## **New Mexico Highlands University**

**School of Social Work**

**Block Semester**

**FIELD PRACTICUM ACTIVITY LOG**

**STUDENT NAME**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY CONTACT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_\_\_ BSW / \_\_\_\_\_ 1ST YR MSW (logs required for first semester of practicum only)

AGENCY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY INSTRUCTOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CO-INSTRUCTOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FIELD CONSULTANT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY LOG GUIDELINES**

The major objective of the field seminar and the activity log is to encourage students to utilize the ten CSWE competencies and relevant practice behaviors to critically think about the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the field practicum Students are required to maintain a weekly **(typed)** log and submit during class times **(depending on how often seminar meets)**, to field seminar instructor throughout the entire semester. All entries and discussions of your log in the classroom setting must protect client and agency confidentiality and cannot contain identifying information. **You are not required to share the activity log with your agency instructor. Logs are to be shared in the field seminar class.**

The purpose of the activity log is to encourage students to:

1. Critically contemplate the ways in which the social work competencies are operationalized (put into practice) in your field practicum setting.
2. Complete weekly activities/assignments focused on the building blocks of social work practice in the field setting.
3. Establish an ongoing dialog with agency instructor, field consultant and field seminar instructor in order to experience the field practicum as an integrated aspect of your learning.
4. Write clear and concise narratives of your weekly experiences.
5. Examine personal expectations of self as learner in the field setting
6. Critically integrate material from practice, human behavior, research and policy into your field experience.
7. Learn to use supervision effectively.

WEEK 1 ACTIVITY LOG

**(in class exercises)**

**Exercise 1-Reflection on the Field of Social Work and Field Practicum**

Answer the following questions during class and be prepared to discuss.

* Why did you choose to become a social worker?
* How will this profession fit you and/or how will you fit into this profession?

(include positive and negative aspects)

* What strategies will you employ during my practicum that will promote/maintain good self-care?
* What strengths/contributions do you feel can make at your practicum agency?

**Exercise 2-Discussion/Development of Learning Contract**

Reference the learning contract template available on-line. Write down what you would like to learn at this practicum and why you selected this site.

WEEK 2 ACTIVITY LOG

**(in class exercise)**

**Discussion/Development of learning contract (continued)**

Reference the ideas you wrote in Week (1) regarding what you want to learn in your field practicum. Develop these ideas as illustrated below. They will become the practice activities for the learning contract. List ideas below, discuss in class.

**What I want to learn, how and when (if applicable) -----Example:** Develop client interviewing skills by meeting with clients for intake process.

WEEK 3 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (1) Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly**.

**Field Specific Practice Behaviors**

* Understands the concept of advocacy.
* Understands professional roles, boundaries, behaviors and communication.
* Understands the relevance of personal reflection and self correction.

**Exercise –Reflection on Social Work Professionals/Self**

Reflect on the field specific practice behaviors listed above and your first week of practicum. Having observed other social work professionals at your setting, answer the following questions:

* How were you oriented to the agency? What other professionals did you meet?
* How do social workers in this agency identify as professionals?
* How does the social work role differ from the role of other professionals?
* How will you as a practicum student meet the professional roles, boundaries, behaviors, and communication of the agency/profession?
* How will you become aware of the resource needs of the clients at the field agency?

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**Share general practicum experiences for the week. Be concise in your writing.**

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WEEK 4 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (2) Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.** (This competency is about understanding what reflects good ethical behavior).

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Recognizes personal and professional values and understanding the role of uncertainty in ethical decision making.

**Observation Activity**

You are to arrive at your field practicum agency visualizing yourself as a client arriving for potential services. Answer the following questions:

* What are your first impressions in terms of location, accessibility, sights, sounds, smells, client-client interactions, client-staff interactions, staff-staff interactions?
* Are clients treated with respect?
* How is confidentiality of the clients handled?
* Do your perceptions of the agency/staff change? If they do change, how do they change?
* How do your impressions make you feel about the agency? Yourself? Your profession?
* In your observations, what is considered acceptable practice at your agency? What is considered unethical practice at your agency?
* Given your experience with this exercise, how would you integrate your personal values into professional practice to provide services in an ethical manner?

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WEEK 5 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (3) Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.** (This competency is not about coming up with answers but rather being able to see all sides of an issue and being able to evaluate how different solutions lead to different outcomes and consequences).

**Field Specific Practice Behaviors**

* Applies critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
* Learns effective oral and written communication with various systems levels.

**Critical Thinking Interview**

* Interview a social worker preferably at your practicum site and inquire about a situation involving a client that had many potential outcomes and how they arrived at a decision using critical thinking skills also known as problem solving.
* Describe the ways in which you will use technology, oral, and written communication at your agency.

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WEEK 6 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (4) Engage diversity and difference in practice.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Recognizes and manages personal biases and values in engaging with diverse clients to understand their life experiences and perspectives.

**Reflection on Diversity at Practicum Setting**

In consultation with supervisor, reflect on diversity of staff in terms ethnicity, gender, age, disability and then answer the questions below.

* Does the range of diversity reflect the client population served by the agency?
* Do you believe that diversity of staff is important in effective service delivery?
* Do you think that the staff composition should reflect the client population served by the agency?
* How will you gain self- awareness of personal biases in work with diverse clients?

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WEEK 7 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (5) Advance human rights and social and economic justice.**

(This competency is about viewing your clients as part of a larger picture and understanding how their place in society or in their family impacts their behavior).

