



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
OFFICE OF FIELD EDUCATION

CORE COMPETENCIES AND PRACTICE BEHAVIORS
(RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION)

2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker & conduct oneself accordingly

Practice Behaviors:

- Advocacy for client access to services
- Practice personal reflection & self-correction to assure continual professional development
- Attend to professional roles & boundaries
- Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance & communication
- Engage in career-long learning
- Use supervision & consultation

2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice

Practice Behaviors:

- Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice
- Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles
- Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conduct
- Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions

2.1.3 Apply critical thinking to inform & communicate professional judgments

Practice Behaviors:

- Distinguish, appraise, & integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge and practice wisdom
- Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, & evaluation
- Demonstrate effective oral & written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, & colleagues

2.1.4 Engage diversity & difference in practice

Practice Behaviors:

- Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures & values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege & power
- Gain self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases & values in working with diverse groups
- Recognize & communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life's experiences
- View themselves as learners & engage those with whom they work as informants

2.1.5 Advance human rights & social & economic justice

Practice Behaviors:

- Understand the forms & mechanisms of oppression & discrimination
- Advocate for human rights & social & economic justice
- Engage in practices that advance social & economic justice

2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice & practice-informed research

Practice Behaviors:

- Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry
- Use research evidence to inform practice

2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior & the social environment

Practice Behaviors:

- Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, & evaluation
- Critique & apply knowledge to understand person & environment

2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance social & economic well-being & to deliver effective social work services

Practice Behaviors:

- Analyze, formulate, & advocate for policies that advance social well-being
- Collaborate with colleagues & clients for effective policy action

2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape practice

Practice Behaviors:

- Continuously discover, appraise, & attend to changing locales, populations, scientific & technological developments, & emerging societal trends to provide relevant services
- Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery & practice to improve the quality of social services

2.1.10 Engage, assess, intervene, & evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, & communities

Practice Behaviors:

- Substantively & effectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, & communities
- Use empathy & other interpersonal skills
- Collect, organize, & interpret client data
- Assess client strengths & limitations
- Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals & objectives
- Select appropriate intervention strategies
- Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work & desired outcomes
- Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals
- Implement prevention interventions that enhance client capacities
- Help clients resolve problems
- Negotiate, mediate, & advocate for clients
- Facilitate transitions & endings
- Critically analyze, monitor, & evaluate interventions