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GLOBAL DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WORK

The following definition was approved by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in July 2014:

Global Definition of the Social Work Profession

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels”.

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Campus map: http://sydney.edu.au/maps
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM (BSW)

OVERALL AIMS OF THE BSW

The BSW program at the University of Sydney aims to prepare graduates for employment in an environment which is complex, diverse and changing, and where capacity to transfer knowledge and skills across contexts is essential. A key strategy is to build on prior learning, to demand greater responsibility for learning and to motivate students towards a commitment to lifelong learning. Graduating students are expected to be reflexive, versatile and skilful in diverse contexts of practice, and to be able to translate professional values into action.

Central to the program is the understanding that social work is about a commitment to tackling social injustices and inequalities through political and social engagement with the issues of the day. This is achieved through responding to personal needs through the provision and development of personal resources and community services and through social reform and activism, including policy and institutional change. The Australian Association of Social Work (AASW) Code of Ethics (2010) informs this overall project.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE BSW

Consistent with the graduate attributes described in University and Faculty Policy (see pages 17-19), on graduation all BSW graduates must demonstrate:

- understanding of social work and social policy, theory and practice and their multidisciplinary nature in historical, cultural, socio-economic and political contexts
- understanding of the interdependence of theory, practice, policy and research
- understanding of the contribution of social work and social policy in working towards social justice
- skills in communication, empathy, self-awareness in practice, providing resources, assessment and exercising professional judgement
- ability to locate, analyse, apply and undertake research in practice
- ability to use knowledge effectively to make appropriate and constructive responses at all levels of intervention and across the range of workplace contexts
- ability to act professionally, using ethical and strategic practices
- ability to critically and constructively reflect upon one’s practice
- ability to combine autonomy with the capacity for collaborative and versatile work
- appreciation of the limits of one’s current knowledge and abilities and eagerness to undertake ongoing professional development and
- basic computer skills, including word processing and familiarity with email and the internet.

SOCIAL WORK PEDAGOGY

The BSW is a sequenced program in which the early years combine the freedom to choose from a broad range of units in the liberal arts with prescribed units of study, which provide a foundation for focussed professional studies in the final two years. The prerequisite units of study in the first two years ensure that students acquire core knowledge from other disciplines about the nature of individuals and the nature of societies.

This provides the foundation for studies in the final two years where the understandings about social work’s unique perspective – understanding and intervening at the intersection of people and their complex environments – are developed. In addition, providing choice of elective units of study from diverse fields gives the students the opportunity to further develop their skills in critical analysis and promotes an ongoing interest in learning.
Since 1997, class work in the third and fourth years has been organised as an integrated Issue Based Learning (IBL) curriculum. The adoption of this approach followed a major review of the philosophy, pedagogy and structure of the final two years of the BSW, and the piloting and evaluation of the new curriculum by the University's Institute for Teaching and Learning. In summary the curriculum incorporates:

- an integrated, issue based curriculum structure rather than a subject and method based curriculum structure
- a primary emphasis on learning rather than a primary emphasis on teaching
- an explicit rather than implicit expectation that students are active participants in their education
- an emphasis on processes and outcomes from a preoccupation with inputs and accumulation of discipline and subject knowledge
- an emphasis on the interdependence of theory, policy, research and practice.

In the third and fourth years the program comprises both class work and field education. Class work at this stage of the program focuses entirely on social work, its framework of knowledge and skills, the analysis and development of theory, social policy and research. This is underpinned by understandings of ethics and personal and professional values. The Field Education Program provides a practice context for this learning. Field education placements are undertaken in conjunction with ongoing class work, encouraging students to appreciate the mutual interdependence of theory and practice and of policy and practice and to familiarise themselves with the practice of continual and deliberate critical reflection.

In each unit of study in the final two years, learning commences with discrete issues and themes likely to be addressed in everyday professional work. This approach places the work and the fields of work for which the student is being prepared at the centre of professional education. Developing knowledge and skills in social policy, social work practice, levels of intervention (methods) and research are placed and learned in context. Didactic teaching and traditional lecture/seminar structure are balanced by an emphasis on facilitated and small group generated learning. The goals of social work are often met through negotiation and collaboration with other professional and lay groups: the use of group work in this approach aims to develop students’ ability to work in this way. Inductive learning is encouraged and greater self-directedness is expected as students gain experience and increased confidence.

The content material is the vehicle through which students learn generic knowledge and skills. In order for learning to be optimised, particular attention is paid to the relative complexity of content and to the impact of the material on students emotionally and cognitively. The units of study are sequenced so that at the completion of the BSW, students are expected to be able to critique, synthesise and apply their generic knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts.

Using a developmental approach, key concepts are introduced throughout the course at increasing levels of complexity so that students both recognise their importance to social work and gain a sense of growing competence. An example is critical reflection on one’s practice. The concept of reflecting on practice is introduced to second year students in the unit Psychology for Social Work and is reintroduced at increasing levels of complexity (i.e. building from the concept of reflexivity to include the concept of power and the notion of and skills involved in critical reflection). Opportunities to practise skills in critical reflection are provided through assessments. In a similar way, the concepts of structural inequalities and social justice, introduced in second year in the unit Australian Social Policy, and a major focus of the Year 3 IBL2 (Social Justice, Social Citizenship and Social Work), are raised in every unit of study in the program. For example, in IBL1, Illness, Inequality and Intervention, this concept may be addressed in the context of hospital discharge policies with respect to older people; and in IBL3 (Violence against Women and Children) through discussion of violence against women and children as a human rights issue and of the ways in which inequalities connected with the process of globalisation provide a context for the emergence of new forms of violence against women.
COURSE AND STRUCTURE

FIRST AND SECOND YEARS
There is some flexibility in the first two years, but all students entering Third Year must have completed (or, in special circumstances, be in the process of completing) courses in sociology, psychology, social policy, research methods and Indigenous studies. Further details of the requirements for First and Second Years can be found in the Undergraduate Handbook of the Sydney School of Education and Social Work. Further details of First and Second Year courses are given here.

**Sociology, Australian Social Policy**
First and Second Year
These courses explore key concepts and theories in the study of society, introduce students to research methods in the social sciences, provide an overview of the formulation and delivery of social welfare services in Australia and allow for more intensive study in areas of sociological inquiry. These programs are offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, which is part of the School of Social and Political Sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Indigenous Australia: An Introduction**
KOCR2600 6 Credit points
Second Year, one semester
The unit focuses on Aboriginal life since colonisation, addressing issues of the construction of race, impact of colonisation, Aboriginal resistance, the effects of legislation, government policies and social movements. The relationship to land, spirituality and systems of belief form the foundations of this unit. The structure of Aboriginal societies, cultural practices and maintenance stand beside issues of ownership of knowledge as well as consideration of the lived experience of Indigenous Australians in the political context.

**Life-course Perspectives on Development**
SCWK2007 6 Credit points
Second Year, first semester
Coordinator: Dr Emma Tseris  emma.tseris@sydney.edu.au
This unit of study focuses on human development, communication and understanding diversity. Students are invited to engage critically with influential 20th and 21st century paradigms which have informed understandings of human development and wellbeing. Students are introduced to the scope of social work practice, including thinking about the importance of community and social connectedness.

**Mental Health for Social Work**
SCWK2008 6 Credit points
Second Year, second semester
Coordinator: Dr Emma Tseris  emma.tseris@sydney.edu.au
This unit of study focuses on a range of perspectives relevant to social work practice in mental health. It introduces students to mental health issues commonly experienced in contemporary society, including depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, drug and alcohol addiction, self-harm and suicidality. It also explores several contextual issues surrounding the topic of mental illness, including the social determinants of mental illness, labelling and stigma, working with young people experiencing distress, working with families, the effects of child abuse and domestic violence, and grief.

**Research Skills for Social Work**
SCWK2006 6 Credit points
Second Year, second semester
Coordinator: Prof Donna Baines  donna.baines@sydney.edu.au
The unit introduces students to the main approaches to social research, and to key debates about the use of research in social work practice. Each topic will be illustrated by a concrete example from
an area of social work practice, presented by an appropriate expert. At the completion of this unit students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the roles of research in social work practice and policy in a variety of contexts; locate and critically evaluate research reports in various formats (including journal articles, government and other reports); articulate an understanding of, and rationale for, different approaches to social research design, including quantitative and qualitative approaches; demonstrate a basic grasp of research design, including matching research questions with appropriate methodologies; and show awareness of ethical, organisational, and political issues in social research.

THIRD YEAR CLASSWORK

**Professional Practice**  
**SCWK3008 6 Credit points**  
Third Year, Semester One  
Coordinator: Dr Margaret Spencer margaret.spencer@sydney.edu.au

At the successful completion of this unit of study students should:

- understand the diversity of the professional practice of social work in its historical and contemporary contexts
- understand the links between philosophical approaches, knowledge and skills associated with professional practice
- develop and demonstrate generic skills in social work practice and policy
- understand social work values, theories and ethics and the fundamentals of ethical practice
- develop and demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on their learning.

**IBL1: Illness, Inequality and Intervention**  
**SCWK3006 6 Credit points**  
Third Year, Semester One  
Coordinator: Assoc Prof Margot Rawsthorne margot.rawsthorne@sydney.edu.au

This unit of study asks students to examine how social inequalities permeate the experience of health and illness, both physical and mental. It examines how health policy and health services, as an important surfacing point for personal and social troubles, can both redress and exacerbate inequalities. It introduces students to social work practice theories that inform social work at the front-line, where policy is implemented, and in policy analysis and development.

**IBL2: Social Justice, Social Citizenship and Social Work**  
**SCWK3007 6 Credit points**  
Third Year, Semester One  
Coordinator: Assoc Prof Sue Goodwin susan.goodwin@sydney.edu.au

This unit of study familiarises students with the key debates in contemporary social policy and social work. It introduces students to the professional practice of social work and asks them to explore theoretically and historically the contestable meanings of one of the guiding values of social work: social justice.

**Field Education 1 (FE1)**  
**SCWK3005 or SCWK3010 (Field Education 1 Honours) 24 Credit points**  
Third Year, Semester Two, Tuesday 8 August – Friday 17 November 2017  
Compulsory pre-placement seminar: Monday 7 August 2017  
Coordinator: Dr Margaret Spencer Margaret.spencer@sydney.edu.au

In addition to the 60 days of first placement, all students attend compulsory fortnightly placement classes and peer support and accountability groups. These provide a forum in which to explore issues concerning the integration of practice and theory, as well as opportunities for support and consultation with other students and Faculty staff. Written assignments and oral presentations allow students to demonstrate their placement learning.
Social Work Preliminary Honours
SCWK3009 6 Credit points
Third Year, Semester Two
Coordinator: Prof Donna Baines donna.baines@sydney.edu.au
For students who enrolled in 2009 onwards a research based honours program, conducted over third and fourth year, is their only means of achieving a BSW with Honours. Entry is competitive, with approximately ten per cent of each cohort being accepted in to the Honours program each year. Social Work Preliminary Honours is the first of two units of study for Honours students. The unit assists students in the honours stream of the BSW to develop further understandings of the role that research plays in social work practice and to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to both use research and to undertake research. This unit of study is undertaken concurrently with the first field education placement and is conducted in 3 hourly seminars each week on Monday afternoons.

FOURTH YEAR CLASSWORK

**IBL3: Violence Against Women & Children**
SCWK4003 9 Credit points
Fourth Year, Semester One, 13 February – 15 March 2017
Coordinator: Dr Susan Heward-Belle susan.hewardbelle@sydney.edu.au
In this unit of study, students explore the links between research, theory, policy and practice through an examination of interpersonal violence, with a particular emphasis on domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Students are asked to conceptualise and articulate the consequences of contested theoretical approaches for social work practice, policy and research. As this is the first IBL after the initial field education placement, students are expected to articulate and integrate relevant learning from the field education experience. They are asked to demonstrate their learning, including the capacity for teamwork, through a small group presentation of a research proposal.

**Social Work Honours Research Dissertation**
SCWK4008 6 Credit points
Fourth Year, Semester Two
Coordinator: Dr Emma Tseris emma.tseris@sydney.edu.au
This unit of study is the second of two honours by research units that fulfils the Research Honours requirement (the first is Social Work Preliminary Honours). This unit of study is located in the final semester of the fourth year of the BSW degree program. The aim of the unit is to provide students with experience in conducting social work research and to develop the skills required to present the results of their research project orally and through the submission of a dissertation. The unit of study comprises a short series of three in-class seminars and 27 hours of research, under the supervision of a research supervisor, which is conducted on an existing research project being undertaken by member of the Social Work and Policy Studies staff.

**Field Education 2 (FE2A&FE2B)**
SCWK4005 and SCWK4006 24 Credit points
Fourth Year, Tuesday 4 April – Friday 4 August 2017
Compulsory pre-placement seminar: Monday 3 April 2017
Coordinator: Professor Fran Waugh fran.waugh@sydney.edu.au
During the 80 days of second placement, all students attend compulsory fortnightly placement classes. Those students on placement outside of the Sydney metropolitan area participate in weekly online classes and make a special placement presentation at the end of placement.

**IBL4: Ageing**
SCWK4004 9 Credit points
Fourth Year, Semester Two, 21 August – 20 September 2017
Coordinator: Francis Duffy francis.duffy@sydney.edu.au
Focussing on a crucial and growing field of social work practice, this unit of study collapses the boundaries between them (old people) and us (everyone else) by examining how age has been historically understood, the impact of ageism and the range of social work practices and social policies related to ageing. Students are asked to engage with preconceptions of old age and
consider the future, particularly in regard to an ageing population and the directions for social policies and social work practices relating to ageing and old age. They are also expected to analyse and reflect critically on age, ageing and old age and how it is addressed in social theories, social policies and social work. Students are expected to form and defend views about social policy and social work with respect to ageing and old age and do this through oral presentations that seek to share in-depth knowledge in a particular area of interest and by producing a well-researched, significant essay that also identifies and reviews learning achieved throughout the unit of study.

