

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: SOWK 311- Introduction to Field Experience in Social Work

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Proposed Effective Date: May, 2019 – Summer Session I

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COURSE INFORMATION: (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

change		current	proposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	SOWK 311	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Introduction to Field Experience in Social Work	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation	SOWK 260	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite <small>NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.</small>	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	# of Credits <small>Must adhere to the <u>UMBC Credit Hour Policy</u></small>	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits		<small>Max. Total Credits: This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.</small>
X	Grading Method(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit X Pass-Fail	X Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course offers the opportunity to observe the delivery of social services within selected agencies. Students are assigned to an agency for a beginning experience in examining how social work services are provided. Field education experience is combined with seminar instruction.

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

N/A

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

The course is currently graded as Pass-Fail and we are requesting that it is changed to the Regular grading system (A-F). The course has many different facets, which include completing hours at the agency, earning proficient ratings on the final evaluation, attendance and participation at bi-weekly seminars, and integration of course readings and agency materials/information into a final written project. Because of the current pass/fail grading system, the instructor is not able to accurately assess the students’ work or show the variance in performance in each component. Using the Regular grading system (A-F) would allow the instructor to do both. Furthermore, research on motivational theory has shown that having external rewards, such as grades or points earned, can impact how students respond to tasks. We believe that grading each component would motivate students to do their

best work, since they will know that a final grade will include the sum of each component. Additionally, this will be beneficial to students because the course will count toward their GPA, while a course taken as Pass/Fail is not included in the GPA.

Baccalaureate Social Work Program

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Office of Field Education

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Summer, 2018

Seminars (1-3pm) on:May 30th (main campus)June 13th (Shady Grove)June 27th (main campus)July 18th (main campus)

Main campus seminars will be held in Sherman Hall, B/room 334 (large conference room) and at Shady Grove in Building III, room 3219

Blackboard link:

https://blackboard.umbc.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course_id=41167_1

SOWK 311**INTRODUCTION TO FIELD EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK***COURSE DESCRIPTION:*

This course is presented as an elective in the Baccalaureate Social Work Program and offers the opportunity to participate in the delivery of social services within the selected agencies. The course is designed to deepen student learning in the field of human services and programs. It explores problems and issues affecting various groups of people in our society from a historical and practice perspective. Complex practice issues will also be examined within the context of the NASW Social Work Code of Ethics. The basic intent of the course is to provide the students with information and learning experiences in the areas of social work and social welfare policy, theoretical frameworks, intervention strategies, evaluation and research findings, and future trends.

The course is directed to undergraduate students who are interested in becoming social workers or in learning about social work first hand. Major emphasis will be placed on increasing understanding of social work fields of practice and expanding knowledge of generalist social work practice. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

*OBJECTIVES:*Knowledge Objectives

1. Identify the range of services provided by social workers.
2. Understand generalist social work practice, including the various roles of social workers.
3. Understand the concept of human diversity and the impact on the relationship with clients.
4. Understand the communication and relationship skills necessary for generalist social work practice.
5. Understand the need for accountability within the field of social work to the agency, community, and society.
6. Gain some understanding of the field of social work in order to enable the student to make a decision as to whether social work is an appropriate career choice.

Attitudinal Objectives

1. Develop a sense of commitment to the provision of adequate and effective services for people.
2. Appreciate the human dignity and worth of people in need of services.
3. Appreciate the importance of self-awareness and self-understanding for successful social work practice.
4. Be aware of and respect values and cultures different from one's own.
5. Commit oneself to the values of the social work profession and accept professional responsibility for upholding the ethical standards of the profession.

Skill Objectives

1. To demonstrate a beginning awareness of what is involved in the helping process.
2. To demonstrate empathy in their transactions with people.
3. To demonstrate a beginning awareness of social, economic, and cultural differences in people needing services.
4. To develop beginning assessment skills in relation to the formal and informal operations of a social service agency.

AGENCY-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS:

A. Expectations of Field Agencies

1. The agency should be able to provide an appropriate variety of learning experiences at the beginning level of generalist practice for students.
2. Ideally, students will be given a combination of assignments which will include both observation of experienced staff and some opportunity to provide direct services to clients. When feasible, students will also be permitted to observe and/or participate in other staff activities of the agency such as, staff meetings, case presentations, case conferences, and team meetings.
3. The agency will provide the physical facilities necessary to accommodate students.
4. The supervisor shall complete a final evaluation of the student's performance in the agency. The university will provide an evaluation form to be completed.
5. It is preferred, not required, that supervisors have a degree in social work (MSW or BSW). They will need to be willing to develop a few specific assignments or projects for students, preferable involving some direct work with clients, so that the experience will not become all observational for the student.
6. The supervisor should provide opportunities for students to ask questions and to meet the immediate and ongoing needs as they may evolve.
7. Supervisors will interview their prospective students prior to the actual confirmation of the placement.