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Understand how oppression and discrimination affect social and economic justice.

**Social Justice Exercise**

From your personal observation answer the following questions:

* Do you think the agency is aware of the historical backgrounds of the client population that they serve?
* Is there a conscious effort to deliver services that take into consideration the background of the client populations?
* How will you use this information to inform your own practice?

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WEEK 8 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (6) Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Critically understands how practice informs research and research informs practice.

**Informed Practice Exercise**

Discuss with supervisor the ways in which the agency uses data and/or research information to make practice decisions. Describe below and be prepared to share with class.

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WEEK 9 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (7) Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Critically identifies theoretical frameworks for assessment, intervention and evaluation of person–in- environment.

**Practice Theory Exercise**

Ask your supervisor about the predominant practice theory that guides the delivery of services at your practicum agency and describe how it is reflected in the services.

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WEEK 10 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (8) Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Understands policy processes that advance social well-being.

**Policy Exercise**

Discuss agency policies with supervisor and ask how the policies of the agency impact the clients it serves.

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WEEK 11 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (9) Respond to contexts that shape practice.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Identifies the ways in which agency workers influence the development of policies and programs that impact clients.

**Practice Contexts Exercise**

Interview a social work professional that has been employed at the agency for five years or more and ask how the agency has changed over time regarding:

* Scope of services
* Mission of organization
* Technology
* And/or any other changes they would like to reflect on.

Has it made the work easier/harder and why?

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WEEK 12 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (10) ENGAGE, ASSESS, INTERVENE, EVALUATE: individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Understands the role of empathy and interpersonal skills in collaborating with client groups and modalities to prepare for action.
* Recognizes the importance of collaborating with clients to develop intervention goals and objectives.
* Comprehend organizational goals and develops skills to help clients resolve problems.
* Understands prevention concepts and the social work roles of mediation, negotiation and advocacy for clients.
* Understands the importance of facilitating and transitioning endings.
* Understands evaluation process.

**Engagement Observation-**From your observations, describe what you have learned about the process of ‘engagement’ at your practicum placement.

**Assessment Observation-**From your observations, describe what you have learned about the process of ‘assessment’ at your practicum placement.

**Intervention Observation-**From your observations, describe what you have learned about the process of ‘intervention’ at your practicum placement.

**Evaluation Observation-**From your observations, describe what you have learned about the process of ‘evaluation’ at your practicum placement**.**

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| **Competency (1 ) Exercise**  **Reflection on Social Work Professionals/Self**  Review the Reflection on Social Work Professionals/Self you completed**.** Describe how you’ve identified as a professional social worker at your practicum during your block semester of practicum and how you’ve improved in your professional role. | **Competency (2) Exercise**  **Observation Activity**  Review the Observation Activity you completed. Assess the following facets of your experiences since that time and write them down:  Did your perceptions of the agency/staff change from when you originally conducted the observation activity? If they did change, how did they change?  What constitutes ethical behavior at your agency?  Are clients treated respectfully?  How is confidentiality of files/client visits handled?  After completing the observation activity at the start of your practicum, did you give any feedback to the agency about what you observed? Why/why not? |
| **Competency (3) Exercise**  **Critical Thinking**  Review the Critical Thinking Exercise you completed. Write about an experience you’ve had in field practicum that required you to apply critical thinking in your effort to problem solve a particular situation. | **Competency (4) Exercise**  **Reflection on Diversity at Practicum Setting**  Review the Diversity Exercise you completed. Since that time, describe how you’ve gained self-awareness of personal biases in your work with clients. |
| **Competency (5) Exercise**  **Social Justice**  Review the Social Justice Exercise you completed. In your own words, what does social justice mean to you? | **Competency (6 ) Exercise**  **Informed Practice**  Review the Informed Practice Exercise you completed. Based on what your supervisor shared with you at that time, do you think that data and/or informed research information is used to inform practice decisions at your practicum setting? Why or why not? Explain. |
| **Competency (7) Exercise**  **Practice Theory**  Review the Practice Theory Exercise you completed***.*** What do you see are the advantages/disadvantages of having/not having a practice theory in place at the agency? | **Competency (8) Exercise**  **Policy**  Review the Policy Exercise you completed. Describe (2) policies that you see as positive at the agency and why. Describe (2) policies that you see as negative at the agency and why. |
| **Competency (9) Exercise**  **Practice Contexts**  Review the Practice Contexts Exercise you completed**.**  Based on that interview, do you think the changes described are better/worse for service delivery and why? | **Competency (10) Exercise**  Engagement Process--From your interactions, describe how you have participated in the process of ‘engagement’ at your practicum placement.  Assessment Process--From your interactions, describe how you have participated in the process of ‘assessment’ at your practicum placement.  Intervention Process--From your interactions, describe how you have participated in the process of ‘intervention’ at your practicum placement.  Evaluation Process--From your interactions, describe how you have participated in the process of ‘evaluation’ at your practicum placement. |
| **Wrap-Up/Reflection of Practicum Experience**   * Why did you choose to become a social worker and do you still feel the same after completion   of practicum?   * How will this profession fit you and/or how will you into fit this profession? (Include positive and negative aspects) * Is the population at your practicum site the area of practice you intend to focus on? * Do you want to continue your education and training as a social worker? Why/why not? | |

**Wrap-up (Activity Log) Exercises Reflecting on Weeks 1-12**

Reference the activity logs you have completed and write your responses to each Competency Exercise on a separate sheet of paper. Be prepared to share during the last class.