Written Reflection Assignment on COVID-19
for Foundation, Advanced, HSE, Advanced Standing Placement Students

Introduction

All MSW students are required to write a reflection paper in the final semester of each of their field internships describing their developing knowledge, skills, values, critical thinking, judgment, self-reflection and self-regulation. The reflection focuses specifically on Competency 1 - Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior.

You should write about the competency, addressing all the guiding questions. Your written reflections/examples should be a minimum of one page, single-spaced.

The assignment description that follows explains the purpose of the reflections, the two competencies you are asked to address, practice Indicators that describe what the competency looks like in the work you are doing, some guiding questions for you to answer as you write your reflection and examples from your internship assignments that would demonstrate your professional development related to these two competencies. The reflection assignment for your advanced internship will build on what you have achieved in the foundation year, with the expectation that your knowledge, skills, values, critical thinking and self-reflection will be broader and deeper, and will be more integrated into the roles and responsibilities you have as an advanced placement student.

Purpose of the Reflections

The reflections are designed for you to demonstrate:

- new knowledge and skills you have developed
- values that have changed or been strengthened
- your critical thinking and self-reflection
- challenges you have encountered and how you have addressed them
- areas for continued growth and development.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of
life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

To demonstrate competence in this area of social work practice you would:

- make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
- use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
- demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
- use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
- use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

**Guiding Questions:**

1. Reflect on your personal feelings and possible experiences with COVID-19. How has this global pandemic impacted your ability to be an MSW student?
2. Have agency services been altered or limited as a result of COVID-19? Are services being made accessible to clients? – consider these through the lens of the NASW Code of Ethics paying attention to the following standards:
   - 1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality - Good faith efforts is the mandate now in terms of HIPAA
   - 1.15 Interruption of Services
   - 1.16 Referral for Services
   - 1.17 Termination of Services
   - 4.05 Impairment
   - 6.03 Public Emergencies - Social workers should provide appropriate professional services in public emergencies to the greatest extent possible.
3. Did you and your field instructor discuss the impact of COVID-19 on you personally and professionally? Was there a discussion about safety and self-care? If so, describe who initiated these conversations, how frequently was this a focus in supervision, what you learned from these discussions, were you able to apply what you learned to your work clients? If not, why do you think that was?
4. Describe one interaction with a client, family, group or constituent(s) that focused on COVID-19 where you found it difficult to separate your own personal feelings and experience from your professional role.

**Who Reads the Reflections?**

Although not required, we recommend that you share your reflection with your field instructor. This can be a helpful way to provide evidence of your developing competence which is described in your 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 post-graduate job.