SOWK 289: Pre-Professional Field Experiences (3 credits)

Course Description:
This course is a pre-professional agency field experience designed to help students gain awareness and to have a hands-on experience in working with client systems on a one-to-one, small group and/or community organizing basis (2.1.1, 2.1.10 a-d). Through their experiences, students begin to apply the skills and knowledge of generalist social work practice (2.1.10 a-d). Experience gained through this service is then assessed in seminars using systems theory as a lens for analysis. Students explore the professional approach of social work for intervening in community problems and identifying resources and strengths as a basis for change (2.1.1). Students assess their experience through the lens of vulnerability, oppression, and social and economic justice (2.1.4 and 2.1.5).

The pre-professional agency field experience is a beginning socialization experience into the profession (2.1.1). This placement provides students with exposure to social work as a profession: its values, policies and practices, methodology, and professional roles and responsibilities (2.1.1). Students learn practice through volunteering with a community service agency ten hours a week for a semester (2.1.1, 2.1.10 a-d).

Pre/Co-requisites: SOWK 200 and 210; or permission of the BSW Coordinator.

Educational Objectives:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify generalist social work practice models and demonstrate a knowledge of social work practice (2.1.1).

2. Examine social work values and ethics and identify social work practice models which support client empowerment (2.1.2).

3. Organize and manage time, be accountable for work tasks, and learn to communicate effectively verbally and in writing with agency staff and clients (2.1.1, 2.1.3).

4. Identify the strengths and needs of client systems recognizing the impact of environment and respect for diversity, including ethnoracial, gender, age, socio-economic, ability, sexual orientation, and religion (2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.10 a).

5. Develop and sustain helping relationships (2.1.10 a).

6. Identify the effect of social welfare policies on the delivery of services to client systems on a one-to-one basis, in small groups and through community organizing (2.1.8).

7. Assess the effectiveness of their practice (2.1.1).