B. Expectations of the Social Work Program

1. The program's designated instructor will consult with the agency or field instructor in the placement process in an effort to provide an appropriate match of student and agency.
2. The program will maintain ongoing communication with the agency. This

function will be carried out by the course instructor.

3. The instructor will provide prompt assistance in dealing with all concerns which the agency may have in relation to the field experience.

C. Expectations of Students

1. Students will respect the confidentiality and dignity of the client population and are required to follow the NASW Code of Ethics.
2. Students are expected to conform to the working hours, dress codes, rules, regulations, and policies of the field work agency.
3. Students will be flexible in the schedule of their hours at the agency when the demands of client service require it. If regular evening hours are a condition of the agency, such a requirement is to be clarified and agreed upon by the student before the placement begins.
4. If difficulties arise in the agency, the student has the responsibility to discuss it first with the supervisor. If the situation is not resolved, the student should inform the course instructor.
5. It is expected that students will conduct themselves in a professional manner in their interactions with staff and clients.
6. Any student illness which requires medical attention or hospitalization during field placement is the responsibility of the student and/or his/her family.

STATEMENT OF VALUES FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT UMBC:

All members of the UMBC community are expected to make a commitment to academic honesty in their own actions and with others. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include suspension or dismissal. Following are examples of academic misconduct that are not tolerated at UMBC:

- **Cheating:** Knowingly using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.
- **Plagiarism:** Knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, including works of art and computer generated information/images.

Consistent with the ethical requirements of the social work profession and UMBC's Student Academic Conduct Policy, the Baccalaureate Social Work Program holds students to the highest standards of academic integrity. Students are expected to know and adhere to the rules established by individual social work professors in specific social work courses. Student's academic work also must conform to the guidelines established by the University regarding the definition of misconduct, including, but not limited to, cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Allegations of academic misconduct on the part of social work students will be taken seriously and will be responded to by following procedures established by the University. The UMBC Student Handbook and the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Directory contain the "University's Student Academic Conduct Policy" and "Policy for Resolving Cases of Academic Misconduct".

Student Academic Conduct Policy

<http://oue.umbc.edu/files/2015/09/ACC2011.pdf>

Undergraduate Honors Statement

<http://oue.umbc.edu/files/2015/09/AIStudentHonorStatement.pdf>

ADA DISCLOSURE & ACCOMODATION REQUESTS:

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to:

- receive and maintain **confidential** files of disability-related documentation,
- certify eligibility for services,
- determine reasonable accommodations,
- develop with each student plans for the provision of such accommodations, and
- serve as a liaison between faculty members and students regarding disability-related issues.

If you have a disability and want to request accommodations, contact SDS in the Math/Psych Building, Room or call 410-455-2459. SDS will require you to provide appropriate documentation of disability and complete a Request for Services form available at https://umbc-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with the instructor to discuss your SDS-approved accommodations.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Seminar attendance and participation is critical for a successful experience in this course. Students are expected to arrive to their agency as scheduled and every seminar on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each seminar. Therefore, if a student arrives late, he/she will be marked absent. Excessive absences or tardiness will not be tolerated. Attendance in field will be recorded on the timesheet form and requires the assigned supervisor to verify the completion of required hours. This course requires 64 hours be completed at the field placement.

* Tardy= more than 10 minutes late

A minimum of 64 hours at the agency (as evidenced by time sheet), attendance and participation in the seminars, an agency presentation, and a completed evaluation are required to pass this course.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
Attendance/Class Participation	Each class
Agency Presentation	June 27 th & July 18 th
Field Placement Evaluation	July 20 th

Seminars: Wednesdays, 1-3PM

- Session 1 - May 30, 2018
 - Professionalism
 - Expectations
 - Safety
- Session 2 - June 13, 2018 (at Shady Grove)
 - First Impressions
 - Responsibilities
 - Accepting Differences/Values
 - Critical Thinking
- Session 3 - June 27, 2018
 - Cultural Competence/Communication
 - Self-Awareness
 - Self-Care (see articles and activities posted on Blackboard)
 - Agency Presentations
- Session 4 - July 18, 2018
 - Agency Presentations
 - Final comments/Reflections of the field experience

Agency Presentation Assignment:

(10 minute presentation - bring handouts or pamphlets to share with class; power point is optional). Please address the following items regarding your agency:

- Agency's mission, goals, and objectives
- What population does your agency serve?
- Who does your agency receive referrals from and where does your agency frequently refer its clients to?
- What specific services does your agency provide to its clients?
- What is the most important aspect of your agency that you'd like people to know about?