

FIELD EDUCATION LEARNING CONTRACT FOUNDATION/FIRST YEAR

Purpose

The Field Education Learning Contract is an Agreement between the School, the Agency, the Practicum Instructor, the Student, and the Field Faculty liaison. This Learning Contract is based on the premise that each student entering a graduate program in social work comes with different educational backgrounds and life experiences. The Learning Contract provides students with the opportunity to participate in planning their individual field educational experience. It provides a link between educational experience planning and evaluation, while offering students the opportunity to individualize their own learning needs. The Learning Contract is used by students and their Practicum Instructors to complete each of the three quarterly evaluations. The Practicum Instructor will recommend a quarterly grade to the Field Faculty liaison and he/she will assign a final grade at the end of each quarter.

Implementation

All students enrolled in Field Education (Practicum) are responsible for writing their individual Learning Contract in collaboration with their respective Practicum Instructor. The Field Faculty liaisons are available for consultation as needed.

In writing the Learning Contract the following suggestions are offered:

1. Begin working on the Field Education Learning Contract the first day of placement.
2. Use part of your supervision time to discuss the content of the Field Education Learning Contract.
3. View and use the Field Education Learning Contract as a dynamic and flexible tool.
4. This is a working agreement between all parties and it is expected that modifications and changes in the Field Education Learning Contract may be necessary during the academic year to accommodate new opportunities in the practicum experience or to reflect changes in students' learning needs.
5. All changes in the Field Education Learning Contract must be agreed to by both the Practicum Instructor and student, and communicated to the Field Faculty liaison for final approval.
6. All changes should be in writing and attached to the original Field Education Learning Contract.
7. Use the Field Education Learning Contract as a tool for ongoing feedback throughout the academic year.
8. The student will only receive credit if the Competencies and Practice Behaviors for that quarter are satisfactorily met.

9. A final passing grade for Practicum at the end of the Foundation year is based on all Competencies and all Practice Behaviors being met satisfactorily.
10. Any and all changes in Practicum Placement Site must be discussed between all parties and submitted by the Field Faculty to the Director of Field Education for denial or approval.