



READINESS FOR FIELD

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BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

My Strengths & Growth Areas

Self-confidence

Personally I am very confident, in my role as a social worker I am unsure of my abilities. Field work will help me to become competent and assured.

Leader

I currently serve as President of the Student Social Work Association and I often lead class group projects. On the downside I find it hard to say no.

Excellent writer

I have advanced skills in both technical and professional writing. I currently publish a newsletter on blackboard for my peers.

Effective communicator

I am available to answer my cohorts questions regarding assignments through e-mail and I have created a calendar detailing assignments, readings, and due dates of major projects for several of my peers.

Ability to seek help

I find it hard to ask for help or clarification from superiors. I will need to grow in this area and seek out the council of those in supervisory positions during field.

Communicate Effectively

(Oral, written, technology)

Competency for each area of communication is demonstrated by two examples and attached documentation:

ORAL

1. Received an average score of 17/18 from peer group on in-class presentation of qualitative research project for SOCW 312
2. Received a score of 45/45 for group in-class presentation in SOCW 333

WRITTEN

1. Received a grade of 95 on self-assessment paper in SOCW 306
2. Received a score of 75/75 on qualitative research project in SOCW 312

TECHNOLOGY

1. Created social work newsletter and posted on Blackboard for peer review
2. Posted thoughtful response on Blackboard for Cultural Consideration assignment in SOCW 307

MY OBSERVATIONS:

I communicate effectively through all three methods. In SOCW 308, I learned how to give and receive positive constructive feedback in group exercises. I am also improving communication skills through the writing assignments in SOCW 376.

Value a Diverse World

Competency for this area is demonstrated by two examples and attached documentation:

1. Attended 1.5 Hour Workshop on “Culturally Competent Care for GLBT Populations”
2. Completion of exercises in SOCW 333 such as “Things I Learned Growing Up” and the “Individual Assessment of Cultural Competence”

MY OBSERVATIONS;

The exercises in SOCW 333 opened my eyes to my own biases and made me realize what a diverse population I have in my cohort. By working in groups with my peers, I am exposed to different cultures and opinions which in turn make me reexamine where I have obtained my perceptions. The workshop was only the first of many that I plan to attend to foster a career long desire for continuing education. All these experiences will give me a broad understanding of many diverse populations and help me to become culturally competent in social work practice.

Critical Thinking Skills

Competency for this area is demonstrated by two examples and attached documentation:

1. Participate in posting comments on Blackboard Discussion Forum after guest speaker in SOCW 408.
2. Received a score of 5/5 for applying theory to a case study in SOCW 312.

MY OBSERVATIONS:

I value critical thinking skills and I try to never take anything I hear or read at face value without considering the source. My weakness is being able to apply theory to practice. The case study in SOCW 312 was invaluable in this area, offering a “real” family in which critical thinking skills were needed to successfully integrate theory into the required chapter exercises. I will continue to focus on this area and improve by seeking out my peers for their input on social issues and engage in honest, open debate on future discussion forums on Blackboard.

Advocate for Social Change & Commitment to the Principles of Social Justice

Competency for this area is demonstrated by two examples and attached documentation:

1. Received a grade of 10/10 for evaluation of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
2. Participated in the Southeast Region TCSW Training Conference and received 4.5 hours of contact training

MY OBSERVATIONS:

The film reminded me of a time in American history that seemed so long ago but in reality prejudice and hatred for different cultures and races is still prevalent today. Through workshops and affiliations with community organizations, I hope to become a part of the solution to end discrimination in receiving services, in the workplace, and in the community in which I live and will someday work.

Success in the University Environment

Competency for this area is demonstrated by two examples and attached documentation:

1. Use of Lupton Library online database resources for successful projects in SOCW 312, SOCW 333, and SOCW 376.
2. Completion of syllabus mapping exercise in SOCW 307

MY OBSERVATIONS:

The library online database is an invaluable tool for social work students. It provides a plethora of data for research assignments as well as up to date information on current social issues. The syllabus mapping exercise was a continuation of my own practice of mapping out expected assignments on a calendar at the beginning of each semester. The Learning Style Inventory from SOCW 308 confirmed my learning style as visual. So I will continue to utilize tools such as graphs, class notes, calendars, and PowerPoint lecture notes to aid me in being successful in the university environment.

IN SUMMARY

The supporting documentation is evidence of my commitment to obtaining a degree in social work. All the exercises, assignments, workshops, projects, and guest speakers have instilled in me the seriousness of the profession and the inherent need to be competent in practice. I am ready to take the next step and put all that knowledge to the test in field practicum.

I pledge to keep an open mind, be nonjudgmental, practice with integrity, and to keep my UTC Field Education Coordinator apprised of my progress while representing the Social Work Program at UTC. I will act professional at all times in my dress, my manner, and in my contact with supervisors and clients.

I fully expect senior year to be tough. It will be filled with new stressors, high expectations, and some failures but I will persevere by looking to my cohorts and instructors for guidance, encouragement, and support.

My personal goal for the field practicum is to find my niche and to embark on a rewarding experience that will define my future employment in social work.