**Integrative Studies**  
**SCWK4002 6 Credit points**  
Fourth Year, Semester Two, 2 October – 27 October 2017  
Coordinator: Francis Duffy francis.duffy@sydney.edu.au

Integrative Studies is the final unit of study in the BSW degree. It has two key objectives:
- through processes of critical reflection, students have an opportunity to look back on and consolidate knowledge and skills developed over the four years of the BSW; and
- through guest presentations and practical exercises in small groups, further develop knowledge and skills in applying for employment in the human services.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students’ performance is continually assessed through a range of methods designed to meet the learning objectives of the overall and separate components of the course and to reflect professional demands. For the classwork these methods include submissions, briefing papers, written and oral reports, as well as essays and exams. Most classwork units include some group assessment. In the field education component, assessment is based on practice performance, professional development and written work. Information about classwork assessment is provided with each separate component. Details of evaluation of field education assessment can be found on pages 34 - 41.

**PROGRESSION**

All students must pass all compulsory components of the course. Within the Third and Fourth Years no student is permitted to progress without passing all prior units of study.

**CONSULTATION**

The Faculty has in place consultation processes through which students can provide feedback to the teaching staff. Student representatives are elected by their classmates to attend unit of study committee meetings with the relevant teaching staff. Meetings are held at least once during semester, about midway through the class program. It is the responsibility of the chair of each committee to organise and facilitate meetings.

**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (QUALIFYING) PROGRAM (MSW(Q))**

**OVERALL AIMS OF THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (QUALIFYING)**

The Master of Social Work (Qualifying) aims to provide a rigorous program that result in graduates who are competent, effective, skilled, knowledge-based, ethically aware and confident practitioners. It prepares students for practice in the work place in local, national and international contexts.

The content of the MSW (Qualifying) is based on the values set out in the AASW Code of Ethics (2010) and the AASW Practice Standards (2013). A commitment to social justice is a core value of the MSW (Q). Drawing on Australian and international perspectives, the program aims to graduate students able to take leadership roles in the social work profession.

The program:
- incorporates a constructive and critical approach to knowledge building and application
- produces critically reflective and skilled practitioners, able to take leadership roles in the
social work profession
- promotes sensitivity to, and incorporates content on, culture, ethnicity, race, gender and sexual orientation
- identifies and selects curricula determined by local, national and/or regional/international needs and priorities
- incorporates knowledge on history, culture, the strengths of, and disadvantage suffered by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- incorporates knowledge from other disciplines, in particular, the social and behavioural sciences

ENTRY TO THE MSW (Q)
Because social work draws on knowledge from a range of disciplines, students are required to enter the program with:
- an understanding of society and how it has developed and is organised. This includes an understanding of the major insights provided by sociology, anthropology, social theory, history, economics and political science; an awareness of how these contribute to the understanding of social inequalities; and the ability to critically engage with debates on the implications and effects of the globalisation of society
- knowledge of the individual, including human behaviour and development, personality development, life-cycle stages, family and social networks, physical health and ill-health, mental health and ill-health, disability, vulnerability and resilience; and an understanding of the social construction of these concepts

This prior knowledge is evidenced by:
- a relevant bachelor's degree
- demonstrated understanding of the development and organisation of both human society and human behaviour provided through a written statement

Students are also required to have a minimum of three years full time experience (or equivalent) in the human and community services industry in the past seven years.

PEDAGOGY
Principles of adult learning, where students are self-directed and goal oriented, provide the foundation for the educational approach adopted in the MSW (Qualifying), as appropriate to the student cohort, which has prior undergraduate education and work experience in the human and community services sector. The educational approach maximises opportunities for mutual learning by both student and educator. The program fosters a commitment to lifelong learning and continuing professional education. Accordingly, the curriculum provides:
- an integrated, issue based curriculum structure rather than a subject and method based curriculum structure
- a primary emphasis on learning rather than a primary emphasis on teaching
- an explicit rather than implicit expectation that students are active participants in their education
- emphasis on processes and outcomes rather than a preoccupation with inputs and accumulation of discipline and subject knowledge.

The program can be taken both full and part time (over 2 or 4 years). Students complete seven core units of study, three elective units of study (one of which is a research unit), and 140 days field education (Practice Learning 1 & 2). Core Units are:

PROGRAM CONTENT
Child Wellbeing & Protection (offered in 2017)
SCWK5008 6 Credit points
Coordinator: Dr Susan Heward-Belle susan.hewardbelle@sydney.edu.au
The aim of this unit of study is to better prepare students for working in diverse and inclusive community environments especially those involving young children “at risk” and young people. This aim is consistent with developing in students the skills and strategies necessary for the integration of young children’s needs and creating family and community environments that foster healthy self concepts and wellness.

This unit addresses the range of factors from poverty to positive parenting that contribute to safe, healthy and happy childhoods. It is theoretically based in the social construction of childhood with sociological and psychological components. It examines the historical legacy of intervention in the lives of children and families and social work’s relation to this. It explores current policy and practice directions and the implications for professional practice and considers the dominant discourses of children's rights, risk and resilience. Topics of child development and wellbeing and the impact of child abuse and neglect in the family, community including schools and society, are explored. This unit introduces students to the theories and definitions of child abuse and neglect as well as the psychological and social consequences of child abuse and neglect. Within this unit of study emphasis is given to the ethical and legal responsibilities of practitioners as mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

**Social Work Practice**  
**SCWK5010 6 Credit points**  
Coordinator: Francis Duffy francis.duffy@sydney.edu.au  
It is compulsory to undertake this unit in the first semester of study in the MSW(Q) program. The unit of study addresses the theory-practice relationship and provides students with opportunities to engage with reflexive practice. It provides an introduction to the diversity of the professional practice of social work and aims to develop the capability of students to practise generic skills in social work practice and policy. There is an emphasis on understanding social work values and the fundamentals of ethical practice. Students are encouraged to recognise and build upon skills and knowledge they already have, and to develop their capabilities for acquiring further knowledge and skills. While applicable in all fields of practice, experiential class exercises will focus on core fields of practice in CALD and Indigenous communities.

**Poverty & Social Exclusion (offered in 2017)**  
**SCWK5009 6 Credit points**  
Coordinator: Assoc Prof Susan Goodwin susan.goodwin@sydney.edu.au  
Poverty and Social Exclusion highlights key contextual, theoretical and practice issues for social work. This unit introduces the historical and contemporary role of social work in assessing and addressing poverty, inequality and social disadvantage. Students will be introduced to theories of social justice, the welfare state, social policy development and social change. The unit also provides knowledge about key groups in Australian society who are most affected by poverty and social exclusion, such as Indigenous Australians, unemployed people, young people who are disconnected from family, people with disabilities, low income families, migrants and refugees and older people. Students will develop policy analysis and policy development skills and engage critically with policy and practice responses to poverty and social exclusion and local, national and global levels.

**Violence Against Women (next offered in 2018)**  
**SCWK5011 6 Credit points**  
Coordinator: Dr Susan Heward-Belle susan.hewardbelle@sydney.edu.au  
Violence against women is a pervasive global social problem whose various forms are shaped by different social, historical, economic and cultural contexts. Taking the example of violence against women, this unit of study builds upon previous studies of social inequality to explore the role of gender inequality as both a cause and consequence of violence against women. The intersection of gender inequality with other forms of inequality, such as those based on race, class and ability is also explored. Because of its short and long term impacts on women’s health, well being and life chances, social workers in all settings are involved in responding to violence against women. Students will engage critically with a range of theories, research approaches, and policy and practice responses to violence against women at local, national and global levels.
Health and Inequality (Next offered in 2018)

SCWK5012 6 Credit points
Coordinator: Assoc Prof Margot Rawsthorne margot.rawsthorne@sydney.edu.au
This unit of study asks students to examine how social inequalities permeate the experience of health and illness, both physical and mental. It examines how health policy and health services, as an important surfacing point for personal and social troubles, can both redress and exacerbate inequalities.

Social Perspectives on Ageing

SCWK5007 6 Credit points
Coordinator: Francis Duffy francis.duffy@sydney.edu.au
This unit of study is offered in block mode, over 5 weeks in August/September each year. The unit of study aims to collapse the stereotypical boundaries between ‘them’ (old people) and ‘us’ (everyone else) by examining how age is historically and socially constructed and experienced. It explores social policies and social work practices and skills in relation to old people, their families and communities, with particular emphasis on diversity and inequality.

Practice Learning 1 (PL1)

SCWK5004 18 Credit points
8 August – 17 November 2017
Compulsory pre-placement seminar: Monday 7 August 2017
Coordinator: Cherie Toivonen cherie.toivonen@sydney.edu.au
In addition to the 60 days of first placement, all students attend compulsory fortnightly placement classes and peer support and accountability groups. These provide a forum in which to explore issues concerning the integration of practice and theory, as well as opportunities for support and consultation with other students and Faculty staff. Written assignments and oral presentations allow students to demonstrate their placement learning.

Practice Learning 2 (PL2)

SCWK5005 and SCWK5006 18 Credit points
April – November 2017
Compulsory pre-placement seminar: Monday 13 March 2017
Coordinator: Suzy Velkou suzy.velkou@sydney.edu.au
During the 80 days of second placement, all students attend compulsory fortnightly placement classes. Those students on placement outside of the Sydney metropolitan area participate in weekly online classes and make a special placement presentation at the end of placement. Written assignments and oral presentations allow students to demonstrate their placement learning.

Integration of Learning

SCWK5003 6 Credit points
Coordinator: Emma Tseris emma.tseris@sydney.edu.au (first semester)
Coordinator: Assoc Prof Susan Goodwin susan.goodwin@sydney.edu.au (second semester)
The aim of this final unit of study is to enable students to bring together in an integrated way, their learning from all completed units of study. Throughout their degree, students will build a history of their learning, capturing documentation and other evidence that demonstrates these experiential processes and learning outcomes. Students demonstrate their learning across the course through a presentation and a paper of a standard appropriate for further dissemination through professional publication and presentation.

Electives

Students select 3 electives (including one research elective) from the following;

Global Social Policy
Social Research
Dying, Death and Mourning
Practice Theory Development
In addition, they may select their electives from cross-listed Masters level units in education, sociology, health, government.

PROGRESSION THROUGH THE MSW(Q) PROGRAM

In recognition that many students are currently in employment in the health and community services sector, the program offers some flexibility for students to tailor a program to their own learning goals. However, students are required to successfully complete Social Work Practice prior to progressing to Practice Learning 1. Practice Learning 1 (plus another two units) must be successfully completed prior to Practice Learning 2. Most full time students will have completed the units Social Work Practice, Child Protection and Wellbeing, and Poverty and Social Exclusion prior to commencing Practice Learning 1; part-time students in most instances will have completed Social Work Practice and Child Protection and Wellbeing and/or Health Inequality.

Practice Learning 1 and Practice Learning 2 must be completed over a minimum of 3 days per week. In order to maximise the learning on placement, it is highly recommended that students undertake their placements over 4 or 5 days per week.

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the professional representative body for social workers in Australia. All graduates of the BSW and MSW(Q) programs at the University of Sydney are eligible for membership. BSW and MSW(Q) students are eligible for student membership.

As a professional association, the AASW acts as a lobby group on health and welfare issues and policy development to achieve a more just society. It publishes the only refereed Australian social work journal: *Australian Social Work*, which all members receive, and organises conferences and seminars, with reduced rates for members. At a local level, it acts as facilitator for special interest groups of social workers, encouraging professional support and information-sharing.


It presents the principles, desired goals, and minimum requirements of social work education. This document now includes details of curriculum content in the core practice areas of mental health; cross-cultural practice; child wellbeing and protection; practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. All social work programs are regularly reviewed by the AASW to ensure that they meet the criteria for graduates to be eligible for membership of the AASW.

All social work programs are also informed by the AASW Code of Ethics (2010) and the Practice Standards (2013). These documents can be found at [http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/16](http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/16)

The Code of Ethics outlines the values and principles for all Australian social work practitioners and the Practice Standards outline the minimum outcomes standards for all social work practitioners and hence for all new graduates. All social work programs now work towards their graduates being able to meet these expectations on entering practice. The AASW expects that at graduation all social work graduates will have acquired, and be able to demonstrate, the following attributes (further detail, with accompanying required learning outcomes, can be found at [http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/3550](http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/3550)):

**Attributes of Australian social work graduates**
1. Demonstrated sense of identity as a professional social worker
2. Sound understanding of and commitment to social work values and ethics to guide professional practice
3. Ability to apply social work knowledge and interventions to respond effectively in meeting the needs of individuals, groups and communities in diverse settings, client groups and geographic locations
4. Ability to apply knowledge of human behaviours and society, as well as the social, cultural, political, legal, economic and global contexts of practice to respond effectively within a human rights and social justice framework
5. Ability to review, critically analyse and synthesise knowledge and values and apply reflective thinking skills to inform professional judgement and practice
6. Ability to apply research knowledge and skills to understand, evaluate and use research to inform practice and to develop, execute and disseminate research informed by practice
7. Demonstration of effective communication and interpersonal skills
8. Ability to work with diversity and demonstrate respect for cultural difference
9. Understanding of the importance of and commitment to ongoing professional development

For further information about the AASW, visit: http://www.aasw.asn.au or contact the NSW branch on (02) 8394 9850 or email: aaswnsw@aasw.asn.au

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY GRADUATE QUALITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate qualities</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depth of disciplinary expertise.</td>
<td>To excel at applying and continuing to develop disciplinary expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broader skills:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Critical thinking and problem solving;</td>
<td>To increase the impact of expertise, and to learn and respond effectively and creatively to novel problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Communication (oral and written);</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Information/ digital literacy;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Inventiveness.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural competence.</td>
<td>To work productively, collaboratively and openly in diverse groups and across cultural boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary effectiveness.</td>
<td>To work effectively in interdisciplinary (including inter-professional) settings and to build broader perspective, innovative vision, and more contextualised and systemic forms of understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An integrated professional, ethical and personal identity.</td>
<td>To build integrity, confidence and personal resilience, and the capacities to manage challenges and uncertainty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence.</td>
<td>To be effective in exercising professional and social responsibility and making a positive contribution to society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SYDNEY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK: CONTEXTUALISED GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

The particular abilities and skills that comprise each of these five clusters of abilities might be interpreted differently in different disciplines or domains. Each faculty of the university is
encouraged to develop a contextualised statement of the abilities that comprise these five clusters. An example of the way these attribute clusters might be interpreted by a discipline or faculty is provided below.

