MSW FOUNDATION
STUDENT ORIENTATION

Ramapo College
Social Work Program
June 11, 2019
• Theory, Practice and Field I & II integrate field work into the curriculum.

• As part of your professional development, cases and issues in the field will be discussed during Field Seminar.

• Field Seminar will take place on Mondays from 3-4pm in TBD room. Your class schedule will be posted in your TPF course Moodle shell.

• Any problems/issues in the field should be discussed with the Director of Field Education and/or Field Liaison.
ACCOUNTABILITY

Find out who you report to

Field Instructor

Task Supervisor

Student

Student

Student
Field Expectations

- 300 hours each semester
- 2 semesters
- Approximately 21 hours per week
- Supervision is approximately one hour per week
- If the agency is closed, the hours need to be made up
- Allowed two (2) sick days for the year, any time more than that must be made up
MANAGING THE FIRST FEW DAYS

• What should you wear?
• What/who should you ask?
• What will you do?
• What is expected of you?
• How do you get to know your agency?
• What are the feelings you are experiencing?
Purpose of Social Work Supervision:

- Accountability
- Support
- Education
- Socialization to the profession – role model
- What should happen in supervision?
What should happen in a supervisory session?

- There should be a set time
- Student comes prepared with an agenda, questions about the agency, protocol, cases, and interventions
- Process recordings are reviewed
- Skills/interventions are explored and developed
- Some personal issues pertaining to the work may be discussed
SAFETY IN THE FIELD

• We must be continually aware of safety issues in our daily professional interactions

• Safety assessments and plans are important because they promote awareness and reduce fear to allow us to better serve our clients.

• In the office – be aware of the position of the desk, chairs and access to the door

• Dress professionally – no expensive jewelry or very casual clothing

• Make sure you have your cell phone.
SAFETY LEAVING THE OFFICE

• Learn about the area before you go, be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts.

• Go with a team member

• Call client before you go

• During a home visit, look for nonverbal cues.

• Driving with clients – what is the agency policy?

• Park car in an accessible area
SAFETY ASSESSMENT

• Identify a dangerous client or situation – Learn how to de-escalate a situation, or prevent it from escalating.

• Students must learn about the types of client problems they will be seeing and how to take precautions to protect themselves.

• Pay attention to your own feelings and end the session if you have concerns.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- Sexual harassment is not tolerated by Ramapo College
- If you have been sexually harassed at your field placement, you have options for reporting/actions to take.
- Make your field instructor/task supervisor aware of the occurrence.
- You may report the incident to your field agency’s HR department.
- PLEASE report the incident to a member of the field team.
- We will provide you with support and review your reporting options
  - [https://www.ramapo.edu/sexual-harassment-resources/](https://www.ramapo.edu/sexual-harassment-resources/)
  - [https://www.ramapo.edu/publicsafety/sexual-assault/](https://www.ramapo.edu/publicsafety/sexual-assault/)
Social media can be particularly helpful in building connections with colleagues and maintaining relationships with family and friends; however, as a result, the boundary between personal and professional matters has become increasingly blurry.

Due to social work’s professional standards and the NASW Code of Ethics, social workers need to continually assess the ethical implications/complications of the use of social media.

Privacy, confidentiality and the establishment of professional boundaries, can be hindered when the necessary precautions to protect yourself and the client have not been taken.
As you begin your Field Placement it might be helpful to review the following questions with your Field supervisor:

What is the agency policy on the use of social media communications?

How much personal information is shared with clients?

What are the ethical concerns you should be aware of when emailing or using social media in regards to clients?
• The purpose and objectives of a profession come from their value systems.

• The value systems are the basis of the professional identity.

• Social work values are connected to societal values, such as a person’s right to free choice and opportunity.

• Social workers enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, particularly, the vulnerable and oppressed.

(Hepworth, 2013)
DIMENSIONS OF PROFESSIONALISM

At the core of the Helping Process is the relationship between the client and the social worker.

The social worker must be present and authentic.

The social worker must be competent in the provision of services.

The social worker engages in diversity and respect for the differences.
CSWE REQUIREMENTS

Council on Social Work Education
Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards
Competencies
Practice Behaviors
• Accredits BSW and MSW programs

• It is based on Competency Based Education - this means what students will be taught and how it will be demonstrated

• EPAS – Educational Policies and Standards

• Field Education is the Signature Pedagogy

• http://www.ramapo.edu/sshss/social/goals/
COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION

- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Approved by Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA); the only accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S. approved by the Department of Education.

Our MSW program has successfully been awarded full ‘initial accreditation’ as of March 2018. EPAS 2015 is the current standard.
### CSWE COMPETENCIES

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COMPETENCY 1: DEMONSTRATE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: PRACTICE BEHAVIORS

- Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;

- Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;

- Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;

- Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and

- Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.
LEARNING CONTRACT

• Self Assessment – what do you need to learn to be successful this year in Practice and in the Field?

• Each student completes a learning contract with their field advisor. It is an agreement spelling out the expectations for you in the field, and your field advisor’s role in your education.

• [http://www.ramapo.edu/sshs/social/fieldinstruct/](http://www.ramapo.edu/sshs/social/fieldinstruct/)
PART 1

- Days and time
- Supervision time
- How you will be oriented to the agency
- What your assignments will be
- What reports you will be expected to write, number of process recordings, what you will bring to supervision.
- Time schedule during winter break and other holidays
PART 2

• State what skills you will be learning this year

• What assignments you will have at the agency to assist in your learning process

• How your field instructor and the Field Department will know that you have learned it. What goals will have been accomplished to demonstrate this?

• This will include CSWE Competencies and Practice Behaviors
FIELD WORK EVALUATION

- Completed by the field instructor and the student at the end of each semester

- This evaluation reflects your ability to reach competency in areas you have set in the Learning Contract

- Completed and submitted online – through TEVERA (online software field management system)
QUESTIONS

• Remember that you can talk to the faculty about your field placement.

• If there are any problems that you cannot solve with the help of your Field Instructor (supervisor in the field), or Field Liaison (Ramapo College field faculty), contact the Director of Field Education, Suzanne Badawi.

• GOOD LUCK IN YOUR PLACEMENTS!