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. Given the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 health crisis, students may include the Reflection Assignment as part of their Alternative Work Plan and/or as a means to further develop and explore their understanding of the 9 areas of social work competency, as outlined by CSWE. Students may opt to focus on any two of the 9 competencies in their paper. Students can find detailed descriptions of the competencies and examples of associated practice behaviors here.

Your paper should be a balanced and integrated reflection on your two chosen competencies, where you devote similar time, energy, and attention to both. It should be a minimum of two pages, single-spaced in length.

Purpose of the Reflections

Students are expected to demonstrate the following drawing on the contexts of their placements and the larger COVID-19 health crisis:

- 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.

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the competencies which you have chosen and why? In what ways does the COVID-19 pandemic influence your choice?
2. Reflect on your personal feelings and possible experiences with COVID-19. How has this global pandemic impacted your ability to be an MSW student? How has this impacted your understanding of and development in the chosen competency areas?
3. How have agency services been altered or limited as a result of COVID-19? Are services being made accessible to clients/organizational partners? Where have you seen creative solutions? What has gotten lost?– consider these through the lens of your chosen competencies.
4. Have you and your field instructor discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the agency and clients served/organizational partners? Have you been able to reflect upon your biases, values, and assumptions in supervision? If so, describe how these opportunities arose, what have you learned from these discussions, and whether you were able to apply what you learned to your work as an intern? If not, reflect on some of these points now.
5. Describe one interaction with a client, family, group or constituent(s) that focused on COVID-19 where you applied some of the skills, knowledge, insights you learned over the course of the placement? Focus on an interaction that relates to your chosen competencies and reflect on these connections.
6. Identify at least one “take-away” from your field experiences for each chosen competency that represents a culmination of the points made in your reflection.
**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.