**Research and inquiry**
Graduates of the University will be able to create new knowledge and understanding through the process of research and inquiry. This might be understood in terms of the following:

- be able to identify, define and analyse problems and identify or create processes to solve them
- be able to exercise critical judgement and critical thinking in creating new understanding
- be creative and imaginative thinkers
- have an informed respect for the principles, methods, standards, values and boundaries of their discipline and the capacity to question these
- be able to critically evaluate existing understandings and recognise the limitations of their own knowledge.

**Information literacy**
Graduates of the University will be able to use information effectively in a range of contexts. This might be understood as:

- recognise the extent of information needed
- locate needed information efficiently and effectively
- evaluate information and its sources
- use information in critical thinking and problem solving contexts to construct knowledge
- understand economic, legal, social and cultural issues in the use of information
- use contemporary media and technology to access and manage information.

**Personal and intellectual autonomy**
Graduates of the University will be able to work independently and sustainably, in a way that is informed by openness, curiosity and a desire to meet new challenges. This might be understood in terms of the following:

- be intellectually curious and able to sustain intellectual interest
- be capable of rigorous and independent thinking
- be open to new ideas, methods and ways of thinking
- be able to respond effectively to unfamiliar problems in unfamiliar contexts
- be able to identify processes and strategies to learn and meet new challenges
- be independent learners who take responsibility for their own learning, and are committed to continuous reflection, self-evaluation and self-improvement
- have a personal vision and goals and be able to work towards these in a sustainable way.
Ethical, social and professional understanding
Graduates of the University will hold personal values and beliefs consistent with their role as responsible members of local, national, international and professional communities. For example:
- strive for truth, honesty, integrity, open-mindedness, fairness and generosity
- acknowledge their personal responsibility for their own value judgements and behaviour
- understand and accept social, cultural, global and environmental responsibilities
- be committed to social justice and principles of sustainability
- have an appreciation of and respect for diversity
- hold a perspective that acknowledges local, national and international concerns
- work with, manage, and lead others in ways that value their diversity and equality and that facilitate their contribution to the organisation and the wider community.

Communication
Graduates of the University will use and value communication as a tool for negotiating and creating new understanding, interacting with others, and furthering their own learning. This might be understood in terms of the following:
- use oral, written, and visual communication to further their own learning
- make effective use of oral, written and visual means to critique, negotiate, create and communicate understanding
- use communication as a tool for interacting and relating to others.

FIELD EDUCATION / PRACTICE LEARNING PROGRAM

FIELD EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Field education is a core component of the University of Sydney Social Work and Policy Studies Program with all field education courses having full academic status. The Field Education Program promotes a supportive learning environment (Giles, Irwin, Lynch & Waugh, 2010) aiming to engage all key people in the provision of good learning opportunities in field practice. This entails:
- providing the students with a variety of professional practice tasks
- challenging students whilst providing peer and professional support
- developing knowledge and skills
- linking theory and practice
- developing a professional identity
- developing critical reflection skills.
Underpinning this model are theories of adult learning, transformational learning, experiential learning, ethics and critical reflection.

The field education learning expectations are developed across the program aiming to develop values, skills and knowledge from a beginner to a practitioner capable of meeting AASW Practice Standards (2013).

The on campus courses prior to each field education course, prepare the students to apply theory to practice, to employ a range of social work interventions and to demonstrate professional values and ethics. In preparation for each field education placement, agency Field Educators determine the scope and parameters of learning opportunities within their setting. In negotiation with the Field Educator, using the AASW Practice Standards and the specific field education course learning expectations as a framework, students produce a set of learning goals. These goals set out what they hope to learn, how this learning will happen and how, with their Field Educator and university liaison, they will monitor and evaluate their learning.

PRINCIPLES GUIDING FIELD EDUCATION
- the Field Education Program is theoretically grounded
- the program is based on a learning philosophy in which the student is an active participant
- students are provided with diverse learning opportunities
- the program is consistent with AASW requirements.
OBJECTIVES OF THE FIELD EDUCATION PROGRAM

- to complement class work in developing students’ professional identity and competence
- to facilitate students’ understanding of the social, economic and political context of social work and critical analysis of the place of social work in society
- to familiarise students with competing theories about the individual and society, and with tensions arising from these that are inherent in all social work intervention
- to promote students’ competence to act in managing these tensions through the acquisition of social work skills and methods, including research
- to facilitate students’ developing coherent practice which assists individuals and promotes social change
- to implement an educational philosophy promoting learning partnerships between students, Field Educators and staff of the Faculty.

COLLABORATING WITH AGENCIES

In collaborating with agencies, the Faculty seeks to:

- develop continuing reciprocal relationships in order to facilitate student education, research, consultation and continuing professional development
- provide high quality field education
- create the opportunity for innovative practice
- develop formal agreements about the responsibilities of all parties
- support Field Educators in assisting students’ learning.

Note: The University of Sydney Social Work and Policy Studies Field Education Programs do not provide payment for placements.

AASW REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD EDUCATION

- students must spend at least 1000 hours in at least two field placements
- no placement will be less than 40 days
- no placement shall be an observational placement
- in every placement students must be supervised by a qualified social worker who has a minimum of two years’ full-time practice experience
- students must undertake placements in at least two practice settings (e.g. hospital, neighbourhood centre, government agency)
- students must experience at least two fields of practice (e.g. mental health, child protection, refugee settlement)
- students must be able to practise using a diverse range of social work interventions, including casework, group work, community work, policy development, social action and research

* Social Work and Policy Studies at Sydney University require that these hours must be spread over a minimum of 140 seven hour working days, namely 60 days in placement 1 and 80 days in placement 2.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS OF FIELD EDUCATION ROLES

The Faculty makes a commitment to support students and Field Educators within the Field Education Program by:

- keeping Field Educators and students informed about policy and initiatives in relation to field education
- facilitating placement classes and peer support and accountability groups for students throughout the placement to complement agency learning
- conducting information sessions for Field Educators on a regular basis about planning placements, developing learning plans and evaluating student performance
- providing professional development sessions throughout the year for field educators
• providing for qualified external Field Education supervision where a valuable placement is unable to provide a qualified social work supervisor
• undertaking research to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Field Education Program
• developing and maintaining an internet website to provide information and links to relevant material to support the Field Education Program
• promoting scholarship in relation to field education.

These commitments are carried out collaboratively by the Field Education Unit of Study Coordinator, the Field Education Manager and the Director of Field Education.

**Agencies**

• allocating time to Field Educators for tasks associated with student placements, including time to prepare for the students, time spent attending and contributing to Field Educators' meetings and education, and time spent in supervision of the students
• recognising the educational nature of the student placement by drawing a distinction between the contribution to be made to agency work by a student under supportive supervision and that made by a staff member employed to carry out the work of the agency
• accepting student participation in the organisational structure of the agency setting, such as by attendance at staff and other meetings and participation in committee work
• making available, within agency limitations, office space and administrative services needed by the student
• suggesting practitioners who would be appropriate to supervise students
• keeping the Faculty informed of any changes that could affect the placements offered to students
• being aware of potential student risks and the policies and procedures that address these. This includes staff, student and service user behaviours; travel whilst undertaking agency tasks; privacy; confidentiality and home visits.

**Field Educators**

• negotiate with the agency for time to carry out the tasks associated with student supervision and learning
• engage with the preparation process and identifying learning opportunities
• conduct a pre-placement interview to consider suitable match between student and learning opportunities
• be prepared to spend time on tasks related to student learning, including preparing for the student, attending and contributing to Field Educators’ seminars and a minimum of 1.5 hours per week spent in supervision with the student, with at least 1 hour per five days of placement allocated to formal supervision. Some of this may be provided in a group format
• develop a learning plan with the student which defines the way the student and Field Educator will work together in meeting the student’s learning needs
• make consultation time available to the student during the writing of the learning plan, the mid-placement and end of placement reports to ensure they are completed on time
• provide constructive feedback and comment on student’s mid and end of placement reports
• inform the Faculty of significant changes taking place in the agency that could affect the placement or changes to supervision arrangements
• communicate any concerns regarding the student or the placement with the Placement Class Teacher or Unit of Study Coordinator
• contact the Placement Class Teacher when extended illness or absence of either Field Educator or student is likely to affect placement
• contact the Placement Class Teacher if problems develop related to the nature and flow of work within the agency, particularly a lack of sufficient or appropriate work for the student
• contact the Placement Class Teacher where any other concerns develop which impact on
progress in placement
• if problems or difficulties arise engage in partnership discussions and strategies to address concerns (See ‘Students in difficulty on placement’, page 42)
• if appropriate, work collaboratively with the external/internal social work supervisor.

External Social Work Supervisors

When a student is placed in an agency that does not employ a social worker, an external social work supervisor is engaged by the University to provide ongoing weekly professional social work supervision to the student. The external social work supervisor will:
• arrange a joint meeting with the student and Field Educator in first week of placement and conduct one hour per week formal supervision with student
• work collaboratively with the Field Educator to address the student’s progress and learning on placement and if any problems or difficulties arise (See ‘Students in difficulty on placement’, page 42);
• engage in discussions with the student on all aspects of their learning and assist them to critically reflect on their practice
• engage with the student during the writing of the learning plan, the mid-placement and end of placement reports to ensure they are completed on time
• meet with the student and the Field Educator in preparation for the mid-placement visit and at the end of placement
• attend and participate in the mid-placement visit
• provide constructive written feedback on the student’s learning plan, mid and end of placement reports (feedback via email is acceptable).
• maintain regular communication with the Unit of Study Coordinator about the student’s progress and inform the Field Education team of any concerns with the student or the placement.

Students

It is expected that students will approach placement with a positive attitude and this includes:
• a responsibility for openness to learning and how this translates to practice on placement;
• adherence to the AASW Code of Ethics, USyd Student Code of Conduct and the agency’s Code of Conduct;
• self-awareness and openness to growth and change;
• ability to take responsibility and regulate emotions while on placement
• professional communication and behaviour on placement
• a mature attitude and approach
• an understanding of implementation of ethical practice and behaviour

Students are also required to:
• undertake careful completion of the pre-placement form as required
• formally disclose to the Field Education Manager any personal history or current issues (eg physical, psychological or behavioural) that may hinder them from participating fully in their placement. Where possible, the student’s specific needs are considered when allocating placements.
• prepare for and participate in the pre-placement interview
• prepare for and participate in compulsory placement preparation lectures and workshops
• attend all on-campus and on-line compulsory placement classes as per the course outline
• develop with the Field Educator a learning plan that defines the way the student and the Field Educator will work together in accomplishing their objectives
• prepare in advance for a minimum of 1.5 hours per week spent in supervision with the Field Educator, with at least 1 hour per five days of placement allocated to formal supervision. Some of this may be provided in a group format. The formal supervision preparation should include agreed material to enable the student and the Field Educator to analyse and evaluate the student's work
• work agency hours, and accept agency rules and regulations, including dress code and punctuality; behave in an appropriate, ethical and professional manner including duty of care to self and others and maintaining appropriate level of confidentiality
• raise and attempt to resolve with Field Educators any problems or differences that may arise in the placement
• inform the class teacher of any placement or personal issues that may be influencing the learning process
• notify the Field Educator and university promptly of any absences and provide required documentation relating to absences
• participate in mid-placement and final evaluation sessions with their Field Educator.

Placement Class Teachers
• contact the Field Educator (and the External Social Work Supervisor if relevant) in the third week of the placement to exchange contact details, assess student’s progress, confirm regular supervision has commenced and negotiate a date for the mid-placement visit
• facilitate placement classes and assess written work and oral presentations
• engage in ongoing assessment of students’ progress on placement and if necessary engage in consultation with Field Educator and student to address any issues that arise
• inform the unit of study co-ordinator of any issues or concerns that arise in placements
• conduct mid-placement visit and provide written evaluation of each student’s performance on placement and address any issues that may arise at this visit
• if any issues are identified, arrange subsequent visit/s in consultation with the Unit of Study Coordinator to evaluate whether additional requirements are met. In consultation with the unit of study co-ordinator determine when students in difficulty are put on notice to fail
• assess all placement reports to ensure they meet the requirements of the course
• provide evaluation of each placement at their completion
• inform the Unit of Study Coordinator and Field Education Administrative Officer as to the final placement end date for all students by at the conclusion of the final placement class.

Unit of Study Coordinator
• attend to relevant preparation and planning for the field education course
• facilitate placement classes and assess written work and oral presentations
• engage in ongoing assessment of students’ progress on placement and if necessary engage in consultation with the Field Educator and the student to address any issues that arise
• engage in ongoing consultation with the class teachers to address any issues that arise with students or Field Educators. When necessary, participate in placement visits with class teachers to address any issues that arise.
• communicate regularly with the Field Education Team regarding any changes or variations to placement arrangements.
• consult with class teachers regarding students in difficulty and determine which students will be put on notice to fail
• ensure that all portfolios are signed and completed in accordance with the Portfolio Checklist form. Once checked and marked as complete, transfer all portfolios to the Field Education Team for filing.
• consult with Director of Field Education if any student is not meeting requirements of course
• coordinate evaluations of the course and recommend changes in response to these evaluations.
• inform the Field Education Administrative Officer about any discontinued students or placements and failed placements.

