Clinical Advanced Practice Behavior Examples

42. The intern demonstrates professional use of self with client(s)
   - Seek personal growth and discovery to integrate authentic self in social work practice
   - Increase effectiveness with clients by utilizing authenticity and prominent personality traits as a therapeutic tool in relating to clients
   - Maintain awareness of congruence (or lack thereof) between personal philosophies, the values and ethics of the social work profession as well as the worldview/personal beliefs of clients
   - Recognize possibility of increased risk of transference and countertransference with use of self as therapeutic tool

43. Understand and Identify professional strengths, limitations and challenges
   - Consider motivation for choosing social work as career and how this could affect work with clients
   - Recognize personal triggers that could impede effectiveness with clients
   - Seek professional consultation and/or support when faced with challenges or ethical concerns
   - Routinely review the NASW Code of Ethics to ensure standards of professional practice are followed

44. Develop, manage and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients within the Person-in-Environment (PIE) and Strengths Perspective
   - Maintain awareness of Person-in-Environment Perspective by viewing client as part of an environmental system in which influences occur between client and relevant others, individuals, and the physical and social environment
   - Demonstrate knowledge of PIE and Strengths Perspective by utilizing specific practice skills and clinical interventions reflective of perspectives
   - Recognize cultural factors that can influence the therapeutic relationship between client and social worker

45. Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work
   - View all information related to or obtained from client as private and confidential
   - Comply with local, state and federal mandates governing privacy and confidentiality such as the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements and state medical records laws
   - Obtain informed consent in order to release or discuss any client information with another party
   - Maintain familiarity with national, state, and local exceptions to confidentiality such as mandated reporting when client is a danger to self or others
   - Maintain familiarity with national, state and local exceptions to confidentiality as it relates to reporting child or elder abuse and neglect
46. Identify and use knowledge of relationship dynamics, including power differentials
   - Evaluate and treat problems within scope of practice
   - Establish achievable treatment goals with client
   - If client chooses to terminate treatment, the clinical social worker should assist the client in exploring barriers to treatment and refer to another qualified provider (if appropriate)
   - Recognize racial, ethnic and cultural differences that may be interpreted as barriers to treatment

47. Recognize and manage personal biases as they affect the therapeutic relationship in the service of the client’s well-being
   - Continue to develop, appreciate and maintain specialized knowledge and understanding of cultural differences as they relate to clinical practice with individuals, families and groups
   - Demonstrate knowledge and practice skills consistent with NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice
   - Recognize the adverse effects of racism, ageism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination and its impact on client’s behavior, mental and emotional well-being and options for treatment

48. Engage in reflective practice
   - Seek a supportive social work peer group that is a “safe” space in which to talk about difficult cases and personal vulnerability without fear of repercussion
   - Critically reflect upon one’s own practice and performance through supervision and other support systems
   - Continue to meet professional development needs by incorporating reflective practice into supervision and other support systems
   - Utilize reflective practice as a tool to address and manage professional and personal weaknesses in an effort to improve overall performance

49. Identify and articulate clients strengths and vulnerabilities
   - Integrate a strengths-based approach in order to recognize inherent strengths within a client or client system while acknowledging client challenges and vulnerabilities
   - Identify and articulate client strengths and weaknesses while providing a positive environment that fosters empowerment and change
   - Elevate client feelings of empowerment and self-control by identifying and verbalizing client’s previous attempts at problem resolution and ways in which to improve future problem solving

50. Elevate the strengths and weaknesses of multiple theoretical perspectives and differentially apply them to client situations
   - Utilize social work theories and perspectives to guide practice; recognizing that perspectives may be tailored to fit clients’ needs
   - Demonstrate knowledge of social work theories while allowing specific theories to provide a framework within which to guide practice with clients
   - Seek consultation when faced with client situations that require additional knowledge, training or expertise
   - Limit scope of practice to work within own knowledge base and skill set; making referrals when necessary

51. Communicate professional judgments to other social workers and to professionals from other disciplines, in both verbal and written format
   - Recognize that communication of professional judgments can occur through implicit messages (things we do) and explicit messages (what we say) and should be respectful and accepting of differences
   - All communication on behalf of clients (written or verbal) should demonstrate social worker authenticity, empathy and regard for client circumstances
   - Verbal and written communication of professional judgments must reflect an accurate account of services
   - All communication of professional judgments must be considered private and kept confidential
52. **Research and apply knowledge of diverse populations to enhance client well-being**
   - Raise awareness of and maintain appreciation of cultural differences in order to provide effective social work services to clients
   - Integrate cultural content and material to adequately assess, intervene and meet the needs of culturally diverse clients and groups
   - Select appropriate intervention strategies and practice models that help clients facilitate a connection with their own power in a manner that is appropriate for their cultural context

53. **Work effectively with diverse populations**
   - Model culturally competent behavior with client groups, community partners and other professionals
   - Partner, collaborate and ally with client groups and advocacy efforts
   - Identify formal and informal resources that are tailored to the culturally relevant needs of clients in order to facilitate referrals, when appropriate
   - Provide support to diverse cultural groups who are advocating on their own behalf

