

Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors for Concentration in Clinical Social Work

Educational Policy 2.1.1—Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

- Integrate their knowledge of psychotherapeutic models with an understanding of the social environment and knowledge about when to intervene in it.
- Use clinical supervision and consultation to continuously examine professional roles and boundaries, engage in ongoing self-correction, and to insure that practice is congruent with social work ethics and values.
- Engage in career-long learning and continuing education to insure they are providing clinical practice that is effective and in keeping with current best practices and social work ethics and values.
- Participate in professional associations to promote professional identification and internalization of professional norms.

Educational Policy 2.1.2—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

- Demonstrate knowledge about common ethical dilemmas in clinical practice.
- Apply ethical decision-making skills and frameworks to issues specific to clinical practice.

Educational Policy 2.1.3—Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

- Stay abreast of the most current advances in clinical theory and evidence-based practice in not only social work but other helping professions.
- Engage in reasoned discernment to evaluate, select, and implement appropriate assessment, intervention, and evaluation tools for use with various target populations.
- Demonstrate flexibility by shifting perspectives and interventions to suit the needs of clients.

Educational Policy 2.1.4—Engage diversity and difference in practice.

- Exchange current information about best clinical practices with diverse populations with multi-or interdisciplinary colleagues.
- Demonstrate a commitment to self-awareness of personal biases, both positive and negative, in working with diverse groups.
- Uses clinical supervision to address personal biases.
- Demonstrate an ecological understanding of the transactional relationship between emotional/behavioral difficulties and social problems such as poverty, crime, social injustice, institutional racism, sexism, and homophobia, and incorporate this understanding into their assessments and interventions.

- Apply the various models of clinical practice in ways that are culturally relevant to the needs of members of diverse and oppressed groups.
- Commit to lifelong learning about diverse and oppressed groups and awareness of self in a cultural context.

Educational Policy 2.1.5—Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

- Assess how issues of privilege, social injustice and inequities in access to resources play a role in client difficulties and how they affect the therapeutic alliance.
- Utilize an integrative, anti-oppressive perspective to promote equitable access to services for vulnerable groups.

Educational Policy 2.1.6—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

- Stay abreast of research findings and evidence-based practices to inform their own practice.
- Evaluate their own practice using methods that are empirically valid and reliable, and disseminate findings through presentations (oral), papers (written) and other modalities (blogs).

Educational Policy 2.1.7—Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

- Relate clients' emotional, behavioral, and personal difficulties to theories, models, and research of human behavior in the social environment.
- Critically evaluate and apply knowledge of human behavior in the social environment in work with clients of from a variety of backgrounds and levels of oppression and privilege.

Educational Policy 2.1.8—Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

- Demonstrate knowledge of social work policy and the law so as to how to use the policy process to advance social and economic justice and well being for individuals, families and communities.
- Collaborate and partner with other sectors, interests, advocacy groups, communities and professions to help create and implement progressive social welfare policy.
- Assess policy proposals and ascertain their impact on individuals, families and communities.
- Advocate at organization and system levels to ensure their clients' access to clinical social work services as well as advocate for policies that ameliorate social problems which cause or contribute to behavioral and emotional disorders.
- Understand their roles in policy implementation within their agency settings.

- Practice in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations relevant to their concentration and specialty.

Educational Policy 2.1.9—Respond to contexts that shape practice.

- Stay current with technological changes in the field of clinical practice such as new treatment technologies and, new research that validates its effectiveness.
- Stay abreast of immigration trends, economic contexts, changing demographic trends, the geopolitical environment and their impacts on individuals and families as well as their work with them.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(a)—Engagement

- Understand how members from different ethnic, gender, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and differently-abled individuals require different methods of engagement.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(b)—Assessment

- Evaluate, select, adopt and modify assessment tools and approaches in clinical practice depending on the need and social characteristics of the clients.
- Utilize clinical theories, models, and research findings appropriate to client systems and circumstances.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(c)—Intervention

- Intervene effectively with individuals, families and groups, knowing when to modify approaches when needed.
- Intervene or initiate interventions on the agency and community level.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(d)—Evaluation

- Apply research skills to evaluate interventions.
- Communicate and disseminate evaluation results appropriate to the intended audience.
- Work collaboratively with evaluators/researchers to assess intervention efficacy and effectiveness.