Director of Field Education
• lead the ongoing development of all Field Education courses
• in consultation with academic and field teachers, establish policies and procedures for the Field Education Program
• support Field Education Course Co-ordinators and Class Teachers in their roles
• oversee ongoing assessment of students’ progress on placement and if necessary engage in consultation with the Field Educator and student to address any issues that arise
• engage in ongoing consultation with Class Teachers and Field Education staff to address any issues that arise with students or Field Educators
• consult with class teachers, field educators and students regarding individual students in difficulty and confirm which students will be put on notice to fail or withdrawn from placement
• engage in research and publication in relation to social work field education.

INFORMATION FOR FIELD EDUCATORS AND EXTERNAL SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISORS

Qualifications
It is a requirement of the AASW that Field Educators hold a recognised social work qualification and have at least two years full-time practice experience. However, AASW guidelines also acknowledge that a wide range of learning opportunities would be denied to students if they were prevented from having access to Field Educators with other qualifications. In situations where placements which offer students valuable learning experiences are unable to provide a qualified social work supervisor, the Faculty will appoint an external Social Work Supervisor, so that the placement meets AASW requirements.

Professional Development
It is also an AASW recommendation that Field Educators have training to inform this education role. The Faculty aims to support and train Field Educators and social work supervisors through a series of seminars offered concurrently with each placement. These seminars provide Field Educators and social work supervisors with an overview of the course program, as well as the learning plan, evaluation, student learning and the relationship between theory and all forms of practice.

In addition, the University also offers workshops for new Field Educators and for those wishing to refresh their student supervision skills. These workshops are free and are held twice a year. These workshops can also be arranged at other times to meet locality and workplace needs.

All prospective Field Educators and social work supervisors are encouraged to attend the seminars, particularly those who are new to the role or new to the program at the University of Sydney. Additional seminars are offered to Field Educators and social work supervisors to provide specific information about a range of policy and practice issues. Faculty staff are available for consultation on any matter relating to field education.

Supervision
According to AASW guidelines, students on placement should receive a minimum of 1.5 hours per week spent in supervision with the field educator, with at least 1 hour per five days of placement allocated to formal supervision. Some of this may be provided in a group format. Good practice indicates that one hour of informal monitoring of tasks and one hour formal, structured critical reflection contributes to effective student learning. Field Educators are expected to structure their workloads so that they are able to provide this required formal and informal supervision. Suggested readings on supervision are given in the Suggested Readings on pages 61-62. Further suggestions may be provided by Faculty staff.

PLACEMENTS

Criteria guiding the selection of placements
In accordance with AASW field education guidelines, students must have the opportunity to learn a range of skills, to undertake a variety of tasks and to experience different practice contexts. Faculty policy is therefore that the two placements must provide students with:
• different types of intervention, for example: work with individuals, groups and communities, policy development and research
• different kinds of organisations, for example: small and large agencies, government and non-government organisations
• different population groups, for example: families, Indigenous Australians, older people, migrants, women and
• different contexts of practice, for example: health, income security, child protection, disability, housing
• at least one placement will be in direct practice. The possibilities for second placement are thus dependent upon students’ first placement experiences.

The process of obtaining placements
An extensive database of field education opportunities for students is maintained and continually updated by the Field Education Manager. This database contains details of agencies that regularly or occasionally offer field education placements to students in the BSW and MSW(Q) programs.

At least four months before the commencement of any placement an email is sent to all field educators requesting placement offers, asking Field Educators to outline proposed placement details including:
• qualifications of the Field Educator
• field of practice and types of interventions available to students on placement proposed placement tasks
• skills and knowledge the student would be expected to develop in this placement
• opportunities for students to engage with staff, clients, community groups and agencies; and
• special qualities required of students for the placement.

All offers are assessed to determine whether the tasks available and the supervision offered meet AASW requirements.

At the same time, students are asked to complete a pre-placement form providing personal details, proof of clearance on all health and employment checks (see pages 33 -34), previous relevant work experience, special needs which might impact upon where the student is placed and identifying learning goals for the placement. For the second placement, information is also obtained for each student from previous field education placement reports.

Students who are close friends or associates will not be placed together in the same agency. Students are not placed in agencies where they have personal ties or experiences as a client or relative of a client, or have a significant prior or current relationship with a staff member.

Careful allocation of student placements takes place about six weeks before the placement commences. Both students and Field Educators are notified in writing of the proposed placement arrangements.

Students are then required to arrange and attend the pre-placement interview, keeping an open mind about the availability of social work learning. The chronic shortage of social work student placements does not enable students to reject their placement offer.

Pre-placement interview
The pre-placement interview is part of the overall assessment process for field education. Its purpose is to ensure that students demonstrate professional behaviour, an openness to learning and a commitment to the learning opportunities available in the placement.

Students are advised to contact the Field Educator to organise a pre-placement interview as soon as possible and to undertake appropriate preparation for this interview. At the interview the student and Field Educator will discuss the placement offer in detail and consider whether there is an appropriate fit between the student’s learning goals and the opportunities provided within the particular placement. At this point, Field Educators have an opportunity to advise the Field
Education Manager if they feel that their placement would not meet the learning needs of the student referred to the placement. In such cases, students are rematched.

It is to the student’s advantage to organise an interview with the Field Educator as early as possible, so that there is as much time as possible to find them a new placement, should that be required. To finalise all placements, all students will be required to provide proof of previously completed employment checks. Some students may be required to provide proof of health checks and/or to complete additional agency specific employment checks (see page 33 for essential preparation for placement).

Following a successful interview, the student and Field Educator both sign the Placement Confirmation form. This form also requires both the student and Field Educator to declare they have no conflict of interest or significant personal relationship. The student submits this signed form to the Field Education Manager. A letter of confirmation will be sent to both the student and Field Educator once all the above is completed.

Students must:
- contact their Field Educator as soon as they receive their placement offer to arrange a pre-placement interview
- undertake appropriate preparation for the interview as if it were a job interview
- provide a brief CV outlining past work and life experience and significant achievements
- provide all required documentation identified on the placement offer
- present with a professional and positive attitude with an openness to learning
- immediately after the interview inform the Field Education Manager of the outcome and submit the signed Confirmation of Placement form

Unsuccessful placement interview

If the pre-placement interview is successful, and both the Field Educator and student sign the Placement Confirmation Form, the student will begin placement on the placement commencement date outlined in the Unit of Study outline and on pages 44 - 45 of this Handbook.

If the pre-placement interview is not successful, the student will be required to attend an interview at University, with the Field Education Manager and the Unit of Study Coordinator to discuss the reasons for this and to determine any actions that may be necessary to support the student. If appropriate, and after careful discussion with the student, another attempt to locate a suitable placement will be made (see page 29 for privacy and disclosure issues). If the pre-placement interview is unsuccessful with the second placement offer, the student will not be able to proceed with the unit of study in that academic year. The student will be encouraged to address any issues that may have resulted in 2 unsuccessful attempts to secure a placement.

Obtaining a placement outside the regular process

No student may organise their own placement. Students may not obtain a placement outside the usual field education process unless they can provide evidence of exceptional circumstances that necessitate such an arrangement. The student must discuss this issue with the Field Education Manager and the Director of Field Education before making contact with any agency. The Field Education Manager, in conjunction with the Director of Field Education, will decide whether or not the student may proceed.

Placement in a student’s place of employment

AASW Education and Accreditation Standards (2012) states one student placement may occur in a place of employment. However due to potential conflicts of interest and contradictions in role, field education placements in students’ place of employment are generally not permitted by Sydney University. Any requests to undertake placement within a student's place of employment should be
Variations to placement
Permission to vary the time at which placements are undertaken and breaks during placement are only granted in exceptional circumstances. This is due to the importance of linking placements with placement classes; the availability of Faculty support; and the need to complete placements on time to proceed to the next stage of the program. Students wishing to undertake placements at any times other than those stipulated in the timetable need to obtain special permission from the Director of Field Education. Students wishing to apply for a variation to placement arrangements of more than 3 consecutive days are required to obtain special permission from the Unit of Study Coordinator. Requests should be made in writing to the Coordinator using the Sydney School of Education and Social Work Special Arrangements form (Available on Blackboard).

Rural and regional placements
Rural and regional placements are offered to students in FE1, FE2, PL1 & PL2 and are subject to the same scrutiny as every other placement. No student will be permitted to undertake a placement, regardless of location, which does not meet their individual learning needs and AASW requirements. Rural and regional placements are organised through the Faculty, according to the procedures outlined above. No student is permitted to organise their own placement, and all ideas for potential placements must be discussed with the Field Education Manager. Students undertaking placements outside the Sydney metropolitan area attend online placement classes and peer support and accountability groups via Skype and/or other online applications.

Unreadiness for Field Education
The Sydney School of Education and Social Work reserves the right not to place a student in a professional experience setting for field education including social work field education in any instance where the performance, personal or professional conduct of the student does not meet the Inherent Requirements for coursework award courses in Social Work, regardless of the fact that the student may be enrolled in the Unit of Study.
Social work agencies are accountable for their quality of service and need to be confident that any student placed under their supervision can meet all agency expectations in terms of professional behaviour.

The Sydney School of Education and Social Work may refuse to place a student in a field education agency or refuse permission for a student to undertake or continue in the Field Education Program in situations where:
- the Field Education Manager and the Unit of Study Coordinator have repeatedly attempted but failed to place a student. In these circumstances there will be a maximum of two attempts made to locate a suitable placement;
- a student has presented such difficulties that no agency is prepared to accept her or him or;
- the student is not meeting the Inherent Requirements for Coursework Award Courses in Social Work;
- the student is regarded as a potential danger, nuisance or risk to others.

In order to assist with these complex decisions, students may be required to provide medical or other evidence of their readiness and/or fitness to undertake or continue in placement.

PLACEMENT PRACTICALITIES
Attendance
Students on first placement must complete a minimum of 60 seven hour working days and 420 hours. Students on second placement must complete a minimum of 80 seven hour working days and 560 hours. A seven hour working day does not include a lunch break. Campus based placement class hours are in addition to these placement hours and contribute to the 1000 hours
required by AASW for field education.

Time taken in both on-site and external supervision contribute towards the total hours.

Every student is required to complete a time sheet indicating the specified number of days and hours undertaken in each placement. Time taken off for any reason must be made up. Students must negotiate with their Field Educator if they are to be absent for any reason (see page 41 for further information on time sheets).

Students are allowed those holidays observed by the agency during the placement period and may also negotiate with the agency to take additional religious holidays. These days must also be made up.

It is expected that students will attend placement during the normal business hours of the agency or of their Field Educator. Flexitime and additional hours may be worked however placement should not cease until the date of the full timetabled 60 or 80 days has been reached. The details of the actual hours to be worked should be negotiated with the Field Educator, recorded in the learning plan and the time sheet. **Practice Learning 2 must be completed over a minimum of 3 days per week. In order to maximise the learning on placement, it is highly recommended that students undertake their placements over 4 or 5 days per week.**

These details must also be in accordance with the AASW requirements as outlined on page 20.

Students may not undertake placement hours from home, except in exceptional circumstances. The student must apply to the Unit of Study Coordinator for permission to complete placement hours from home. Placement hours completed at home must be documented on the time sheet.

In Field Education 1, students may only attend placement on Mondays or after attending compulsory placement classes at University, if negotiated and with the agreement of their Field Educator. Students are required to respect their Field Educator’s capacity to offer an additional day on placement. If a Field Educator agrees that the student can attend placement on Mondays, the Field Educator must email the Unit of Study Co-ordinator to inform them of their agreement to do so. Attendance on any day, including any Mondays, must be for a minimum of 4 hours for it to be counted as a day towards the total days of attendance at placement.

Some placements provide students with an opportunity to do shift-work. While this is acceptable to the University, the undertaking of double-shifts is not allowed. Students are encouraged to engage in active self-care in order to maximise their capacity to learn. Excessive overtime or double shifts may mean that this is jeopardised. Students are also discouraged from working on weekends without taking off corresponding time in-lieu.

**Illness and absence**

Students are expected to contact their Field Educator by phone (or by email, only if phone contact is not possible) as soon as possible if they are unable to attend placement on a particular day. In the case of lengthy or multiple absences due to illness or misadventure (more than 2 days), the student should contact the class teacher or Unit of Study Coordinator and provide a medical certificate. If lengthy absences have occurred during placement, negotiations about the completion of the placement must be made with the Unit of Study Coordinator and the Director of Field Education. Documentation relating to the absences will be required to be submitted to the Unit of Study Coordinator during this process. Students will not have met the requirements of the placement until both the total number of hours and days have been completed.

**Travel and related expenses**

Students will be expected to travel to placements that may be some distance from their residence and from University. The students’ learning needs will take priority over travel time in any decision about placement.
Travel expenses to and from placement are the responsibility of the student. The Faculty’s Kooroora Travel Assistance Fund is available for students who incur excessive costs in travelling to and from placements. Such funds can only be allocated as reimbursements, and students intending to seek reimbursement should keep record of proof of their costs. Application forms are available from Suzy Velkou & Andrea Small, Field Education Managers. Completed forms should be submitted to Suzy or Andrea as soon as the placement is completed. It is the intention of the Kooroora Fund to make a contribution to the costs incurred by students, rather than to pay these costs in full. All applications for reimbursement are assessed according to the following criteria:

- excessive costs are defined as those that result from having to travel a great distance to undertake placement, or the student has had to use an expensive means of transport to travel to placement. Costs are calculated as being over and above the student’s usual costs of travel to and from university,
- excessive costs are considered in relation to the student’s financial status.

Expenses related to the student's work in the agency, including travel required during the course of placement work, are to be met by the agency in which the student is placed.

Students may be required by some placement organisations to have their own car. It is expected that students will be reimbursed by the placement agency for the cost of using their private vehicle for placement purposes. Most organisations will require students to have comprehensive motor vehicle insurance.

