issues related to organizational change on behalf of clients.
- Identifies the range of resources available in the community to the client population served.
- Actively participates (when asked by supervisor) in agency functions, committees, meetings, etc.
- Utilizes problem-solving skills to identify problems and barriers in accessing services.
- Develops and/or updates service information and/or agency's resource directory.
- Understands how agency relates to local, state, federal and other regulatory authorities.
- Demonstrates an ability to identify an appropriate plan of action for the client.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the political environment within an organization that may affect service delivery.

#### IV. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Displays and understands of client-worker relationship.
- Appears comfortable interacting with clients.
- Demonstrates an ability to build rapport with clients.
- Demonstrates empathic responses toward client.
- Demonstrates an understanding of and skills with verbal and non- verbal communication.
- Demonstrates sensitivity to cultural differences.
- Demonstrates sensitivity to gender differences.
- Demonstrates sensitivity to people with disabilities.
- Maintains focus in an individual and/or group session.
- Recognizes and elicits underlying feelings from a client.
- Adequately summarizes for the client.
- Demonstrates an ability to handle client reactions to intern and/or agency.
- Appears comfortable communicating with a variety of client populations, colleagues and members of the community.
- Performs all written documentation in a professional and timely manner.

#### V. ASSESSMENT SKILLS

- Demonstrate the ability to identify and obtain the necessary data required from clients.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate a comprehensive bio-psychosocial assessment.
- Considers individual differences with regard to emotional, economic and social considerations.
- Demonstrates knowledge and ability to apply the principles involved in assessing interpersonal violence.
- Demonstrates knowledge and ability to apply the principles involved in suicide assessment.
- Uses knowledge of group dynamics to facilitate group interactions and group culture.
- Identifies sources of strength and stress in the client's life.

- Demonstrates overall competence in risk assessment.

## VI. INTERVENTION SKILLS

- Demonstrates the ability to develop a social work plan based on the bio-psycho-social assessment.
- Demonstrates the ability to identify and select appropriate helping strategies consistent with theoretical frameworks.
- Demonstrates the ability to describe and analyze the different phases of the helping process.
- Demonstrates the ability to put treatment plan into practice.
- Demonstrates the ability to set realistic priorities for interventions.
- Demonstrates the ability to assist clients in goal setting.
- Sets appropriate target dates for client goals.
- Utilizes client strengths in intervention plans.
- Utilizes resources from appropriate agencies to meet client needs.
- Demonstrates crisis intervention skills.
- Recognizes and manages client resistance.
- Demonstrates the “use of self” to effect client change.
- Demonstrates skill in client advocacy.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the termination process.
- Demonstrates the ability to effectively terminate with clients.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop plans for the appropriate follow-up of referrals.

## V. EVALUATION SKILLS

- Demonstrates an understanding of the evaluation process.
- Articulates and demonstrates skills in selecting appropriate measures.
- Reviews cases and confers with colleagues to evaluate intervention effectiveness.
- Demonstrates an ability to evaluate effectiveness of interventions.

