

**School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania
Assessment of Foundation and Advanced Curriculum Objectives March 2010**

Foundation Curriculum Objectives	Measures	Benchmark	Findings	Future Program Enhancements
1. Critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses ¹	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.13	Enhance use of evidence-based theory. Enhance use of research to inform practice.
2. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.28	
3. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.34	
4. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.24	
5. Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.	Student assignments, Scenario responses	80% score 90 or above	99%	Continue to review course assignments and their relevance to objectives and core competencies.
6. Apply the knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.08	Convene meetings of the Practice and HBSE sequences to examine and assess relevant theories and how they are covered across these sequences.
7. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.05	
8. Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.20	Enhance the coverage of research in the foundation courses.
9. Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions	Student assignments, Scenario responses	80% score 90 or above	96%	Continue to review course assignments and their relevance to objectives and core competencies.
10. Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.15	Convene joint meetings with the Practice Sequence and Field Cabinet to discuss ways to strengthen the integration of class and field.
11. Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.30	
12. Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change.	Field evaluation, Scenario responses	Mean of 4.0 or better	4.18	The Practice Sequence will review the role of the field liaison and criteria for evaluating field sites.

¹ Insufficient data were collected to establish a benchmark and finding for this assessment method.

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Advanced Curriculum Objectives		Measures	Benchmark	Findings		Future Program Enhancements
				Clinical	Macro	
Knowledge	Practice intervention theories and frameworks	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 4.29 Students in all focus groups reported that theories and frameworks learned in advanced practice classes were helpful, especially CBT and Narrative theories	Mean of 4.29 Students found the theories and frameworks useful especially those on organizational theories, Management, grant writing, and fundraising. Not as competent putting theories in to practice.	<p>Improve the use of theoretical frameworks in macro practice, especially community organization and planning.</p> <p>Diversify intervention models taught in advance practice courses.</p> <p>Enhance the coverage of research in the foundation research course.</p> <p>*Next Steps: Increase the attention to the use of research in the clinical practice courses. Review the practice research options to assure they are better integrated with the clinical practice class.</p>
	Social work research methods	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 3.53* Most students prepared to do some level of research. Some not sure if they could carry out independent research.	Mean of 4.70 Students feeling positive about what they learned and prepared to be consumers of research.	
	Environmental context	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 4.30	Mean of 4.62 Students gaining knowledge of the environment context in class and field in both concentrations	

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Advanced Curriculum Objectives		Measures	Benchmark	Findings		Future Program Enhancements
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Skills	Apply skills based on relevant and current conceptual frameworks or practice theories	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Student report objective met.	Mean of 4.45 Students in all focus groups thought they enhanced their skills as well as their knowledge through the core practice classes and elective courses in both concentrations.	Mean of 4.64	<p>Enhance use of research to inform practice for clinical students</p> <p>Review course content and assignments in the research options.</p> <p>Improve integration of what is learned in the classroom and field.</p>
	Use methods of intervention that are specific to concentrations	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 4.23	Mean of 4.61 Better integration of field and class can occur in some instances for both concentrations.	
	Assess the effectiveness of interventions in practice	Field evaluation, Focus group	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 4.37 Students understand the importance of evidence based research and research skills as a professional social worker in macro and clinical work.	Mean of 4.73	

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Professional Values and Ethics	Integrate strategies of ethical decision-making to guide interventions	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report object met.	Mean of 4.43 Assignments helped students understand how to approach ethical issues.	Mean of 4.40 Advanced year students reported that they felt the program prepared them to deal with ethical dilemmas that might arise during their field placement and ultimately in practice.	Examine the timing of assignments on ethical issues in the clinical practice course. Help students with advocacy skills. The program should examine expanding content on cultural diversity and cultural competency.
	Integrate the centrality of diversity and the ethical responsibility as a change agent (social justice) into all aspects of one's professional behavior.	Field evaluation and Focus groups	Mean of 4.0 or better Students report objective met.	Mean of 4.57 Students' comments underscored the effective integration of diversity into the curriculum and their perceived preparation for dealing with related challenges in the field. Some students however wanted more content in this area.	Mean of 4.48 Students also commented on the integration of social justice in their course work and field work.	