The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
MSSW Program

LEARNING PLAN FOR THE
CLINICAL PRACTICUM

Student:___________________________  Semester: □ Fall □ Spring □ Summer
Agency:____________________________  Date:______________________________
Field Instructor:_____________________  Field Consultant:____________________

The learning plan is a working agreement between the field instructor, the student and the College. The plan is based on the goals of the clinical concentration and the learning objectives for the second year clinical field. This plan must be completed at the beginning of the academic year and reviewed and revised each subsequent semester. The learning plan can be revised at any other time if the field instructor, student and/or field consultant conclude that a revision is needed. The learning plan and its objectives will be the standard for evaluating the student's progress in field.

Under each group of objectives, a list of suggested tasks/activities is provided. The field instructor and the student should review the objectives and select tasks/activities that will enable the student to achieve each objective. The field instructor and student should select as many of the tasks/activities that are available in the agency to assist the student’s learning. There is additional space provided to add tasks/activities that are not listed and may be unique to the agency setting. When selecting learning activities, please keep in mind the student’s experience, phase of learning, and learning style.

The completed and signed learning plan should be returned to the Senior Recorder, UT College of Social Work. The Senior Recorder will be responsible for obtaining the signature of the field consultant. The field instructor and the student should keep a copy for their records and for periodic review and revision.

Knoxville-Return to
228 Henson Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-3333

Memphis-Return to
711 Jefferson
Room W-607
Memphis, TN 38163

Nashville-Return to
193 Polk Ave., Suite E
Room 278
Nashville, TN 37210
GOAL 1: Use advanced theoretical perspectives and interventions (e.g., cognitive behavior, psychodynamic, short-term, and small group interventions) in clinical social work practice across various client/client systems, particularly those from high risk/vulnerable groups, and service settings.

Objectives: The student should be able to:

a) Engage the client in assessing strengths, issues and problems and identifying the focus of treatment/intervention

b) Include ethnic, societal and cultural characteristics; strengths and risks, and resources when assessing the needs of the client(s)

c) Identify the impact of policies, procedures, and funding sources on the client with particular sensitivity to issues of institutional oppression and social justice

d) Complete an in-depth assessment that incorporates inter-personal and intra-personal, social and environmental factors

e) Assist clients in developing and using strengths and resources

f) Communicate clearly, both verbally and in writing

Tasks/Activities to accomplish objectives: (check all that apply)

- Review the agency policy and procedure manual
- Review literature on assessment theories and approaches
- Interview key people in the agency regarding policies and procedures
- Discuss theories with supervisor
- Obtain information regarding the agency’s funding sources and the requirements of those funding sources
- Review literature regarding the client population(s) served by the agency
- Participate in preparation of audits/program reviews
- Construct eco-map and genogram with clients
- Observe intakes/assessments
- Write up the assessment(s)
- Complete intakes/assessments with clients
- Review the assessment(s) with field instructor
- Read case files completed by other staff members
- Present case in staffing(s)

Other: (specify below)
GOAL 2: Critically analyze practice approaches using empirical research and conducting practice evaluations in relation to client/client systems, interventions, and goals of service.

Objectives: Student should be able to:

a) Consider the client's strengths, abilities, issues and needs when evaluating potential interventions

b) Include issues of diversity and risk in the selection of practice approaches

c) Use empirical research of direct practice to evaluate practice approaches

d) Evaluate her/his ability and expertise to intervene with diverse client populations

e) Develop and maintain the therapeutic relationship

f) Identify transference/counter transference issues or others that impact the therapeutic relationship

Tasks/Activities to accomplish objectives: (check all that apply)

☐ Attend treatment team meetings
☐ Carry a caseload of diverse clients

☐ Explore a practice approach
☐ Discuss a case with field instructor

☐ Make a presentation on a practice approach to agency staff
☐ Discuss issues of diversity with the field instructor

☐ Observe practitioners with different practice approaches
☐ Discuss transference and counter transference issues with field instructor

☐ Discuss with field instructor the use of different practice approaches with different clients

Other: (specify below)

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GOAL 3: Design and implement effective ethical interventions and advocate for clients and client groups of varying backgrounds in a variety of practice settings

Objectives: The student should be able to:

a) Engage the client in formulating treatment/interventions plans, including objectives, methods and measures of outcomes

b) Design interventions that consider the client’s strengths, abilities, resources, issues and needs

c) Use empirical research of direct practice in the selection of interventions

d) Design interventions that are responsive to the context and resources of the practice setting

e) Use the resources available to the client

f) Advocate within and among service providers to insure that the client receives needed services

g) Implement interventions that include cognitive-behavioral, psychosocial-dynamic and/or short-term approaches

h) Lead small groups including task, therapeutic, psycho-educational and/or social support groups

i) Evaluate his/her own practice

Tasks/Activities to accomplish objectives: (check all that apply)

- Attend staffing and other meetings
- Attend meeting with other service providers
- Attend and participate in coalitions
- Visit referral agencies
- Refer clients to other resource agencies
- Review literature on different treatment interventions
- Provide individual therapy sessions to client(s)
- Observe group(s)
- Co-facilitate group(s)
- Lead group(s)
- Identify and select appropriate evaluation measures
- Evaluate practice outcomes
- Develop a directory of resources available to clients
- Review practice evaluation for different kinds of client problems
- Develop treatment plans with the client

Other: (specify below)
GOAL 4: Relate to client(s) with diverse needs/issues from a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds

Objectives: The student should be able to:

a) Analyze the influence of culture, race and diversity for both the student and the client on the therapeutic relationship

b) Use supervision regarding diversity issues or value conflicts for professional development

c) Maintain relationships with clients including appropriate boundaries and the conscious use of self in the professional role

d) Identify and analyze ethical conflicts in practice utilizing the NASW Code of Ethics

e) Address ethical and value conflicts in practice

Tasks/Activities to accomplish objectives: (check all that apply)

- Review the NASW Code of Ethics
- Review cases that illustrate ethical dilemmas
- Discuss the code of ethics, value conflicts and diversity issues with the field instructor
- Discuss ethical dilemmas with field instructor
- Participate in/observe agency’s ethics committee
- Read the agency’s policy and procedures regarding resolution of ethical conflicts

Other: (specify below)
GOAL 5: Actively engage in developing his/her professional self

Objectives: The student should be able to:

   a) Meet agency/professional standards for attendance, appointments and meetings
   b) Prepare for supervision conferences through reading, setting the agenda, and being prompt
   c) Seek and initiate opportunities for learning
   d) Follow through on commitments to clients and agency
   e) Interact with clients, colleagues, agency personnel and other professionals in an ethical and professional manner
   f) Assess strengths and limitations as a professional and use that awareness as tool for learning
   g) Distinguish his/her own needs, experiences, and values from those of the client
   h) Integrate new knowledge and/or suggestions given by field instructor

Tasks/Activities to accomplish objectives: (check all that apply)

☐ Keep practicum log ☐ Prepare agenda for conferences with field instructor

☐ Keep practicum journal ☐ Complete evaluation forms

☐ Complete required documentation ☐ Attend in-service training

☐ Use time management skills ☐ Attend other training events relevant to practicum

☐ Develop learning tasks specific to this placement ☐ Read the agency’s personnel policies regarding time and attendance

Other: (specify below)