Introduction

MSW students are required to write a reflection each semester they are in field, addressing their developing knowledge, values and skills related to the 9 social work competencies that frame the School’s curriculum.

Purpose of the Reflections

The reflections are designed for you to demonstrate:

1. Evidence of your critical thinking and self-reflection related to your developing social work competence;
2. The competencies on which you are focusing through your field education assignments;
3. New knowledge/skills you have learned, values that have changed or been strengthened, challenges you have encountered and how you have addressed them, and areas for continued growth and development;
4. Your professional development over the course of the MSW program, with particular focus on how your professional social work identity has evolved and the values, knowledge and skills you now have that define you as a social worker.

What Exactly Am I Writing?

If you are in a foundation placement, use one or two of your process recordings or analyses to demonstrate 2-3 of the competencies. Specifically you should highlight sections of the recording/analysis that relate to specific skills, knowledge or values. You can choose an example of something you did well or something that you would do differently after reviewing and reflecting on your practice. Identify the specific interventions or activities described in the recording that reflect growth in your understanding and skills, as well as areas for continued learning. New insights, continuing questions and thoughts about what you could do differently should also be included. You should complete two reflections, one at the end of each semester.

If you are in an advanced internship, you should write one reflection as you did in the first year in your first semester using a process recording or process analysis. Your final semester reflection should address how you have integrated all of the competencies into your identity as an MSW social worker. You can incorporate theoretical or research knowledge that you've applied to your work as well as insights or changes in your beliefs and values about social work or about yourself as a practitioner. You can use process recordings/analyses to do this or you can choose to write a 2-3 page narrative describing how you have integrated the competencies into your practice. If you are doing a 3 semester
advanced placement, decide with your advisor in which of the first two semesters the first one should be submitted. The final one should follow the description above and be submitted in the final semester.

**Who Reads the Reflections?**

The reflection assignment should be done towards the end of each semester and submitted to your advisor who will give you a specific due date. Although not required, we recommend that you share your reflection with your field instructor as well and that you use it to help assess your learning at the end of each semester. We think it will be helpful as a way to provide evidence of your developing competence which is measured on the mid-year assessment and the final evaluation.

Although the reflection assignment is ungraded, your advisor can give you written and/or verbal feedback on your developing competence and use it to guide you in your plans for continued learning in your next internship or your post-MSW career.

**More information about the reflections:**

Reflections should be included in your Field Education Portfolio along with other evidence of your learning in field education.

The reflections are a required part of Field Education and, along with your process recordings/analyses and final evaluation, will form the basis for your grade in Field Education. Failure to complete your reflections and give them to your advisor could result in a grade of “Incomplete” in Field Education and/or a Problem Resolution process.