54. **Identify and use practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective**
   - Demonstrate thoughtfulness regarding own personal values and self-awareness as it relates to ability to effectively work with diverse clients
   - Empower clients to openly express cultural experiences and issues related to oppression, discrimination and/or privilege so that social worker can gain understanding of practitioner/client differences
   - Avoid imposing own values on clients and facilitate respectful collaboration in determining mutually agreed-upon goals for change

55. **Advocate for the creation and revision of practices and tools that support anti-oppressive practice**
   - Advocate for public policies that respect the cultural values, norms and behaviors of diverse groups and communities
   - Evaluate the validity and applicability of new techniques, practice models, research and knowledge as effective tools that support anti-oppressive practice
   - Identify appropriate service delivery models that target specific populations and enhance culturally competent/anti-oppressive practice

56. **Advocate for systems and policies that create and provide equal access for all**
   - Participate in social advocacy and social action at the local, state and national level to increase equal access for all clients
   - Empower clients to assume advocacy roles within their community
   - Plan activities that address social problems, improve services, enhance social well-being and empower clients and combat social injustice

57. **Use the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients**
   - Utilize skills, clinical experience and client-centered research evidence to guide delivery of services with clients
   - Honor client self-determination and autonomy when planning interventions
   - Identify clients’ unique psychosocial issues, personal values and expectations in order to best determine appropriate interventions
58. Synthesize and differentially apply theories of human behavior and the social environment to guide clinical practice
   - Apply knowledge of life span development, the range of social systems in which people live and how social systems promote or deter clients’ health and well-being into clinical practice setting
   - Seek consultation and consistently critique knowledge base as it relates to understanding person and environment
   - Recognize how sociocultural contexts influence definitions of psychopathology

59. Use biopsychosocial-spiritual theories in formulation of comprehensive assessments
   - Use biopsychosocial-spiritual theories and multiaxial diagnostic classification systems in formulation of comprehensive assessments
   - Maintain working knowledge of psychotropic medications that may be used in the treatment of mental health disorders; including expected results and side effects
   - Consult with medical professionals when necessary to confirm diagnosis and/or to monitor medication throughout treatment process

60. Use evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence in advocacy for policies that advance social and economic well-being
   - Stay current with social work trends and research in order to advocate for client rights on both micro and macro levels

61. Advocate with and inform legislators to influence policies that impact clients and service
   - Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients

62. Assess the quality of clients’ interactions within their social contexts
   - Empower clients to effect change within the social context of political, geographical, cultural, legal and environmental systems

63. Work collaboratively with others to effect systemic change that is sustainable
   - Identify and connect with community organizations interested in promoting systemic change that reduce or eliminate inequalities among members of society
   - Foster and promote dialogue to encourage participation of clients and communities to strengthen sustainable change

64. Develop a culturally responsive therapeutic relationship
   - Attend to and maintain awareness of interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the therapeutic alliance
   - Recognize complexities associated with varying cultural backgrounds and client expectations in clinical practice

65. Establish a relationally based process that encourages clients to be equal participants in the establishment of treatment goals and expected outcomes
   - Create and maintain a relationship of mutual respect, acceptance and trust so that mutually agreed-upon treatment goals can be established
   - Facilitate cognitive, affective, and behavioral changes consistent with treatment goals

66. Use multidimensional biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment tools
   - Establish treatment and intervention strategies based on multidimensional assessment tools
   - Assess and reassess client needs and modify accordingly; considering relevant biomedical, psychosocial and spiritual factors and needs of the client
   - Engage in ongoing training and technology applications relevant to social work assessment tools utilized in clinical practice
67. Assess clients’ readiness for change
   - Identify ways to engage client and enhance motivation for treatment based on readiness for change
   - Recognize therapeutic alliance and its influence on the change process

68. Assess client coping strategies to reinforce and improve adaptation to life situations, circumstances and events
   - Assist client in identifying and developing coping strategies and problem-solving skills inside and outside the context of treatment
   - Select and modify appropriate intervention strategies based on continuous clinical assessment
   - Use differential and multiaxial diagnoses

69. Critically evaluate, select and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions
   - Remain knowledgeable about emerging theories and interventions, best practice social work models and changes in policy and regulatory reforms
   - Seek to enhance clinical skills and understanding by staying up-to-date with research; ensuring practice skills reflect most current knowledge

70. Demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns identified in the assessment, including crisis intervention strategies as needed
   - Adapt approaches and clinical techniques to the special needs, characteristics, and circumstances of client
   - Participate in continuing education opportunities to stay informed about risk management and professional liability issues
   - Utilize specialized techniques and interventions when assisting a client in crisis; adhere to agency guidelines and seeking consult when necessary

71. Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions
   - Seek supervision and/or consultation when necessary to ensure appropriate treatment options for client
   - Facilitate coordination and transition of client to other services to safeguard continuity of care
   - Maintain collaborative contacts with social workers and other related professionals and make referrals if needed

72. Use clinical evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practice interventions for a range of biopsychosocial-spiritual conditions
   - Continually use research methodology to evaluate effectiveness and outcomes; working to improve upon best practice interventions