

RADFORD UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work

SOWK 489/490 - Professional Field Internship & Integrative Seminar
(15 Credits)

Course Description:

The weekly integrative seminar, SOWK 490, focuses on the major elements of social work practice: assessment, intervention, policy implications, ethical imperatives and evaluation (2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.8, 2.1.10 (a-d)). Taken concurrent with the internship and through a series of assignments, the student tests the content of social work practice with experiences in field agencies.

SOWK 489 is the professional internship. Internships are in community agencies under the supervision of a social work professional. SOWK 489 affords students an opportunity to integrate classroom concepts and theories into practice (2.1.3, 2.1.7, 2.1.9, 2.1.10 (a-d)). Students learn about people, social problems, service delivery systems, about helping (2.1.5, 2.1.7) and about self as a helper (2.1.1). Students are required to complete 400 hours in the field setting.

SOWK 489 (12 credits)

400 hours in the field (~29 hours per week in the field for 14 weeks or ~27 hours in the field per week for 15 weeks)

Students will be asked to demonstrate, through their class presentations, an understanding of how institutional racism, sexism, homophobia/heterosexism, poverty, alienation, and other oppressive conditions play a role in shaping the lives of clients (2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.7). Students will be asked to demonstrate, through their learning contract, an understanding of the processes that perpetuate oppression and unequal access (2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.7). Of special concern are groups experiencing social and economic injustices based on racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, sociocultural, and gender characteristics (2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.7, 2.1.10 (a-d)).

Prerequisites: Student has maintained a 2.7 overall GPA, a 2.8 GPA in all SOWK courses, has completed all coursework, and received approval of the Field Coordinator.

The educational objectives for both SOWK 489 and 490 are the same and are met through a combination of the two courses. Professors for both courses will coordinate their learning activity to ensure course objectives are met.

Educational Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Practice within the values and ethics of the social work profession (2.1.2).
2. Demonstrate culturally competent practice for work in diverse cultural contexts (2.1.4).
3. Use practice knowledge, skills, and theory to promote alleviation of poverty, oppression, and other forms of social and economic injustice (2.1.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.7).
4. Function effectively within the structure of organizations and across service delivery systems (2.1.1, 2.1.6, 2.1.8, 2.1.9).
5. Use the generalist practice model with client systems of all sizes, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities (2.1.10 (a-d)).