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**Major Field Assessment Plan
B.A. in Social Work
Spring 2003**

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of Southeast Louisiana, through the core values of excellence, caring, community, diversity, integrity, learning, scholarship, and service.

The mission of the Social Work Program is to provide quality education and training for generalist social work practitioners who will be employed in entry level social work positions or who will experience success in graduate social work education or related educational programs.

The Social Work Program emphasizes a generalist practice model adaptable to planning and implementing interventions in micro, mezzo, and macro level systems. The program content is designed to enhance human well-being and alleviate poverty, oppression, and other forms of social injustice. The program teaches skills and sensitivities necessary for working with diverse populations and populations at risk. The course work and field instruction components increase awareness of the social functioning of individuals, groups, families, and communities impacted by the effects of rural poverty, especially in Southeast Louisiana. The program trains students in empowerment strategies, advocacy roles, policy practice approaches, and research methodologies. The field experience (i.e., internship) promotes the integration of the ethics, values, skills, and knowledge base of the social work profession.

Goal 1

The Social Work Program will prepare competent and effective generalist social work practitioners to work effectively with diverse individuals, groups, families, organizations, and small communities in rural areas and yet assure they will be well versed in global and international ramifications of contemporary social and political realities.

A. Expected Outcome

Students will be able to apply the knowledge, values, and skills, established by the Social Work Profession as necessary for effectively working with diversity issues, when analyzing or discussing cases involving at risk populations. While primarily demonstrating these abilities in relation to rural clients in the United States, students will demonstrate abilities to maintain awareness of the global community within which these clients live and work.

Assessment

The evaluation strategy for this goal is to analyze the final grades earned by students in courses that incorporate case studies, role plays, and service learning assignments which address diversity issues. Each academic year, the mean grades earned by a random sample of students who completed SW 205, 304, 305, or 406 will be examined. These courses are used for this evaluation process because they typically teach students to practice without discrimination and to convey an empathic, nonjudgmental attitude toward clients regardless of their age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. If the mean grade earned by 50 students selected randomly from these is greater than or equal to 2.5 quality points, the program will be assessed as adequately meeting the expected outcome for this goal.

Results

Goal 2

Social work degree candidates will be able to engage in critical analysis, synthesis of research data, and intervention planning necessary for effective participation as professionals in the local, national, international, and global community within which they will work and serve.

A. Expected Outcome

Students will demonstrate their ability to critically analyze sources and content of information and/or research data. They will be able to compile that information into a coherent format for research, presentations and beginning generalist social work practice.

Assessment

The evaluation strategy for this goal is to analyze the final grades earned by students in research courses, social policy courses, and macro level practice courses that require a utilization of research data in the assessment, intervention, or evaluation stages of the generalist model. Each academic year, the mean grades earned by a random sample of students who completed SW 402, 406, 360, and 361 (or research course equivalents) will be examined. If the mean grade earned by 50 students selected randomly from these

courses is greater than or equal to 2.5 quality points, the program will be assessed as adequately meeting the expected outcome for this goal.

Results

B. Expected Outcome

Students will have a positive opinion of their preparation as professionals equipped to practice in the local, national, international, and global community within which they will work and serve.

Assessment

Exit interviews and/or Alumni Surveys will be reviewed for the students' opinions of their preparation for employment or for improving job performance. If the average rating on this item is greater than or equal to a rating of "effective", this objective will be considered as accomplished for the program year.

Results

Goal 3

Students will understand the generalist intervention model and its application to work with individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities.

A. Expected Outcome

Students will be able to satisfactorily apply the generalist intervention model to actual cases involving individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities.

Assessment

A mean grade of a 3.0 quality points or better for all students enrolled in Social Work Internship (SW405/499) each academic year will be used as a referent of the program's effectiveness in training students in the use of the generalist practice model.

Results

B. Expected Outcome

Ninety percent of the Internship Supervisors in a given semester will positively assess the Social Work Internship students' ability to practice effectively as generalists in their agency settings.

Assessment

During regularly scheduled visits to Internship sites, the Director of Field Work, or a designated representative, will ask the Field Supervisor to rate their student's ability to apply the generalist model to their assigned cases. This objective will be accomplished if 90% or more of the Field instructors surveyed rate their students as either "meeting" or "exceeding" the agency's expectations for applying the generalist model to cases involving actual clients. This ability can be evidenced by the integration of generalist practice concepts and terminology in case discussion, progress notes reflecting an awareness of the appropriate Social Work skills to use at various stages of the model, and the importance of evaluating one's effective in working with a client or client system.

Results

Goal 4

The Social Work Program will provide leadership in the development of social services within the State, the region, and the community.

A. Expected Outcome

The Social Work Program will maintain active involvement with area social service delivery systems through participation in regional and community organizations.

Assessment

The Social Work Program will promote and coordinate annual meetings with the

Southeastern Louisiana University Community Advisory Board and/or the Field Internship Advisory Committee. Minutes of these meetings will provide documentation of the dates and content discussed. If one meeting is held per year with either committee for the purpose of dissemination of information, conducting a focus group, problem solving, needs assessment, or training activities, the objective will be met for the year.

