

FIELD EDUCATION

Integrative Seminar

All students in field placement participate in the integrative seminar, which meets for a total of 15 sessions during the academic year. The overall purpose of the integrative seminar is to assist students to combine what they learn in the classroom with what they learn in the field. The seminar is structured to provide students with a forum where they can share their experiences from the field and classroom, work towards the development of increased self-awareness, and receive additional knowledge to supplement their academic and practical experience.

The integrative seminar is led by the students' faculty adviser. Attendance is required as part the student's obligation to fulfill 450 field practicum hours. The seminar is considered part of the student's field education and does not earn a separate grade or additional credits for the student.

Upon completion of the integrative seminar, students are expected to:

1. Develop basic skills for building and using peer support
2. Develop an understanding of their professional identity and their role as a generalist practitioner
3. Develop basic skills to manage the affective content inherent in social work practice
4. Develop an understanding of the common base of social work practice across a wide range of settings
5. Develop basic skills necessary for working with diverse populations
6. Develop an awareness of the role of supervision in social work practice and basic skills in regard to how to get the most out of their supervision
7. Develop an understanding of the importance of continuing to work towards an increased sense of self awareness
8. Develop an understanding of how to apply classroom knowledge to their work in their field placements
9. Develop basic skills in critical thinking to enable them to identify, evaluate, and make decisions regarding ethical dilemmas and value conflicts in agency practice in the context of their personal and professional values
10. Develop tentative plans for future employment, education, and/or interests in the profession

The integrative seminar incorporates a variety of learning strategies, including discussion, brief lecture, student presentations, invited guests, etc. It provides a forum for sharing student concerns and problem solving through mutual aid and support. The seminar pays particular attention to helping students apply content on diversity, social justice, social policy, and advocacy in the field experience. The energies of the faculty adviser and students are directed towards integration and application of knowledge and skills. Content is timed to the stage of student development over the course of the year and moves to deeper levels of inquiry.

While the seminar's primary focus is students' work in class and field, attention is placed on planning for the future. This may include exploration of practice fields and preparation for employment as well as discussion and planning for future education.