Students are not permitted to transport clients, including children, in their own vehicle at any time. They may do so, under the direction of the organisation, in the organisation’s vehicle.

**Scholarships**

Regularly there are University, State and Commonwealth initiatives designed to encourage student practice development. In the past, subsidised accommodation and some small financial support has been available for students undertaking placements in Brewarrina and Broken Hill.

Information about NSW Health Rural Allied Health Scholarships can be obtained online through the following links:

- [http://scholarshipdb.net/scholarships-in-Australia/Rural-Allied-Health-Scholarships-Nsw-Health-Department=3ZFQLkMMaEauMhNgZmfQ_g.html](http://scholarshipdb.net/scholarships-in-Australia/Rural-Allied-Health-Scholarships-Nsw-Health-Department=3ZFQLkMMaEauMhNgZmfQ_g.html)

These initiatives change regularly. For information about current scholarships contact the Field Education Manager.

**Financial assistance**

Students experiencing any form of financial difficulty are strongly encouraged to contact student services for financial advice and potential access to student bursaries.

Social Work specific scholarships are available in a small number of leading agencies. General student scholarship information is available on the university website.

**Privacy**

Student field education evaluations are not routinely passed on to supervisors of subsequent placements. However, in instances where students have experienced difficulties in a previous placement, or who have had difficulty securing a placement, the content of these reports may be discussed with the prospective Field Educator. Sufficient information will be given to the prospective Field Educator to allow an informed decision about whether or not to offer a placement and, if so, how it should be structured to optimise the student’s learning. The student will be informed in advance of the intention to discuss these matters.

Students are entitled to protection of their privacy, as are Field Educators, faculty staff and others
who might have dealings with the faculty. Privacy considerations apply to a great deal of information the University may hold about students, including factual data (address, age, enrolment status), academic progress (the results of examination, evaluation and assessment) and personal welfare (family matters, medical matters, personal relationships, financial matters). Staff of the University may, in the student's interests, require access at times to personal information about a student. To the extent that the information is private, the University will restrict access only to those staff who might need the information in order to carry out their responsibilities in the best interests of the student.

The University will not disclose personal information about a student to other students, to people outside the University (other than in accordance with any legal obligation) or to staff who have no need of access to the information.

**Ethics and Field Education**

Students in placement are confronted with ethical decisions as they involve themselves in the lives of others. Professional codes have been developed to guide students and practitioners in facing these dilemmas and students are required to become familiar with the AASW Code of Ethics (2010) before their first field education placement (see ‘Expectations of Student Learning’, page 34). The challenge to behave ethically requires constant reassessment, and students are encouraged to evaluate their work in terms of these guidelines.

Students are strongly advised not to have ongoing contact with a service user once a placement is complete. If they do so, it should be with the express knowledge of the agency, and preferably through a link with the agency such as a volunteer program. If any contact with a service user is maintained once the placement ceases, it is essential to discuss the situation with the Field Educator, the Unit of Study Coordinator or the Director of Field Education.

**Use of social media during placement**

Students are strongly advised to exercise judgement and caution in the use of social media about their placement prior to, as well as whilst on placement. This includes not using mobile phones for personal calls whilst on placement, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the organisation and its clients. The use of social media sites such as Facebook to post personal photographs taken during placement is not acceptable. It is recommended that students familiarise themselves with the organisation’s policies and requirements as well as the AASW policy on the use of social media and its consequences. Please also refer to the University’s Code of Conduct for Students ([http://sydney.edu.au/policies/showdoc.aspx?recnum=PD0C2011/215&RendNum=0](http://sydney.edu.au/policies/showdoc.aspx?recnum=PD0C2011/215&RendNum=0)).

**Confidentiality and class work**

It is critical that the confidentiality of clients and colleagues whom students meet in the Field Education Program is upheld at all times. Within the classroom the following guidelines developed by Wilson (Wilson, S. 1978, *Confidentiality in Social Work*. New York, Free Press, p 49) are helpful:

- All names of clients, relatives, and significant others mentioned by name in a case record or recording must be altered. Fake names or incorrect initials can be used. If names are changed rather than simply erased or obliterated, a notation should appear clearly indicating that this has been done.
- If the interview or case material concerns a highly unusual or much publicised situation which could be identified easily even after the client's name has been changed, the nature of the primary diagnosis or presenting problem, proper nouns, and certain identifying information may also need alteration. This may affect the reality of the situation and make it more difficult for the student to adequately present what really happened, but if it comes to a choice between presenting accurate recordings in the classroom and preserving privacy and confidentiality, the latter must take priority.
- Material of a highly confidential or incriminating nature should not be taken into the classroom at all. A student who is not certain whether the recording fits into this category should consult their Field Educator or Placement Class Teacher for guidance.
- Process recordings are the property of the agency and should not be copied or retained by
the student. They should be given to the Field Educator when their usefulness has ended or at the termination of the field placement, and should be stored separately from the official case record.

- All material which students wish to take into the classroom should be reviewed first by the Field Educator to ensure that proper measures have been taken to preserve confidentiality.
- Tape and video-recorded material cannot be adequately disguised to preserve confidentiality. The client's permission must be secured before a student takes such material into the classroom. Furthermore, certain technical steps should be taken to conceal identity even when the client has given permission for use of the material. Students should seek specific direction from their Field Educator.

**University work during placement hours**
- Student may use placement time to work on learning plans, Mid placement reports and End placement reports but must not prioritise this work above placement learning opportunities and practice. It is not appropriate for students to use placement hours to do any other university work.

**Intellectual property**

Field Educators are encouraged to discuss matters of intellectual property with students particularly where students are engaged with research and/or documents production on behalf of the agency. Where students have made a significant written contribution in the agency, Field Educators are encouraged to acknowledge this work.

For guidance about intellectual property Field Educators should consult relevant organisational policies. Further information can be found on the university website at [http://sydney.edu.au/policies/](http://sydney.edu.au/policies/)

**Harassment**

Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated at the University of Sydney. The University is committed to providing a workplace and study environment free from harassment and discrimination and has developed relevant policies, available at the Equal Opportunity webpage: [http://sydney.edu.au/eeo/](http://sydney.edu.au/eeo/)

The University defines harassment as any type of behaviour that:

- the other person does not want, and
- offends embarrasses or scares them, and
- is sexual or targets them because of their race, gender, pregnancy, marital status, sexual preference or orientation, disability or long term illness, age, family or carer's responsibility, social origin, political belief or lack of political belief, religious belief or lack of religious belief, and
- in the circumstances a reasonable person should have expected would offend, embarrass or scare.

The University also considers it harassment to bully or intimidate someone to such an extent that their (or others’) health and/or safety is at risk.

**Harassment and Field Education placements**

The Faculty is responsible for ensuring that its students are treated fairly and with respect during their enrolment in the BSW or MSW(Q) course. Any form of personal harassment or victimisation is likely to undermine professional relationships and efficiency and the Faculty expects that students, whether on campus or on placement, will neither inflict nor experience discrimination or harassment. Students whose behaviour is shown to be unacceptable may be subject to appropriate action. This may include being withdrawn from placement and being denied further placements as well as formal action within the University.

The Sydney School of Education and Social Work expects that agencies providing field education placements will offer students a workplace environment free of discrimination and harassment. In
the rare case that an agency does not have its own appropriate policy, it is expected that agencies will follow procedures similar to the University of Sydney.

What to do if harassed

If a student experiences harassment in the University or on placement and direct contact with the persons concerned is either inappropriate or does not lead to improved behaviour, the student should take up the matter with the appropriate person. On placement this is the Field Educator. In placement matters it may also be useful to take the matter up with the Placement Class Teacher, or with the Unit of Study Coordinator. If the Field Educator is the alleged harasser, the student should consult the appropriate Faculty staff member (Placement Class Teacher or Unit of Study Coordinator). If the harassment occurs within the University, the student should consult the University's Student Affairs Unit. For further information, telephone the Student Affairs Unit on 8627 5559 or email studentaffairs@sydney.edu.au.

If the student is dissatisfied with the outcome of the agency procedures or if there are no agency procedures, students are advised to consult their Placement Class Teacher or the Unit of Study Coordinator. Students are advised to keep the Faculty fully informed of all stages of any action they might take within a placement. Past occasions in which students have not kept the Faculty informed have led to more difficult processes than might otherwise have been necessary.

Resolution of Harassment Procedures

Harassment is most satisfactorily resolved if action of some kind is taken swiftly. The longer the situation continues, the more complicated becomes the path to a resolution. A situation may be resolved either formally or informally. The method will depend upon the seriousness of the complaint and the wishes of the student making the complaint. Informal measures are the desirable way to resolve all but the more serious, intransigent cases of harassment. Informal resolution allows the complaint to be settled quickly and can focus on putting working relationships onto an appropriate basis by clarifying what is regarded as acceptable behaviour.

In seeking resolution of a matter concerning harassment a student, in addition to contacting the appropriate persons as mentioned above, may also take one or more of the following actions:

- contact the Field Education Managers, Suzy Velkou 9351 6897 or Andrea Small 9351 2652 fieldeducation.manager@sydney.edu.au
- contact the Director of Field Education
- contact a University Harassment and Discrimination Support Officer (see above)
- contact the Students' Representative Council on 9660-5222
- seek advice from the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board [http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ADB](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ADB) and/or
- for emotional support, students may contact the University Counselling and Psychological Services on 8627 8433 or [http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/counselling/](http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/counselling/)

Procedures for ‘Students in Difficulty on Placement’ should be adopted (see page 42)

Insurance

Students on field education placements are covered by the University’s Public Liability and Professional Indemnity policies. The Public Liability policy covers the liability of students on field education placements and indemnifies the organisation providing the field education placement for damage to property or personal injury that is caused by the negligent act, error or omission of the student.
The Professional Indemnity policy provides coverage to students on field education placements for breach of their professional duty by reason of any negligence, whether by way of act, error or omission.

The University has in place a policy to cover students for personal accident or injury whilst on placement. For further details about insurance matters, ring the University Risk Management office on 9351 4127 or visit: http://sydney.edu.au/audit_risk/insurance/ All claims must be made in writing and include all relevant details.

A copy of the insurance document for students on placement is included at the back of this handbook.

Procedures
A student who has an accident, loss of property or is involved in any event likely to cause an insurance claim should observe the following steps:
(1) Notify the agency; the Director of Field Education; and the University Risk Management Office (9351 4127) by telephone as soon as possible. This puts the matter on notice
(2) Follow up all of those telephone calls in writing
(3) Gather any written evidence relating to the accident or loss of property
(4) Do not delay taking action
(5) Do not wait to find out whether or not the liability will be accepted by the insurers
(6) Do not accept any rejection of your possible claim given over the telephone.

Any accident or other such event could affect your ongoing placement and therefore you may also wish to speak to your Field Educator and Placement Class Teacher or the Unit of Study Coordinator.

Counselling Support for Students
Students who have any personal or family issues which may impact negatively on their performance on placement should contact the University Counselling and Psychological Services on 8627 8433. Further information can be found at http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/counselling/

The counselling service is both free and confidential and students are encouraged to ask for help as early as possible before placement begins. The counsellors can also provide support for students already on placements.

ESSENTIAL PREPARATION FOR PLACEMENT

Important Student Responsibilities
In preparation for placement, all students should make sure that they have the following documents:

Working with Children Number
Students are required to obtain the Working with Children Number prior to placement in designated areas (see http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/)

National Criminal Records Check Document
All students are required to be subject to a National Criminal Records Check and obtain a National Police Check Certificate (NPCC). Depending on the nature of the offence for which a conviction has been recorded, NSW Health or other jurisdictions have the right not to accept students on placement on their sites.

Important information about the NCRC requirements can be found at sydney.edu.au/current_students/enrolment/course_check.shtml. This check must be renewed every three years. Failure to obtain a National Police Check Certificate could mean non-acceptance by the NSW Health or any other jurisdiction or organisation of a student to undertake placement.
Fees are applicable when applying for the criminal record check. Information about NSW Health’s policy can be found at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/careers/student_clearance/Pages/default.aspx

The University is not involved in this checking process and it will not be given any information about students on whom an adverse criminal record report is made.

**Vaccination Record**

Students in the BSW, BA/BSW, MSW(Q) seeking placements in NSW Health are required to complete a Vaccination Record Card for Health Workers/Students. Placements with NSW Health and placements in many other agencies will not accept students without a completed vaccination record, so students who do not have this completed are seriously limiting their field education opportunities.

Information about the requirements for placements in NSW Health can be found at http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/enrolment/course_check.shtml

**Verification of compliance with NSW Health requirements**

Staff from Sydney Local Health District of NSW Health will check students’ compliance with their employment screening and vaccination policy. Students must be verified as compliant in order to undertake placements in NSW Public Health Facilities in 2017. Dates and details for compliance checking will be provided to students early in Semester 1.

**Driver’s License**

- Many placements require that students possess a full NSW driver’s licence, so students who do not have one are seriously limiting their placement and future employment opportunities.
- Students are not permitted to transport clients in their own vehicles or allow clients to drive the student’s vehicle.

**EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT LEARNING**

Before commencing field education, all students must familiarise themselves with the Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2010), which sets the standard for ethical practice for social workers in Australia. This can be downloaded at http://www.aasw.asn.au/practitioner-resources/related-documents. Students should also familiarise themselves with the AASW Practice Standards (2013) as these standards are the minimum requirements for all social work practitioners. These can also be found at http://www.aasw.asn.au/practitioner-resources/related-documents.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING**

**Processes of Evaluation**

Evaluation of a student’s progress in the Field Education Program is a three way process involving the student, the Field Educator and the Faculty, each of whom has different responsibilities. The student's progress should be reviewed by the Field Educator and the student in regular supervision sessions with reference to the learning objectives outlined in the placement learning plan. Students should take initial responsibility for evaluating their work as part of their preparation for supervision sessions. The Field Educator has a mandate from the Faculty to consistently evaluate the student's work and to make a final recommendation as to whether the student passes or fails the placement. The responsibility to award a satisfactory or unsatisfactory grade rests with the Faculty. Where there is also an external Social Work Supervisor, this person will also be involved in all these processes of evaluation.

