
SOWK 3441: Social Work Practice I **Competence through Volunteering Paper**

Instructions:

Students will complete a 5-8 page paper on their volunteer experience while in SOWK 3441: Social Work Practice I. The paper will address the following Sections:

Section I: the name and address of the agency

Section II: the services the agency provides

Section III: the populations served by the agency

Section IV: the responsibilities the volunteer student was given at the agency

Section V: a discussion on how either the student demonstrated the following course competencies *or* observed a social worker/human service worker demonstrated the following social work competencies addressed in SOWK 3441: Social Work Practice I:

- I demonstrated the ability to use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to use inter-professional collaboration, as appropriate, to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.
- I demonstrated the ability to negotiate, mediate, and advocate with, and on behalf of, diverse clients and constituencies.
- I demonstrated the ability to facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.
- I demonstrated the ability to select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.
- I demonstrated the ability to critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes
- I demonstrated the ability to apply evaluation findings to improve practice.

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Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Organization	The structure of the paper is clear and follows the required outline in a detailed manner.	The structure of the paper is clear and follows the required outline.	The structure of the paper follows the required outline but does not consistently include the information required in the assignment.	The structure of the paper is not organized and does not follow the required outline, as directed.
Course Competencies Program Outcomes	The paper discusses all course competencies and how they were addressed during the student's volunteer experience in detail.	The paper generally discusses all of the course competencies assigned to this course and how they were addressed during the student's volunteer experience.	The paper minimally addressed each of the course competencies assigned to this course and how they were addressed during the student's volunteer experience.	The paper does not discuss the course competencies nor does it discuss examples of how the competency was demonstrated during the student's volunteer experience.
Mechanics Spelling, Punctuation, Capitalization	The paper is well-organized and free of grammatical and mechanical errors. The paper is 7-8 pages in length.	The paper is somewhat organized and has few grammatical and mechanical errors (1-5). The paper is 6-7 pages in length.	The paper is good minimally acceptable with several grammatical and mechanical errors (5-8). The paper is 5-6 pages in length.	The essay is unorganized and has many grammatical and mechanical errors (more than 8). The paper is 4 or fewer pages in length.
Overall Score	30-26 Points	25-21 Points	16-20 Points	15-0 Points