

**University of Kentucky
College of Social Work
Guidelines for Practicum Selection**

Clinical Social Work (CSW) Concentration

The Clinical Social Work Concentration is designed to move students from a basic understanding of general social work direct practice to an advanced understanding and application of clinical social work skills. There is an emphasis on the enhancement of applied clinical decision-making, increased skill acquisition and development, and utilization of empirical evidence in the design and delivery of clinical services. The **Clinical Field Practicum** prepares students to practice as social workers at the advanced level in public and private settings. Students may work with children, adolescents, adults, older adults, and/or families. Students should have the opportunity to perform a variety of tasks including assessment, case management, psycho-education, individual, group and family-based interventions. The practicum should provide students with opportunities to understand and interact with systems of care that impact the overall well-being of the individual, and/or family. Students may sub-specialize in school social work (certificate), child welfare, or aging (certificate).

On-site clinical staff must have a Master's degree or above in social work or a related discipline; and the identified Field Instructor must have a MSW plus at least 2 years post-MSW experience. If one agency or program cannot provide this, then alternative arrangements may be made to supplement the learning experience for students.

**SW 740 Practicum I
Fall Semester**

1. Students in the first semester of the CSW concentration placement should be able to engage in the following activities, at a minimum:
 - a. The opportunity to actively participate in direct practice with clients
 - b. The opportunity to work with a client(s) at some point in the semester in order to perform a bio-psychosocial assessment under supervision
 - c. The opportunity to work with a client long enough to formulate a treatment plan based on the bio-psychosocial assessment under supervision
2. In the rare case that a placement is unable to allow a student to work directly with a client to perform a bio-psychosocial assessment and/or develop a treatment plan, then the student must be able to observe a clinician/social worker performing assessments and/or developing treatment plans to a sufficient degree that the student can comfortably complete the course assignments.

3. In the very rare case that the student is unable to have experiences that meet the criteria in #1 or #2, sufficient to complete course assignments, then the field instructor, student and practicum instructor must develop an alternative assignment that is acceptable to both the agency and the UK College of Social Work's clinical curriculum. The alternative must be signed by all three (field instructor, student, practicum instructor), and approved by the Director of Field Education and the Clinical Social Work Concentration Chairperson.

SW 742 Practicum II

Spring Semester

1. Students in the second semester of the CSW concentration placement should be able to engage in the following activities, at a minimum:
 - a. The opportunity to actively participate in direct practice with clients
 - b. The opportunity to work with a client(s) in order to engage in a brief evidence based practice component (e.g. psycho-education) or treatment (e.g., CBT).
 - i. The evidence based or empirically supported treatment can be a treatment currently offered by the agency (it does not have to be an EBT taught in the UK College of Social Work Program; although, that is ideal if possible)
 - c. Be able to use a psychometrically valid instrument to assess a client's baseline functioning and his/her progress through treatment (multiple measure administrations).
2. In the rare case a student is not able to engage in the activities in #1, and is not able to complete the course assignments, there are alternative assignments. The student must be able to observe an agency clinician and read notes from the beginning of the case (including the bio-psychosocial assessment) to the end of treatment and follow-up. The student should have access to interview the agency clinician. For the second assignment, the student must have at least one client with whom they could conduct or observe a bio-psychosocial assessment. The student will then create a scenario case from the assessment and conduct an evidence based intervention with a client surrogate (friend, family member), and complete the alternative assignment.
3. In the very rare case that a student cannot complete the alternative discussed in #2 above, then the field instructor, student and practicum instructor must develop an alternative assignment that is acceptable to both the agency and the UK CoSW clinical social work curriculum. The assignment must be signed by all three (field instructor, student, practicum instructor), and approved by the Director of Field Education and the Clinical Social Work Concentration Chairperson.