

Social Work Field Instructor Responsibilities – Direct Practice

Social Work Field Instruction is crucial to the educational process of our students. Most students report that their field practicum is the most rewarding aspect of their educational program. To ensure continuity across field placements, the following educational experiences are required for direct practice field education students. **Timely feedback** to students is crucial to the optimal development of their social work competencies. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather a brief overview of the minimum requirements for social work field education.

1. Monitor student's communication (verbal and non-verbal) processes with agency consumers, agency staff, community collaterals, and assigned Field Instructor.
2. Monitor student's professional development including accountability, reliability, timeliness, and writing skills, etc.
3. Expect that a student adhere to NASW Code of ethics and values and provide timely and constructive and timely feedback to them; Assist students in understanding how ethics and values guide agency policy and practice
4. Monitor the student's self-awareness and their capacity to develop professional relationships with agency consumers
5. Ensure that students acquire engagement, interviewing and assessment skills.
6. Ensure that students understand the role and function of the agency services in addressing social and economic justice.
7. Ensure that students understand the continuum of termination with agency consumers as a process, not an event, at the end of service provision.
8. Sensitize students to the impact that ethnicity, age, gender, religion or spiritual orientation, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and relationship to the dominant culture has on professional relationships and to their own feelings or emotions about the issues; and ensure that they are capable of dealing with these differences in an open, constructive manner.
9. Provide the knowledge base necessary for students to objectively and scientifically assess a client system's functioning and capacity to be involved in the helping process.
10. Ensure that the student has the opportunity to assist the agency consumers in developing appropriate goals and intervention plans
11. Ensure that the student complies with confidentiality requirements and other organizational policies and procedures.
12. Provide the student with exposure to program outcome goals, program evaluation, accreditation, etc.
13. Ensure that students understand the agency organizational structure, funding streams and macro influences on agency policies and programs
14. Provide a minimum of one hour of face-to-face structured supervision weekly.