

Responsibilities of the Outside MSW Supervisor

Educational

Teach and highlight social work practice knowledge critical to the field and specific to the practicum that might include:

- Agency policies/expectations/ values
- Practice paradigm/theory that guides agency practice
- Clients' cultural/developmental differences
- Roles of other professionals, disciplines in process

Identify and develop competencies specific to students' practice area and population being served:

- Improve understanding of problems unique to children, adolescents, elderly
- Improve knowledge of contextual factors that impact social function/emotional well-being (isolation, exclusion from social groups)

Teach and highlight social work practice skills critical to the field and specific to the practicum that might include:

- Structuring interviews and conducting assessments
- Building rapport with difficult clients
- Facilitating group, family, and/or team meetings
- Exploring contradictions between personal and client values, the NASW Code of Ethics, and ethical problems that arise
- Professionalizing behavior and communication style

Administrative

- Support MSW program and agency expectations and policies
- Provide support with documents and assignments pertinent to the program (learning agreement, individual learning plans, portfolio)

Supportive

- Motivate students' desire to learn, improve social work practice knowledge and skills, strive for excellence
- Encourage self-reflective practice behaviors that improve self-awareness, conscious use of self
- Identify parallel process of supervision and serving clients
- Address emotional stressors associated with client(s) relationships; self-care/burnout
- Establish boundaries that encourage professional development and avoid relationships that involve personal or emotional counseling
- Monitor students' performance by providing regular feedback

General

- Provide one hour, bi-weekly one-on-one supervision to the student
- Provide a brief summary of the supervision at the end of each semester via the Sonia Practicum Software Program (if needed)
- Contact the Director or Assistant Director of Field Education if student and/or practicum agency concerns arise

Supervision Discussion Checklist:

- Orientation to Agency
- Practicum Student Role & Responsibilities
- Practicum Schedule
- Prior Experiences with Supervision (good/ bad?)
- Hopes for Outside MSW Supervision Meetings
- Student Learning & Communication Style
- Tips for creating & using the learning agreement
- Agency Theories, Models, Approaches
- Student's Competence/ Confidence Level at Practicum
- Student Goals for Practicum
- Student Fears/ Anxieties for Practicum
- Identified Areas of Growth/ Challenges
- Ethical Dilemmas at Agency
- Agency Culture
- Engagement, Assessment, Intervention with Clients
- Evaluation of Self/ Growth
- Evaluation of Client Growth/Success (is intervention working)
- Identification of new learning (i.e. new concepts, increased understanding, frameworks, theories, critical thinking etc.)
- Integration of Classroom Learning into Practicum Activities
- Self-Care, Burn Out, Secondary Traumatic Stress & Trauma Exposure
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- [Anti-racist principles](#) at the agency (alignment or conflict)

- Adjustment to Graduate School
- Other