Results

A meeting was held in January 2003 with the Field Internship Advisory Board. During the meeting a focus group process was used to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program. Students and field advisors participated in the meeting. Several faculty members, the Director of Internships, the Head of the Department of Human Development, and the Coordinator of the Social Work program were in attendance.

B. Expected Outcome

Eighty percent of the Social Work faculty and 20 % of the students will be actively involved in the National Association Social Workers, the Council for Social Work Education, or other associations involved with Social Work or related fields.

Assessment

The evaluation procedure for this objective involves documenting presentations at conferences, offices held in associations, and attendance at National and State meetings.

Results

Faculty members and students presented workshops and/or papers at the Louisiana Chapter of NASW's conference in March 2003. The program coordinator presented workshops at the Louisiana Counseling Associations State Conference in October 2002. The program coordinator attended the annual luncheon of Dean's and Directors of Social Work Programs.

Goal 5

The Social Work Program will prepare students to understand, apply, and promote the values, ethics, purposes, and goals of the Social Work Profession.

A. Expected Outcome

All Professional Standing students will be able to successfully identify value issues and conflicts, resolve ethical dilemmas, and make practice decisions consistent with the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics.

Assessment

Student's applying for Professional Standing in the Social Work Program will complete a case analysis requiring the application of social work values, ethics, and practice principles consistent with the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. One hundred percent (100%) of students accepted into professional standing will have received a passing grade on this case study.

Results

This objective or expected outcome has not yet been implemented so no data is available. Prior to this revision, students' ability to understand and apply Social Work values was integrated into Social Work Practice Courses and Internship.

C. Expected Outcomes

In cases involving actual clients, all Social Work Internship students will be able to engage in generalist practice consistent with the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. Ethical practice includes, but is not limited to, to identifying ethical dilemmas when they arise in practice settings, addressing value conflicts that could interfere with the client's right to self determination, and using supervision effectively in the resolution of ethical dilemmas.

Assessment

Data for the assessment of this objective will be gathered from interviews with Internship Supervisors conducted during the Director of Internship's regular site visit to field placement agencies. The Field Supervisor's rating of a student as "meeting" or "exceeding" agency expectations regarding the handling of cases consistent with the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics is a referent for the ethical practice of Social Work and provides quantifiable data for the assessment of this expected outcome.

Goal 6

Social work students will be adequately prepared for agency employment in a variety of social service agencies, especially those in rural areas and small communities.

A. Expected Outcome

Students will meet or exceed the expectations of agencies offering field instruction settings to Southeastern Louisiana University's Social Work Program in terms of their understanding of agency functioning, policies, expectations, practice modalities.

Assessment

The Social Work Program Committee will review meeting minutes of the Community Advisory Committee, perform an analysis of focus group content, and examine comments made by the field supervisors to determine the degree to which Social Work students possess an adequate understanding of local and regional community agencies. No more than one negative comment/evaluation per semester of field work will be considered as a referent of the Social Work Programs ability to accomplish this objective.

B. Expected Outcome

Eighty percent of the students graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work who do not intend to seek graduate education, will be gainfully employed after graduation.

Assessment

Responses of the Social Work Program graduates on the Alumni Survey will be reviewed to ascertain the number of graduates, not enrolled in graduate programs, who are employed as Social Workers.

Results

C. Expected Outcome

A minimum of five students will be employed by the Office of Community Services

(OCS) per calendar year.

Assessment

Per the child welfare Title IV-E Grant, these 5 students (as the recipients) are required to work for OCS for a minimum of one year. The Office of Community Services will be contacted to determine how many each year are fulfilling their requirements.

Results

D. Expected Outcome

Thirty percent of the students completing an internship at Southeastern Louisiana University's Discovery Center will be rated as qualified candidates who would be considered for employment in generalists practice positions at the center when such positions become available.

Assessment

The Discovery Center's director will provide information on how many Social Work graduates, who were interns of the center, would be considered as qualified to hold such positions.

Results

Goal 7

Students graduating with a baccalaureate degree in Social Work from Southeastern Louisiana University will be motivated and adequately prepared for graduate education in Social Work or related educational fields.

A. Expected Outcome

Ninety percent of the students who are accepted in graduate programs in Social Work or related fields will perceived themselves to be adequately qualified for the rigors of graduate school.

Assessment

Students who are attending graduate programs in Social Work or related fields will state on the Alumni Survey that Southeastern prepared them “better than most” for further graduate/professional study.

Results

Summary of Results

Several years ago, the Social Work Program was involved in a university wide major reorganization of colleges, departments and programs. The Social Work Program was moved from the College of Arts and Sciences to a new department, the Department of Human Development, which was placed within the College of Education. This move has brought about the necessity of revamping goals and objectives to some extent to achieve conformity with other similar programs within the department as well as with the College of Education. This reorganization has led to a reworking of the goals and objectives of the program as well as methods of assessment. As the program is also involved in the reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Council on Social Work Education, the program faculty have availed themselves of this opportunity to revisit the goals and objectives of the program and to develop assessment methods that will ensure the most accurate results possible. For this reason some of the newly developed assessment methods listed do not yet have data to assess outcomes.