



Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
Course ID:	MSWPG7102
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	090501

Description of the Course:

Students will gain an understanding of key theoretical frameworks for professional practice at the micro-level and begin to acquire the knowledge and skills required to integrate these with practice. Students will be introduced to 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. Using case studies, students will gain an understanding of how structural factors impact on people's lives and consider personal problems within a social and political context. Students will be introduced to social work processes of engagement, assessment and intervention and demonstrate skills in case planning, psycho-social assessment and evidence-based practice. Students will be introduced to, and demonstrate micro-counselling skills, communication and advocacy skills for a range of contexts.

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

Placement Component: No

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks.

Program Level:

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	■	■	■	■	✓	■

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
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.

Course Content:

Topics may include:

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

Values:

- V1.** Commit to the values of Social Work espoused in the Australian Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics and Practice Standards;
- V2.** Develop an attitude of scholarly enquiry and enthusiasm for knowledge;
- V3.** Apply principles of self-directed learning in a co-operative education environment.

Graduate Attributes

The Federation University FedUni graduate attributes (GA) are entrenched in the [Higher Education Graduate Attributes Policy](#) (LT1228). FedUni graduates develop these graduate attributes through their engagement in explicit learning and teaching and assessment tasks that are embedded in all FedUni programs. Graduate attribute attainment typically follows an incremental development process mapped through program progression. **One or more graduate attributes must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni course, and all attributes must be directly assessed in each program**

Graduate attribute and descriptor	Development and acquisition of GAs in the course	
	Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)

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		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
GA 1 Thinkers	Our graduates are curious, reflective and critical. Able to analyse the world in a way that generates valued insights, they are change makers seeking and creating new solutions.	K1, K2, K3, K4, S1, S5, S6	AT2, AT3
GA 2 Innovators	Our graduates have ideas and are able to realise their dreams. They think and act creatively to achieve and inspire positive change.	K6, S3, A1	AT3
GA 3 Citizens	Our graduates engage in socially and culturally appropriate ways to advance individual, community and global well-being. They are socially and environmentally aware, acting ethically, equitably and compassionately.	K1-K4, S1, S2, S3, S6, S7, A1, A3	AT1, AT3
GA 4 Communicators	Our graduates create, exchange, impart and convey information, ideas, and concepts effectively. They are respectful, inclusive and empathetic towards their audience, and express thoughts, feelings and information in ways that help others to understand.	K3, K6, S2, S4, S5, S6, A2	AT2 & AT3
GA 5 Leaders	Our graduates display and promote positive behaviours, and aspire to make a difference. They act with integrity, are receptive to alternatives and foster sustainable and resilient practices.	K4, S3,	AT3

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning 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-K6, S1, S3-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](#)