Evaluation of student performance in placement is based on:

- the AASW Practice Standards and the specific learning objectives contained in the placement learning plan developed by the student and the Field Educator
- the expectations of the particular placement and
- the performance outcomes that the student has achieved in the placement.
The process of ongoing feedback and evaluation is part of the learning experience.

There are five specific components in the field education placement evaluation:
- the placement learning plan
- the mid placement liaison visit report
- the mid-placement report
- the end of placement report
- class attendance and tasks as per the Unit of Study outline and
- performance on placement as outlined above

Students’ performance in Field Education is assessed as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. **NB:** As of 2017, all written assessments are to be submitted online through Turn-It-In via the Learning Management System (Blackboard).

Pre-placement preparation seminar

A compulsory full day pre-placement preparation seminar is held before students commence their placement for FE1, PL1, FE2 or PL2. Students are required to attend for the whole day (9am-4pm) (see pages 44 and 45 for dates of seminars). If a student is absent for all or part of the pre-placement seminar, the student may not proceed to commence placement until all placement preparation and learning outcomes covered in the seminar are completed and submitted. This must be negotiated with the Unit of Study Coordinator who will then determine when the student may commence placement. This will result in a delay of the completion date for placement.

Placement Learning Plan

**Timing:** The placement learning plan is to be completed by the student within three weeks of starting placement. Completion at the end of the third week of placement allows the student to benefit from an orientation period, during which they will be able to develop understanding of the learning opportunities available within the agency. It will also allow the Field Educator to develop a better sense of the student’s preferred learning style, level of competence and level of confidence. Both student and Field Educator should therefore be able to determine the most appropriate tasks to enhance student learning on placement. Students should attempt to write an initial draft plan at the end of the first week and to have negotiated a final draft by the end of the second week. The Field Educator and student will then be in a good position to review together the content of the document before submission to the Placement Class Teacher at the end of the third week of placement.

**Purpose:** The placement plan is a statement of the particular learning objectives for the placement. The plan also ensures that each party (the student, the Field Educator and the Faculty) has an accurate understanding of roles and expectations, as well as responsibilities and lines of accountability. Each placement learning plan objectives will be framed around the eight components of social work practice of the AASW Practice Standards (2013) i.e. values and ethics; professionalism; culturally responsive and inclusive practice; knowledge for practice; applying knowledge to practice; communication and interpersonal skills; information recording and sharing; professional development and supervision. This overall framework for the learning process ensures that the placement is primarily a comprehensive social work educational experience and not just a list of tasks to be performed by the student. The plan is intended to be a working document and should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it becomes the basis for monitoring and evaluating ongoing learning. It should be continuously referred to by student, Field Educator (and external social work supervisor if appropriate) in supervision sessions and in the ongoing assessment of the placement. It will be specifically discussed during the mid-placement liaison visit. Ultimately the learning plan is a working document that guides the process of learning in practice and is adjusted as learning goals are achieved and new areas of learning are identified throughout the placement period.

**Developing a learning plan:** A critical stage of learning in field education is the negotiation of the
learning plan. It is important that both the student and Field Educator are actively involved in its development as this is also the beginning the student/supervisor relationship and can be a starting point for beginning discussions about how to work together productively and how to develop an understanding of each others’ approach and expectations.

Useful questions for students to consider in the process of developing a learning plan are:

- What are my current learning needs in terms of social work knowledge, skills and values? Answering this question can be informed by reviewing prior campus and practice learning in relation to the eight components of social work practice of the AASW practice standards and the practice standards within each component (as per the learning expectations on pages 46 - 58). This is also the time to consider and review the learning goals stated in the pre-placement form.

- What do I already know about these areas of practice and concepts and what do I still need to learn?

- How do I think these can be best achieved in relation to the learning opportunities in this placement context?

- What is my approach to practice? What are the values and attitudes that are important to me? How would I like this to be reflected in my professional practice?

- How do I best learn? It may useful to think about both positive and negative learning experiences. What contributed to them being positive or negative? Was it related to the context? Did my role or the roles of others (including supervisors) affect my experience? Did my own or my supervisor’s attitude and approach influence your learning?

- What do I expect of my supervisor (and my supervisor of me) in relation to time and availability, approach and methods of supervision, level of expertise? Do I want someone who both challenges and supports me and moves me beyond the task and into critical reflection and analysis? What are the implications of this?

- What do I bring to supervision? Given my educational and life experiences what do I have a sense of confidence or mastery over? What are the areas I need to strengthen?

- The Assessment in Social Work Field Education website [http://www.socialworkfieldassessment.net](http://www.socialworkfieldassessment.net) is a useful resource to assist with the development of your learning plan.

Having considered these questions student and supervisors will together develop detail and specific learning goals that challenge the student to stretch and significantly develop their knowledge, values, and skills. Supervisors will advise on levels of skill, knowledge, and values required for placement tasks and on the suitable sequencing of learning over the period of the placement. The final learning plan will identify a minimum of eight learning goals, one for each of the eight components of social work practice. Each goal will relate to a set of specific tasks that will assist in achieving the goal. Each goal will also be connected to evidence for its achievement.

The Placement Class Teacher may request changes to the plan, which must be made before the next placement class. The amended plan must be signed and dated by both student and Field Educator. A signed copy of the plan will also be submitted as part of the student’s field education portfolio, on the next business day after the completion of placement.

**Content:** The following information should be included in the placement learning plan:

1. Practical details of the placement, including name of student, Field Educator and external social work supervisor (if appropriate), agency address, length and dates of placement.

2. A concise description of the agency including the organisational structure and the social work role within the agency.

3. The student's specific learning goals for the placement. Each learning goal should be listed under a separate heading, concisely stating the learning that the student hopes to achieve. (For example learning goal in 'applying knowledge to practice' might be: Identify the range of social work interventions offered within Agency x and articulate the purpose and desired outcomes of each one)
For each learning goal the following four areas should be addressed:

- The knowledge, skills and understandings that will be developed. These should be specific and measurable. (For example, for the above learning goal: Demonstrated knowledge about how to practise interventions (such as assessment, group work, community building); to provide clear and concise information about the interventions (to team members and to clients)

- Strategies for developing the knowledge, skills and understanding - a precise description of the tasks the student will undertake and educational resources the student will utilise to develop and demonstrate learning. (For example: Observe the work carried out by staff, students and volunteers in the agency; read material from Semester 1 regarding social work interventions; actively engage in the agency activities (name which ones); carry out an intervention-related task; complete an analysis of the intervention eg a community map or a ‘Toga’ (task oriented group assessment); present an intervention related talk to team members; discuss in detail with my Field Educator during a specific supervision session).

- Evidence to demonstrate that learning has been achieved. (For example: Feedback from my Field Educator, other team members and agency clients; completion of agreed tasks; discussion in supervision of the reading and my progress in this area; journal entries)

- A realistic timeframe for reviewing progress in relation to the various learning goals. (For example: Discuss reading week 5; journal entries weeks 7, 9, and 11; set task completion in weeks 7, 11, 14; feedback and discussion with supervisor to be ongoing throughout placement).

4. Supervision agreement and arrangements, including:
   - time and location of supervision
   - an agreement about the purposes and content of the supervision
   - an agreement about what the student must do to prepare for supervision
   - an agreement about what the Field Educator will do to prepare for supervision and
   - alternative supervision options, for when the Field Educator is absent or additional tasks are undertaken.

If the student has an external social work supervisor, then supervision arrangements with both the Field Educator and social work supervisor should be stipulated.

5. The areas of personal and professional growth the student will develop during placement. These learning goals generally relate well to the area of education and professional development. (For example: Examine my own systems of beliefs and values and be prepared for them to be challenged in the placement; learn how to balance my personal values with those of the organisation; practise according to the ethics outlined in the AASW Code of Ethics (2010)).

6. The kind and content of recording to be undertaken by the student in the placement. This will include both official files and documentation required by the agency and the student’s own personal record-keeping, such as journals and process-recording.

7. Requirements of the agency, including legal or security requirements.

8. Signatures and date. The plan is to be signed by both student and Field Educator. If the student has an external social work supervisor, then they should also sign the plan, as negotiations about their supervision sessions will be included in the plan.

**Level of Detail Required in the Plan:** The placement plan needs to be sufficiently detailed so that specific skills and knowledge can be evaluated. It is preferable to identify eight general learning goals and identify suitable objectives for each. Learning goals should be performance-oriented and
the plan should specify how the Field Educator will contribute to meeting the student’s learning goals, for example:

- the Field Educator will identify tasks and allocate referrals which will allow the student to practice advocacy or
- the Field Educator will review tasks and provide feedback as soon as possible about the performance of specific tasks.

The average learning plan is about 1500 – 2000 words.

Submission Instructions:

Once the draft Learning Plan has been developed it must be signed by the student, Field Educator and External Supervisor, if relevant. The draft Learning Plan must then be emailed to the Class Teacher by the end of the third week of placement (or after equivalent number of days from the students start date).

The Class Teacher will then provide feedback by email within 1 week with suggested changes. These changes must be incorporated into the Learning Plan prior to submitting the final version through Turnitin the following week.

Changes to the Plan: The plan is a working document and should not be viewed as set in stone. Since it provides the basis for monitoring and evaluating ongoing learning, it should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the learning goals and timeframes remain appropriate.

It may be necessary to revise these during the course of the placement. In this case, negotiated changes should be recorded. Such revision is, of course, a vital part of the learning process, helping students to better understand their own learning styles as well as realistically assess the demands of practice.

The Mid-Placement Liaison Visit

All students and Field Educators will be visited by a Faculty Liaison Visitor (usually the Placement Class Teacher) at least once during the placement. The Faculty Liaison Visitor will make contact with the Field Educator and external social work supervisor (if appropriate) in week 3 of the placement to negotiate a date for the mid-placement liaison visit.

The mid-placement liaison visit will take place at about the mid-point of the placement time. The student should have sufficient time on placement before the visit to become familiar with the agency and to be engaging with their placement tasks, but the visit must be held early enough to allow for the redirection of particular aspects of the placement, should this be required to optimise student learning.

Field Educators and social work supervisors (if appropriate) are welcome to contact the Faculty Liaison Visitor at any time, to discuss any concerns or to request an early visit.

Apart from exceptional circumstances, in 2017, liaison visits to FE2 students on second placement should occur between 6 June and 23 June, and to FE1/PL1 students on first placement between 19 September and 6 October. Dates for PL2 liaison visits will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

The visit usually takes between an hour and an hour and a half and includes discussion of:

- the development and use of the plan
- the nature and outcomes of supervision sessions
- the monitoring of progress in terms of knowledge, skills, use of self, understanding of theory in practice and application of practice standards
- the identification of areas of strength and how to develop them further
- the identification of areas for development and discussion of ways to maximise such development and
• the identification of learning to be achieved in the remainder of the placement.

Field Educators and social work supervisors (if appropriate) who are supervising more than one student may prefer for some parts of the visit discussion to include all the students at once. However, as each student’s learning needs and development are unique, every student must be allocated time to discuss alone with the Field Educator and Liaison Visitor their individual experience of the placement.

Prior to the visit, the student, Field Educator and external social work supervisor (if relevant), should make time to discuss the matters which may arise in the visit and to highlight any particular issues. The visit is part of the ongoing evaluation process, of which such meetings between the student and Field Educator and external social work supervisor (if relevant) are an essential component.

At the end of the visit the Liaison Visitor will complete a written summary of the main issues raised including plans for the development of the student’s learning goals for the second half of the placement. If significant learning issues have been raised, the Liaison Visitor may establish a time for a second site visit to further review the student’s progress. This Liaison Visit Report will be given to the student to co-sign, and then copies forwarded to the student, the Field Educator and the external social work supervisor (if relevant). The student should include the signed copy of this report in their final portfolio.

After the visit, the student, Field Educator and external social work supervisor should meet to review the visit, record any resulting action.

The Mid-Placement Report

The mid-placement report is to be written by the student, following the mid-placement liaison visit and further discussions with the Field Educator. The Field Educator (and external social work supervisor, if relevant) read, sign and date the report and add their comments. The student signs and dates the report once the comments by Field Educator (and external social work supervisor, if relevant) have been completed.

The mid-placement report includes:
1. Description of the main tasks on placement.
2. Knowledge being developed of the placement agency and field of practice.
3. Progress of learning plan, any changes made and how the learning plan is being used.
4. Examples of working towards the following:
   - professional behaviour
   - openness to learning
   - communication skills
   - personal/professional growth and change
   - reflection of self as a worker
   - ethical practice
   - teamwork
   - integrating theory and practice
5. Examples of making the most of supervision and any changes to supervision for the second half of placement.
6. Areas for focus of learning in the second half of placement.
7. Comments from Field Educators and External Social Worker Supervisor (if relevant).
8. Signatures (Student, Field Educator, External Social Worker (if relevant).
The average mid-placement report is about 1500 - 2000 words. Students are encouraged to write this report in a critically reflective style i.e. not in the format of the original learning plan.

Submission Instructions:

Once the Mid-Placement Report has been written it must be signed by the Student, Field Educator and External Supervisor, if relevant.

The Mid-Placement Report must then be submitted via Turnitin within one week of the Mid-Placement Visit. Class Teachers will provide feedback within 2 weeks.

The End of Placement Report

The end of placement report is a reflective statement about the student's readiness to proceed to the next stage of learning. The Faculty's expectations of the level of skills and knowledge which students should demonstrate by the end of each placement are given on pages 46-58. In the last few weeks of placement, student and Field Educator should discuss these expectations and ways in which the student has demonstrated them on placement, and whether there are any expectations which have yet to be met. In addition, student and Field Educator should discuss and document areas for future learning. This report is a reflection on the professional and personal growth achieved by the student during their placement.

