

ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS AND BEHAVIORAL COMPETENCIES

MISSION STATEMENT <i>The mission of the Master of Social Work program is to advance social and economic justice by preparing students for competent, empowering service with children, families, and vulnerable adults of diverse backgrounds across the lifespan.</i>				
MSW Program Goals Areas	MSW Program Goals	MSW Behavioral Competencies	Measurable Practice Behaviors <i>Foundation Year</i>	Measurable Practice Behaviors <i>Advanced Practice Year</i>
1. PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY	The program will prepare students to be leaders in professional clinical practice with children, families and vulnerable adults.	1. The MSW Student will identify as a professional social worker and conduct himself/herself accordingly.	(1a.) Advocate for client access to the services of social work (1b.) Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development (1c.) Attend to professional roles and boundaries (1d.) Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance and communication (1e.) Engage in career-long learning (1f.) Use supervision and consultation	(1aA) Readily identify as a social work professional, particularly in multi-disciplinary settings (1bA) Maintain professional roles and boundaries in clinical practice with children, families and vulnerable adults (1cA) Demonstrate professional leadership in advocating for children, families and vulnerable adults (1dA) Demonstrate increasing levels of autonomy and proficiency in clinical social work practice
2. ETHICAL PRACTICE	The MSW Program will prepare students for ethical clinical social work practice.	2. The MSW Student will apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.	(2a.) Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice (2b.) Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association	(2aA) Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical practice with children, families and vulnerable adults

			<p>of Social Workers <i>Code of Ethics</i> and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/ International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, <i>Statement of Principles</i></p> <p>(2c.) Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts</p> <p>(2d.) Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions</p>	
3. CRITICAL THINKING	The MSW Program will prepare students to apply critical thinking skills to professional clinical practice.	1. Students will apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.	<p>(3a.) Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom</p> <p>(3b.) Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention and evaluation</p> <p>(3c.) Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues</p>	(3aA) Critically evaluate the relevance of commonly-utilized assessment tools and practices in terms of their usefulness and appropriateness with children, families and vulnerable adults from diverse backgrounds

4. DIVERSITY	The MSW Program will prepare students for clinical practice with diverse populations.	4. Students will engage diversity and difference in practice.	<p>(4a.) Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power</p> <p>(4b.) Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups</p> <p>(4c.) Recognize and communicate an understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences</p> <p>(4d.) View self as learners and engage client systems as informants</p>	<p>(4aA) Research and utilize culturally sensitive and effective clinical services with children, families and vulnerable adults</p> <p>(4bA) Work effectively with children, families and vulnerable adults from diverse populations</p>
5. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE	The MSW Program will prepare students for clinical practice that advanced human rights and social and economic justice.	5. Students will advance human rights and social and economic justice.	<p>(5a.) Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination</p> <p>(5b.) Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice</p> <p>(5c.) Apply theories of justice that advances social and economic justice</p>	<p>(5aA) Use knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and historical trauma on clients and client systems to guide service planning and provision</p> <p>(5bA) Undertake the roles and responsibilities of ethical professional leadership to enhance diversity and alleviate racial and ethnic disproportionality in services to children, families and vulnerable adults</p>

6. RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE AND PRACTICE-INFORMED RESEARCH	The MSW Program will prepare students to use research in clinical practice appropriately.	6. Students will engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.	(6a.) Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry (6b.) Use research evidence to inform practice	(6aA) Use evidence-based knowledge in assessments and interventions with children, families and vulnerable adults
7. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	The MSW Program prepares students to apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment to clinical practice.	7. Students will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.	(7a.) Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation (7b.) Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment	(7aA) Synthesize and differentially apply advanced theories of human behavior and the social environment to guide clinical practice with children, families and vulnerable adults
8. POLICY PRACTICE	The MSW Program prepares students for effective policy practice.	8. Students will engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.	(8a.) Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social wellbeing (8b.) Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action	(8aA) Advocate with colleagues, administrators and legislators to inform and influence policies that affect children, families and vulnerable adults
9. PRACTICE CONTEXTS	The MSW Program prepares students to apply practice contexts to clinical practice.	9. Students will respond to contexts that shape practice.	(9a.) Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services (9b.) Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services	(9aA) Assess the quality of clients' interactions within their social contexts

<p>10. ENGAGE, ASSESS, INTERVENE, AND EVALUATE AT ALL LEVELS OF PRACTICE</p>	<p>The MSW Program prepares student to apply the problem-solving model to clinical social work practice.</p>	<p>10. Students will engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.</p>	<p><i>(10a.) Engagement</i> (10a-1) Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities (10a-2) Use empathy and other interpersonal skills (10a-3) Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes</p> <p><i>(10b.) Assessment</i> (10b-1) Collect, organize, and interpret client data (10b-2) Assess client strengths and limitations (10b-3) Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives (10b-4) Select appropriate intervention strategies</p> <p><i>(10c.) Intervention</i> (10c-1) Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals</p>	<p><i>(10A) Engagement</i> (10aA-1) Develop a culturally responsive professional relationship with children, families and vulnerable adults (10aA-2) Demonstrate skill in interviewing children, families and vulnerable adults for assessment, service planning, intervention, evaluation and/or forensic purposes</p> <p><i>(10bA) Assessment</i> (10bA-1) Use multi-dimensional assessment tools effectively (10bA-2) Select and modify appropriate intervention strategies based on continuous practice assessment</p> <p><i>(10cA) Intervention</i> (10cA-1) Critically evaluate, select, and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions</p>
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