

**Academic Affairs Assessment of Student Learning**

**Report for Academic Year \_2023-2024**\_\_

**Department/Program \_\_Social Work\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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1. **Which learning outcomes did you measure this past year?** [Please indicate whether any of these measures were conducted as follow-up to a previous year’s issues or in response to Program Review. Be specific.]

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires evaluation of all accreditation competencies each year. The competencies are reflected in student outcomes and are as follows:

**2.1.1** Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior;

**2.1.2** Engage in diversity and difference in practice;

**2.1.3** Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice;

**2.1.4** Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice;

**2.1.5** Engage in policy practice;

**2.1.6** Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;

**2.1.7** Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;

**2.1.8** Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;

**2.1.9** Evaluate practices with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

Each competency details practice behaviors to be measured and assessed in a students’ final year. See 8 for detailed behaviors and scores. These competencies are measured every year in SWK 404 Field, SWK 405 Practice III, and SWK 406 Advanced Field.

1. **In which course(s) were assessments conducted?**

Assessment of the above competencies occurred in SWK 404 Field, SWK 405 Practice III, and SWK 406 Advanced Field Instruction. These courses are taken by seniors in their final year.

1. **How did you assess the selected program learning outcomes?**

There are two assessment instruments: a field evaluation form completed by Field Supervisors during a student's internship and a comprehensive exam completed by students before graduation.

SWK 404 Field and SWK 406 Advanced Field Instruction assessed students' knowledge, values, cognitive/affective processes, and skills through the scoring of Field Experience Evaluation, which is a scale used for field supervisors to rate students' demonstration of practice behaviors in the field setting. The Field Experience Evaluation lists all competencies and practice behaviors with a rating for the behavior on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest level of skill/comfort/knowledge, etc., and 5 being the highest (See Field Final Evaluation in Appendix I). Students' field supervisors complete the evaluation at the end of each field course.

Using a comprehensive exam, SWK 405 Practice III assessed students' knowledge, values, cognitive/affective processes, and skills. These areas (knowledge, values, cognitive/affective processes, and skills) are identified through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, our accrediting body) as the dimensions of each competency to assess in the senior year, and the comprehensive evaluation was developed as one measure of assessment. (See Appendix II)

1. **How many students were included in the assessment(s) of each PLO in a course?**

There were 15 students in SWK 404 in Fall 2023, 13 in SWK 405, and 13 in SWK 406 in Spring 2024. All were included in the assessments, but only 11 of the 13 field supervisors completed the field evaluation in SWK 406.

1. **How were students selected to participate in the assessment of each outcome (**Helpful details might include- whether this assessment represents all students, a sample of students in a class, or a sample of students across sections)?

These assessment represent all students in SWK 404, SWK 405, and SWK 406. CSWE requires assessment of all senior students.

1. **In general, describe how each assessment tool (measure) was constructed** (i.e. in-house, national, adapted).

The comprehensive exam was constructed by the WVSU Department of Social Work to reflect areas, questions, and language that mimic those of the West Virginia Social Work licensing exam.

The Final Field Evaluation was constructed in the WVSU Department of Social Work, but it uses the wording of the CSWE accreditation competencies and practice behaviors. CSWE also recommends a 1-5 point evaluation scale, but our department decided on the wording for each practice behavior rating of 1-5.

1. **Who analyzed results and how were they analyzed**

The comprehensive exam was completed on WVSU MyOnline, and data was auto-analyzed for overall scores. The 50 questions are divided among the 9 competencies, and the scores for each competency are reported by the course instructor (Dr. Kerri Steele for 2023-2024) and then submitted to the department chair (Lena Lambert). Individual scores for each competency are tracked and reported for accreditation purposes after being aggregated with competency scores from the field evaluation.

For the Field Evaluation in both SWK 404 and SWK 406, data is entered into Excel by the Field Instructor (Lena Lambert for 2023-2024). The Department Chair (Lena Lambert) then analyzes the data. Data is aggregated for both semesters of the field evaluation, and an overall mean for each competency and practice behavior is produced. This is then aggregated with the data from the comprehensive exam to determine an overall mean for each competency.  The overall numbers are then reported for the year using the required accreditation form AS-4(B). The benchmark for each competency is that 85% of students will show competence in the area (See Appendix III).

A final analysis of the data occurs in departmental meetings and the annual Social Work Field and Community Advisory Committee, which reviews each benchmark and score to determine what changes may be needed in the program to better address competency. The committee met on June 14, 2024.

A CSWE site visitor was on WVSU's campus in September 2024.  During the visit, we learned that the data was misreported (aggregated), and our department made the corrections and revised the report (Appendix III).  A second Social Work Field and Community Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 2024, and we will share the corrected data with the committee at that time.

1. **Provide a summary of the results/conclusions from the assessment of each measured Program Learning Outcome**

The benchmark was met in 5 competencies (See Appendix III). The assessment shows that students and supervisors felt students were well-prepared to demonstrate ethical and professional behavior, engage in diversity and different in practice, advance human rights and justice, engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice, and intervening with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

The 85% benchmark was not met in four competencies (See Appendix III). The assessment shows that students failed to meet expectations in engaging in policy practice (81%), engaging (84.5%), assessing (77%), and evaluating (73.5%) individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

While previous assessments show marked improvements, we now know that the data should not have been aggregated for the comprehensive exam.

1. **What are next steps?** (e.g., will you measure this same learning outcome again? Will you change some feature of the classroom experience and measure its impact? Will you try a new tool? Are you satisfied?)

CSWE, our accrediting body, sets our PLOs, which were adopted in 2019-2020. We are in our 5th year of using the new PLOs with the current tools, and we have concerns about if we are using the right measurement tools.  We plan to address this in the December meeting with our Social Work Field and Community Advisory Committee.  From there, we will determine if we should change our assessment tools and what that might look like.  We will also discuss how we can address the inadequacies this assessment data reflects with competencies 5, 6, 7, and 9 and ensure we are meeting the needs of our students.

1. **Please attach an example of the assessment tool used to measure your PLO(s).** These can be added as an appendix, a link to the assessment, or sent separately in email with your report.

Appendix I is the comprehensive exam, Appendix II is the field evaluation form, Appendix III is the CSWE reporting form.