The end of placement report includes:

1. emerging social work identity and strengths
2. transferrable skills and knowledge for future social work practice
3. examples of critical reflection and how it has changed/informed your practice
4. choose one or more social work theories or practice approaches and explain in detail how it has informed your practice, knowledge and professional identity on placement.
5. reflection on a placement experience where your values and assumptions were challenged.
6. Field Educator’s comments, including a statement that the student has satisfactorily completed the required placement time, and a recommendation whether or not the student should pass the placement.
7. External social work supervisor’s comments, if relevant.

The average end of placement report is about 1500 – 2000 words. Students are encouraged to write this report in a critically reflective style and to do this in this over the last two weeks of placement.

Submission Instructions:

Once the End of Placement Report has been written it must be signed by the Student, Field Educator and External Supervisor, if relevant.

On the last day of Placement the End of Placement Report must be submitted via Turnitin.
STUDENT FIELD EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

The Faculty retains a field education portfolio for every student. This contains a signed copy of the learning plan, liaison visit report, mid-placement report, end of placement report, time sheet and any other relevant documents for each field education placement. These documents must be signed by both student and Field Educator (and external social work supervisor, if relevant). The Portfolio Checklist must be completed and attached to the front of the Portfolio when submitted. **Students are required to keep copies of all reports submitted to the Faculty.**

As with assessment requirements for all academic units of study, the fully completed portfolio must be submitted by the due date. Any requests for an extension to the submission date must be made to the Unit of Study Coordinator. Students who receive an extension and whose completed portfolio is submitted late may receive an Incomplete (IC) result for this Unit of Study. Failure to submit a complete portfolio will result in failing the unit of study.

**Submission Instructions:**

A hard copy of the portfolio is due to be submitted one business day after the last day of placement and should be placed in the assignment box located on Level 7 on the Education Building.

The portfolio must be accompanied by a Portfolio Checklist (this can be found on Blackboard).

Students should use this checklist to ensure that all the necessary documents are included. An incomplete portfolio could delay progression to subsequent Unit of Study.

Students are required to keep copies of all reports submitted.

**TIMESHEET**

The time sheet form is provided by the Faculty. Hours worked on each day of placement must be recorded. Breaks, including lunch breaks, are not included in the total number of hours. Time sheets must be signed by both the Field Educator and the student.

**Submission Instructions:**

A timesheet template is available on Blackboard and should be used to record the hours worked each day on placement. (See page 27/28 of the Field Education Handbook for details of hours on placement).

The timesheet must be signed by the student and Field Educator and forms part of the Placement Portfolio.

The signed timesheet should be submitted as part of the portfolio and is therefore due one business day after the last day of placement.
STUDENTS IN DIFFICULTY OR AT RISK OF FAILING ON PLACEMENT

Students in difficulty are those who experience substantial problems that interfere with their learning on placement. These difficulties could include, but are not limited to:

- personal problems (health, emotional, financial etc.)
- conflict with the Field Educator
- difficulties in the agency or in completing required tasks
- dissatisfaction with assigned tasks
- unethical behaviours (breaching the AASW Code of Ethics, the University Code of Conduct or the Agency’s Code of Conduct)

In situations where students face any of these or any other concerns, **immediate action should be taken to ensure sufficient time is allowed for due process to be followed.**

In the first instance, concerns should be discussed by the student and the Field Educator. If it is not possible for the student and Field Educator to resolve the difficulties, the student and/or Field Educator should raise the matter with the student’s class teacher.

Difficulties which are satisfactorily resolved through discussion between the student and Field Educator should be documented, raised at the mid-placement liaison visit (if the difficulties occur in the first half of the placement), and included in the placement reports.

A student who feels unable to raise their concerns with the Field Educator should consult their Placement Class Teacher.

A Field Educator who, after discussion with the student, is still concerned about the student’s progress should immediately contact the student’s class teacher or the Unit of Study Co-ordinator and put their concerns in writing.

Almost all difficulties can be resolved through consultation and discussion. In situations where difficulties cannot be immediately resolved through discussion between student and Field Educator, the Placement Class Teacher will visit the placement to identify and record the issues raised in the meeting.

If the difficulties can be resolved at this first visit, then the placement will proceed with the decisions clearly recorded and a copy placed on the student’s file. The student’s progress will continue to be monitored by the class teacher and Field Educator.

If the difficulties cannot be resolved at this visit, the matter will be referred to the Unit of Study Coordinator.
PROCESS FOR FAILURE

When a student who is experiencing difficulty is at risk of not achieving a satisfactory standard, the Placement Class Teacher will arrange a meeting with the Unit of Study Coordinator, Field Educator and student to discuss the issues on placement. The content of this meeting will be recorded in a written report with clear objectives to be achieved by the student within a specified time (usually 2-3 weeks). This report will be written by the Unit of Study Coordinator and a copy of this report will be provided to all parties and the Field Education Manager.

To determine if satisfactory progress has been attained in the specified period, the Unit of Study Coordinator and the Director of Field Education will together meet with the student and the Field Educator. Both the Field Educator and the student will have an opportunity to separately discuss their perspective with the Unit of Study Coordinator and the Director of Field Education. All four parties will then meet together to discuss the final decision and or recommendation. Any of the following can be recommended:

- the student be referred to an appropriate service for assistance with the difficulty
- the student change placement as long as the sequence of units of studies is maintained
- the student continue in the placement
- the student be given additional learning goals with a defined period of time (usually 2-3 weeks) in which to meet the requirements of the placement.

The content of this meeting will be recorded in a written report stating the final decision according to the above recommendations. This report will be written by the Unit of Study Coordinator and a copy of this report will be provided to all parties and the Field Education Manager.

A follow-up meeting will be arranged to assess the students performance against the identified learning goals. At this meeting a decision will be made about whether the student has satisfied the requirements and therefore can continue, or has failed the placement.

If the student has failed, they will be required to attend a follow-up meeting with the unit of study coordinator and another member of the Field Education Team to discuss the students placement experience.

The Program Director of the Bachelor of Social Work or Master of Social Work (Qualifying) are also informed of any student who has failed placement.

Notwithstanding these procedures, a student may be summarily withdrawn from a placement or failed if the student’s performance or behaviour warrants those actions.

APPEALS

Students who fail a placement may appeal to the BSW or MSW(Q) Program Director on the grounds that:

- due process has not been followed; and
- there has been failure to examine all the evidence.

Such an appeal must be made in writing, giving full documentation substantiating the student’s opinion that the decision is incorrect.

Please refer to the Faculty’s little Blue Book online for further information about this process:


Students who have failed are also advised to seek support and guidance from the Student Representative Council.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-placement seminar for Field Educators</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd August 2017 9.30am – 1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory Pre-placement seminar for FE 1 students.</td>
<td>Monday 7th August 2017 9.00am – 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory Pre-placement seminar for PL 1 students.</td>
<td>Monday 7th August 2017 9.00am – 12.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of placement (unless otherwise negotiated) for FE1</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th August 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of placement (unless otherwise negotiated) for PL1</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th August 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid placement liaison visit:</td>
<td>Between 19th September and 6th October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest End Date FE1</td>
<td>Friday 17th November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest End Date PL1</td>
<td>Friday 17th November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement classes for FE1:</td>
<td>Placement classes for PL1:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st August 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 21st August 2017 (9-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th September 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 4th September 2017 (9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18th September 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 18th September 2017 (9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th October 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 9th October 2017 (9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd October 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 23rd October 2017 (9-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th November 2017 (9-12)</td>
<td>Monday 13th November 2017 (9-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Plan</td>
<td>The placement learning plan must be submitted at the end of the third week of placement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Placement Report</td>
<td>The mid-placement report is due one week after the mid-placement liaison visit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of placement Report</td>
<td>The end of placement report is due one business day after the last day of placement is completed and should be submitted via Turn-It-In on Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>The portfolio is to be submitted one business day after the last day of placement. It may be placed in the assignment box on Level 7 with a copy of the Portfolio Checklist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### FIELD EDUCATION 2 and PRACTICE LEARNING 2 in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Pre-placement seminar for Field Educators | Wednesday 29th March 2017  
9.30am – 1.00pm |
| Compulsory Pre-placement seminar (**For FE 2 ONLY**) | Monday 3rd April 2017  
9.00am – 4.00pm |
| Compulsory Pre-placement seminar (**For PL2 ONLY**) | Monday 13th March 2017  
9.00am – 12.00pm |
| First day of placement (unless otherwise negotiated) **for FE2** | Tuesday 4th April 2017 |
| First day of placement (unless otherwise negotiated) **for PL2** | Tuesday 4th April 2017 |
| Mid placement liaison visit: | Between 6th June and 23rd June 2017 |
| Earliest End Date for Placement: | FE2: Friday 4th August 2017 |
| **Placement classes for FE2:** | **Placement classes for PL2:** |
| Monday 24th April 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 8th May 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 22nd May 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 5th June 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 26th June 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 17th July 2017 (9-12) | Monday 10th April 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 8th May 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 5th June 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 3rd July 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 7th August 2017 (9-12)  
Monday 25th September 2017 (9-12) |
| Learning Plan | The placement learning plan must be submitted by the 15th day of placement or at the end of the 3rd week. |
| (For submission instruction see the Field Education Submissions document on Blackboard or in the Field Education Handbook via the Faculty Website) | |
| Mid Placement Report | The mid-placement report must be submitted to Turn-It-In **one week after the mid-placement liaison visit.** |
| (For submission instruction see the Field Education Submissions document on Blackboard or in the Field Education Handbook via the Faculty Website) | |
| End of placement Report | The end of placement report is due **one business day after the last day of placement is completed** and should be submitted via Turn-It-In on Blackboard. |
| (For submission instruction see the Field Education Submissions document on Blackboard or in the Field Education Handbook via the Faculty Website) | |
| Portfolio | The portfolio is to be submitted **one business day after the last day of placement.** It may be placed in the assignment box on Level 7 with a copy of the Portfolio Checklist. |
| (For submission instruction see the Field Education Submissions document on Blackboard or in the Field Education Handbook via the Faculty Website) | |
The BSW and MSW(Q) promote principles of adult learning, encouraging students to recognise and to build upon the skills and knowledge they already have, and to develop their capabilities for acquiring further knowledge and skills while engaging with critical theory and critical thinking. Over the degree, students are expected to progressively take more responsibility for their learning, developing knowledge, skills and values for graduate level professional practice. Each program undertakes this process of learning within the frameworks of the Australian Social Work Education & Accreditation Standards (2012), the Australian Association of Social Work Practice Standards (2013) and the Australian Association of Social Work Code of Ethics (2010).

The field education learning expectations are based on the AASW Practice Standards (2013) (presented on pages 46-58 of this Handbook). The learning expectations are designed to be developmental, reflecting each student’s stage of professional practice knowledge, values and skill development. These are to be used as a guide for the creation of each student’s individual field education learning plan according to the learning opportunities in the agency setting, the student’s current level of knowledge, skills and values and the areas still to be developed. The AASW Practice Standards (2013) can be found at http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/4551

LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE:

Level 1: Students demonstrate that they have been introduced to the standard, and are aware of its meaning and importance.

Level 2: Students have explored the standard in depth, are able to apply critical analysis to the standard and how it is practised in the organisation OR Students demonstrate the ability to practise this standard under supervision.

Level 3: Students demonstrate the ability to practise this standard at new graduate level, including demonstrating the ability to engage in critically reflective practice.

TERMS: ‘Client’ refers to individuals, groups, communities, organisations and societies, especially those who are neglected, vulnerable, disadvantaged or have exceptional need (AASW Code of Ethics).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPECTATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED PRIOR TO FIRST PLACEMENT</th>
<th>EXPECTATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED PRIOR TO SECOND PLACEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The combined courses in the semester prior to field education 1 are designed to prepare students for their first field placement. The knowledge and skills in these courses will contribute to students entering their first field placement performing at level 1 for most standards i.e. being able to demonstrate that they have been introduced to the contents of the standards and are aware of its meaning and importance. Before commencing first placement students are expected demonstrate their ability to meet following requirements:

- have demonstrated an ability to work as a group member;
- be able to express themselves coherently in written and spoken English;
- be aware of their learning needs;
- have demonstrated a willingness to use remedial educational assistance where needed;
- have demonstrated an ability to understand other people's values, perceptions and world views as separate from their own;
- have demonstrated an understanding of, and basic abilities in, human relationship skills;
- have identified their own physical, mental, emotional and sexual responses as separate from the professional role; and
- have demonstrated some understanding of professionalism and the nature of social work, including:
  - ethical concerns
  - a basic knowledge of a broad range of social work interventions
  - the relationship of social work with other disciplines
  - the political and social context of social work in Australia.

Drawing on the learning from all units of study taken to date as well as the learning from first placement, students must demonstrate the ability to meet the following requirements and to be performing a Level 2 (see page 45) for most standards before commencing second placement.

