

# Unit Outline (Higher Education)

**Institute / School:** Institute of Education, Arts & Community

**Unit Title:** Professional Social Work Practice

**Unit ID:** BSWUG3002

**Credit Points:** 15.00

**Prerequisite(s):** Nil

**Co-requisite(s):** Nil

**Exclusion(s):** Nil

**ASCED:** 090501

## Description of the Unit:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of key theoretical frameworks for professional practice at the micro-level and further develop their micro-counselling, communication, and advocacy skills for a range of contexts. The use of case studies assists students to gain an understanding of how structural factors impact on people's lives and consider personal problems within a social and political context. Students will consider ethics and values inherent in social work and reflect on their application to case scenarios in varied settings, including homelessness, poverty and violence and mental health. Social work values, including social justice, professional integrity and respect for persons and diversity will be explored as students further their understanding of social work processes: engagement, assessment and intervention, and demonstrate skills in case planning, psycho-social assessment and evidence-based practice.

**Grade Scheme:** Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

## Work Experience:

No work experience

**Placement Component:** No

**Supplementary Assessment:** Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the Unit but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above, has completed all major assessment tasks (including all sub-components where a task has multiple parts) as specified in the Unit Description and is not eligible for any other form of supplementary assessment.

**Course Level:**

Level of Unit in Course	AQF Level of Course					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

**Learning Outcomes:**
**Knowledge:**

- K1.** Identify key theoretical models/frameworks that inform micro-level social work practice;
- K2.** Develop knowledge of the complex interplay between ethics, values, social work professional codes and social work practice (with a particular focus at the interpersonal level);
- K3.** Distinguish and apply appropriate interpersonal communication skills which inform and underpin social work practice in diverse contexts, including poverty, homelessness and mental health;
- K4.** Explore the range of social work processes involved in micro-practice, namely engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluation;
- K5.** Recognise structural factors and other contextual and cultural factors when providing social work services and;
- K6.** Determine appropriate practice interventions and develop skills in micro-counselling, case planning and advocacy in diverse contexts.

**Skills:**

- S1.** Develop knowledge of theoretical models/frameworks that inform micro-level social work practice;
- S2.** Use appropriate communication and interpersonal skills;
- S3.** Apply a range of appropriate micro-practice skills to case scenarios which reflect the diversity of social work clients;
- S4.** Conduct an initial assessment and plan and evaluate the most appropriate intervention/s;
- S5.** Facilitate an effective counselling session with an individual client;
- S6.** Demonstrate an increased capacity for self-awareness and critical reflection about own values, as well as interpersonal communication skills and;
- S7.** Recognise ethical dilemmas that may arise in the context of social work practice, and develop a range of strategies to effectively address them in a way which is reflective of Social Work ethical standards and values.

**Application of knowledge and skills:**

- A1.** Explain appropriate theoretical models/frameworks of social work micro-practice and apply them to simulated settings;
- A2.** Engage with clients and peers in a collegiate and collaborative manner which reflects core social work values and;
- A3.** Develop an understanding of structural and other contextual factors and consider personal problems within a social and political context.

**Unit Content:**
**Preparing to learn social work practice skills**

- Integrated framework for practice
- Anti-Oppressive Practice and Strengths-based approaches (micro, macro)
- Psychosocial framework
- Ethical theories/principles, Australian Association of Social Work Codes of Ethics (2020) and reflecting on professional self and personal self
- Sustaining social work practice: reflective practice (secondary trauma, self-care, supervision, collective care)

### Models for Engagement and Assessment

- Introducing Social work process (Engagement, Assessment, Intervention, Evaluation)
- Micro-counselling/engagement skills
- Cross-cultural engagement
- Delivering helping services online and over the telephone
- Assessment models for a range of contexts including mental health, disability and ageing
- Collaborative assessment

### Intervention and Evaluation

- Practice interventions and modalities
- Practice writing skills (case-notes, case plans, referral letters)
- Advocacy, Case Planning
- Working with involuntary clients
- Evidence-based approaches
- Endings and evaluation

### FEDTASKS

Federation University Federation recognises that students require key transferable employability skills to prepare them for their future workplace and society. FEDTASKS (**T**ransferable **A**tttributes **S**kills and **K**nowledge) provide a targeted focus on five key transferable Attributes, Skills, and Knowledge that are embedded within curriculum, developed gradually towards successful measures and interlinked with cross-discipline and Co-operative Learning opportunities. *One or more FEDTASK, transferable Attributes, Skills or Knowledge must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni Unit, and all must be directly assessed in each Course.*

FEDTASK attribute and descriptor	Development and acquisition of FEDTASKS in the Unit	
	Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)

FEDTASK attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of FEDTASKS in the Unit	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
FEDTASK 1 Interpersonal	Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate, inter-act and work with others both individually and in groups. Students will be required to display skills in-person and/or online in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using effective verbal and non-verbal communication</li> <li>Listening for meaning and influencing via active listening</li> <li>Showing empathy for others</li> <li>Negotiating and demonstrating conflict resolution skills</li> <li>Working respectfully in cross-cultural and diverse teams.</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable
FEDTASK 2 Leadership	Students will demonstrate the ability to apply professional skills and behaviours in leading others. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a collegial environment</li> <li>Showing self-awareness and the ability to self-reflect</li> <li>Inspiring and convincing others</li> <li>Making informed decisions</li> <li>Displaying initiative</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable
FEDTASK 3 Critical Thinking and Creativity	Students will demonstrate an ability to work in complexity and ambiguity using the imagination to create new ideas. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflecting critically</li> <li>Evaluating ideas, concepts and information</li> <li>Considering alternative perspectives to refine ideas</li> <li>Challenging conventional thinking to clarify concepts</li> <li>Forming creative solutions in problem solving.</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable
FEDTASK 4 Digital Literacy	Students will demonstrate the ability to work fluently across a range of tools, platforms and applications to achieve a range of tasks. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding, evaluating, managing, curating, organising and sharing digital information</li> <li>Collating, managing, accessing and using digital data securely</li> <li>Receiving and responding to messages in a range of digital media</li> <li>Contributing actively to digital teams and working groups</li> <li>Participating in and benefiting from digital learning opportunities.</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable
FEDTASK 5 Sustainable and Ethical Mindset	Students will demonstrate the ability to consider and assess the consequences and impact of ideas and actions in enacting ethical and sustainable decisions. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making informed judgments that consider the impact of devising solutions in global economic environmental and societal contexts</li> <li>Committing to social responsibility as a professional and a citizen</li> <li>Evaluating ethical, socially responsible and/or sustainable challenges and generating and articulating responses</li> <li>Embracing lifelong, life-wide and life-deep learning to be open to diverse others</li> <li>Implementing required actions to foster sustainability in their professional and personal life.</li> </ul>	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K5, S1, S6, S7, A1	Critical learning exercises will cover key concepts and prepare students for practice with individuals.	Learning Portfolio	15%-30%
K3, K4, K5, S2, S3, S4, S5, S7, A1, A2	Demonstrate core interpersonal communication and assessment skills and apply them to a case study by undertaking a role play.	Role play	25-40%
K1, K4, K5, K6, S1, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, A1, A2, A3	Demonstrate skills in case planning, intervention and evaluation by applying an integrated framework to the role play case study	Case study analysis	35-45%

### Adopted Reference Style:

APA ()

Refer to the [library website](#) for more information

Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)