- an ability to recognise their own learning processes and to articulat e their learning needs;
- a capacity to build on the 3rd year campus program and to process this learning in relation to the field education/practice learning experience;
- an understanding of the application of the concepts of human rights and social justice in the current political context;
- an ability to analyse and synthesise the links between theory, policy, practice and research;
- an ability to undertake policy analysis and to articulate policy practice interdependence;
- a growing depth of knowledge about social work processes and the evolving state of social work practice;
- a growing range of professional writing skills including submission and report writing;
- a knowledge of effective approaches to workplace relationships and workplace requirements;
- an ability to use supervision; and
- a growing competence in a broad range of social work practice skills.
1. **Values and ethics**

Social workers demonstrate that the values of social work are integral to their practice, they uphold their ethical responsibilities and they act appropriately when faced with ethical problems, issues and dilemmas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>LEVEL FE1/PL1</th>
<th>LEVEL FE2/PL2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Practice in accordance with the <em>Code of Ethics</em> (2010)</td>
<td>a. Practices within a social justice and human rights framework.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Facilitates people’s empowerment and works to eliminate all violations of human rights.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Identifies social systems and structures that preserve inequalities and injustices and advocates for change.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Challenges policies and practices that are oppressive and fail to meet international standards of human rights, social inclusion and social development.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Upholds ethical responsibilities to relevant others, to the social work profession and in the workplace.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Manage ethical dilemmas and issues arising in practice</td>
<td>a. Identifies and critically reflects on ethical dilemmas in accordance with the ethical responsibilities outlined in the Code.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Raises the ethical issue/dilemma with relevant parties and attempts to seek a solution.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Seeks supervision/consultation with manager/supervisor/relevant other when faced with an ethical dilemma.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Reports to supervisor/manager or other appropriate person if they determine they are in a position which contravenes ethical principles outlined in the Code.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Critically reflects on and examines personal and professional ethics and values that influence practice.</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Professionalism**

Social workers demonstrate active promotion and support of the social work profession, act with integrity and ensure accountability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>LEVEL FE1/PL1</th>
<th>LEVEL FE2/PL2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Represent the social work profession with integrity and professionalism.</td>
<td>a. Promotes the social work profession by contributing to social work activities and knowledge development through research, evaluation, education, consultation and presentation.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Articulates the values, processes and outcomes of social work and how they apply to different practice contexts.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Models and promotes social work values, responsibilities and objectives in professional practice and consistently acts in a principled and accountable manner.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Behave in a professional manner and be accountable for all actions and decisions.</td>
<td>a. Acknowledges that social work positions carry power and uses authority responsibly to prioritise people’s own expressed interests, as far as possible.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Provides opportunities and encourages people to evaluate social work services and ensure people are aware of organisational and professional complaints mechanisms.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Maintains appropriate professional/personal boundaries.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Recognises and declares conflicts of interest when they arise.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e. Maintains confidentiality and understands the legal limits to confidentiality.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. Recognises when personal factors or issues impact on professional practice and seeks support.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g. Justifies all decisions, recommendations and actions and recognises limits to knowledge, skills and practice competence.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>h. Seeks support and information or refers people when professional capabilities are exceeded.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Culturally responsive and inclusive practice

Social workers have adequate understanding and knowledge of cultural diversity in order to work in a culturally responsive and inclusive way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>LEVEL FE1/PL1</th>
<th>LEVEL FE2/PL2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Work respectfully and inclusively with cultural difference and diversity.</td>
<td>a. Demonstrates knowledge of diversity between and within different cultures including ethnicity, disability, economic status, age, sexuality, gender and transgender, faiths and beliefs.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Proactively and respectfully promotes the rights of culturally diverse and minority groups in society.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Demonstrates understanding of the complexity of cultural identities and how this impacts on practice.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Creatively adapts and modifies practice in order to work effectively and inclusively with people who have different and diverse cultural identities, values, affiliations, beliefs and customs.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Engages in continuing professional development, supervision, cultural supervision and critical reflection; consults with relevant community members and professionals; and engages in collaborative learning and research to enhance knowledge and practice in working with culturally different and diverse groups.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. Critically reflects on own personal values, cultures and beliefs and how these impact on interactions with people, community members and colleagues; and on organisational policies and practices; and seeks supervision or consultation as appropriate.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g. Recognises and appropriately challenges discriminatory and oppressive practice and policies with respect to culturally diverse people; at a local, national and global level, as appropriate and where possible.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARD</td>
<td>INDICATORS</td>
<td>LEVEL FE1/PL1</td>
<td>LEVEL FE2/PL2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Respect, strive to understand and promote the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures.</td>
<td>a. Acknowledges, identifies and builds on the strengths, capacities and contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to society.</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Demonstrates awareness of the diversity among, and differences between, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures throughout Australia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, protocols and practices in a local context.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Acknowledges and understands the historical and continuing disadvantage and oppression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the impact this has on practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Works collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in order to develop and provide culturally responsive practice.</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>f. Engages in continuing professional development, consults with relevant community members and professionals and engages in collaborative learning and research to enhance knowledge and practice in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</td>
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4. Knowledge for practice

Social workers have and obtain the knowledge required for effective practice.

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<tr>
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</thead>
</table>
| 4.1 Understand higher level systemic influences on people with respect to area of practice. | a. Demonstrates understanding of social work practice within a global and environmental context.  

b. Critically analyses the structure of society with respect to power and disadvantage including the influence of gender, age, ability, sexuality, ethnicity and economic disadvantage.  
c. Demonstrates awareness of social, political, legal, cultural and organisational contexts and systems and how they impact on people.  
d. Demonstrates understanding and awareness of policy, including organisational policy, relevant to practice context and how this impacts on people.  
e. Demonstrates understanding and awareness of changes in society, demography and culture and how this impacts on the social work profession and people.  
f. Demonstrates understanding of relevant legislation governing practice and the legal frameworks which inform and mandate practice.  
g. Critically analyses policies, systems and structures that contravene social work values and do not prioritise the interests of people, groups, communities and wider society and works for change.  
h. Identifies policies that will promote and prioritise social work values and the interests of people and understands the mechanisms to influence policy change. | 2             | 3             |
| 4.2 Understand and articulate social work and other relevant theories and concepts. | a. Demonstrates a critical understanding of specific social work theories underpinning social work practice at all levels.  
b. Articulates and uses knowledge from other relevant subject areas such as law, sociology, anthropology, politics, economics, history, social theory, psychology, humanities and philosophy.  
c. Demonstrates understanding of theories of systems, human behaviour and development, personality development and life cycle stages. | 2             | 3             |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Understand the role of research and evaluation in obtaining and generating new knowledge for practice.</td>
<td>a. Proactively seeks out new knowledge relevant to practice context.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Proposes innovative research to develop new policies, practices and approaches for the social work profession.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Has appropriate knowledge of research methodologies, the limits to these and how to implement findings in practice.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Works collaboratively with fellow social workers and others from various different fields and organisations in conducting research and generating new knowledge.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e. Distinguishes and evaluates various sources of knowledge including practice evidence; practice experience; personal and community knowledge and experience; research evidence; organisational and policy knowledge; and legal and ethical knowledge to help inform practice and decision making.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>f. Disseminates research knowledge as appropriate e.g. seminars, conferences, publications, peer/group supervision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.4 Understand and articulate how and when theories, knowledge bases and knowledge sources inform practice.</td>
<td>a. Develops and articulates a practice framework that draws on contemporary theory, knowledge, methods and professional values.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Appropriately and critically identifies and describes the model or approach used in practice and its theoretical and conceptual underpinnings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Identifies, describes, appraises and applies current research evidence, methodology and approaches to practice area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Understands the principles, framework and relevant legislation of the practice area, and selects practice approach accordingly.</td>
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5. Applying knowledge to practice

Social workers demonstrate the skills required to implement knowledge into practice.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Conduct an assessment and analysis of needs to inform the service</td>
<td>a. Undertakes an effective and holistic assessment by gathering relevant information appropriate to the person/organisation and practice context.</td>
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<tr>
<td>being offered.</td>
<td>b. Assesses nature and level of risk to people, if any, and incorporates into the overall assessment as appropriate.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Analyses this information along with knowledge and theory in specific practice area to inform practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2 Work collaboratively with relevant people.</td>
<td>a. Facilitates and enables people to make an assessment of their own needs where appropriate.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Supports people to decide what service/s they want, to assist in meeting needs, taking into account any limitations to their capability, their voluntary/involuntary status and the choices available.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Works with other agencies, teams and across jurisdictions both at a practice and policy level.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. When appropriate, develops a service plan that outlines what is being offered, objectives/goals and planned outcomes and evaluates and reviews the plan routinely.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3 Use a range of specific social work methods and techniques</td>
<td>a. Selects an appropriate method of practice relevant to practice context to address and meet the needs, goals and preferences of individuals, families, groups and communities, taking into account best available research evidence for field of practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>and techniques appropriate to area of practice.</td>
<td>b. Demonstrates competence and skill in the chosen method/s or technique/s.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Challenges systemic and policy injustices and recommends/develops new policies using methods such as:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>i. Social action</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii. Advocacy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iii. Research and evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Demonstrates skills, when undertaking research, in: literature review; proposal development;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5.4 Apply critical and reflective thinking to practice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing; undertaking ethics applications; data collection, analysis and dissemination; and evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Critically reflects on and evaluates practice with a particular focus on principles of self-determination, empowerment, inclusion, equality, human rights and social justice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Critically reflects on the role of social worker paying particular attention to power imbalances, professional boundaries, use of authority in statutory positions and work with people who are using services involuntarily.</td>
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<td>c. Critically reflects on and conducts evaluation of practice at an individual, program, organisational or policy level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Critically reflects on the broader organisational, societal and political context of practice.</td>
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6. Communication and interpersonal skills

Social workers demonstrate skills required to communicate and work effectively with others.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Effectively communicate with a diverse range of people.</td>
<td>a. Uses appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication with individuals, community members, colleagues and relevant others.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Adapts communication form and style to effectively communicate with a diverse range of people.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Uses conflict management, mediation and negotiation skills when appropriate to achieve the best outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.2 Effectively communicate the details and nature of the service offered to people.</td>
<td>a. Engages and includes people in decision making processes that affect them as far as possible including those using services involuntarily.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Informs people of policies and procedures of the service being offered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.3 Effectively work with others in a team environment.</td>
<td>a. Contributes discipline specific social work values, principles and practice to team activities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Relates to social work and other colleagues with respect, integrity and courtesy.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Cooperates and collaborates with other disciplines when undertaking practice to improve service provision.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Proactively and respectfully seeks to resolve conflict with colleagues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.4 Use information technology to communicate and provide services as appropriate.</td>
<td>a. Demonstrates skill in the use of information technology relevant to practice area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Identifies the benefits of communicating and providing services in an online environment and in what circumstances it is appropriate to use such means.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Identifies ethical considerations with respect to using online communication and social media for service provision including confidentiality, privacy and professional boundaries and addresses these appropriately.</td>
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</table>
7. Information recording and sharing

Social workers are accountable and responsible for the information they collect and keep in the course of their work.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Record and manage information appropriately.</td>
<td>a. Informs people of social work records and the purpose for which a record is made.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Informs people of who will/may have access to their record and why.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Advises people of how to access their records.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Writes information in an accurate, objective and contemporaneous manner, acknowledging the basis of any subjective opinions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.2 Keep and maintain information in accordance with ethical principles and relevant legislation.</td>
<td>a. Keeps information in accordance with ethical principles including confidentiality, informed consent and accountability.</td>
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<td>b. Stores records securely including electronic and paper records.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Understands relevant legislation with respect to record keeping in area of practice.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Stores adult records for seven years following last contact (in the absence of relevant legislation).</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e. Stores child records until the day the child would turn 25 years of age (in the absence of relevant legislation).</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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8. Professional development and supervision

Social workers demonstrate commitment to ongoing learning through continuing professional development and supervision.

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<tr>
<td>8.1 Actively participate in professional supervision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Understands the role, purpose and function of supervision and the importance of seeking supervision from an appropriately trained and qualified supervisor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Ensures active engagement in appropriate supervisory processes, including cultural supervision where necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Actively seeks opportunities for feedback, mentoring, support and constructive criticism from senior social workers/colleagues in order to continuously improve practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Demonstrates the ability to engage in critical reflective practice in supervision and in practice, including examination of personal and professional values that influence practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.2 Engage in continuing professional development as outlined in the AASW continuing professional development requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Develops implements and regularly reviews a professional development plan.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Identifies learning needs and seeks out opportunities to address these needs through training, consultation, supervision and support.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Keeps abreast of new research, evidence and developments in specific field of practice and ensures knowledge and skills are up to date.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Takes opportunities to work with researchers to generate new knowledge and evidence.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.3 Contribute to education and professional development of others where appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Provides supervision to students, co-workers, and staff as appropriate and in line with ethical values and responsibilities as outlined in the Code.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Ensures education and training are provided in a manner consistent with ethical values and responsibilities as outlined in the Code.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Is appropriately experienced and qualified to provide supervision, education or training.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Promotes and shares new social work research and knowledge.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SUGGESTED READINGS

FIELD EDUCATION

Australian references


McDonald, C. (2007). This is who we are and this is what we do: Social work education and self-efficacy. *Australian Social Work*, 60 (1), 83-93.


International references


SUPERVISION


ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN FIELD EDUCATION


STUDENTS AT RISK OF FAILURE IN FIELD EDUCATION


CRITICAL REFLECTION


**SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND SOCIAL POLICY**


common sense (2nd ed.). Crows Nest: Allen and Unwin.


SOCIAL RESEARCH


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS ON WORK EXPERIENCE

Stated below are the insurance details which currently cover students of the University of Sydney whilst on work experience/placement. These policies apply to:

a) activities that are a course requirement or are sanctioned by the Dean of the Faculty, authorised officer for the Faculty, or Head of School concerned, and:
b) students who are not employees or workers of the organisation they are placed with for the purposes of or Workers Compensation legislation.

INSURED: THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Policy: Public Liability Insurance
Insurers: LLOYD'S SYNDICATES & OTHERS
Sum Insured: In excess of $10 Million
Policy No.: P0322018
Period: 31.10.2016 to 31.10.2017

Policy: Professional Indemnity
Insurers: Vero
Sum Insured: In excess of $10 million (per claim),
Policy No.: LPP012223352
Period: 31.10.2016 to 31.10.2017

Policy: Personal Accident
The University has in place personal accident cover for students whilst on authorised Work Experience activities and who are not employees or workers for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation legislation.

Subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions contained in the relevant policy wording this policy provides the following benefits:

- Death & Capital benefits
- Weekly benefits
- Non Medicare medical expenses

Please note that this is a summary only. All insurance cover referred to in this advice is subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions contained in the relevant policy wording.