## **New Mexico Highlands University**

**School of Social Work**

**First 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 practicum 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 weekly or bi-weekly **(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.** **Save all activity logs as you will have to refer to them in your second semester of practicum and will have to submit them to field seminar instructor at the end of the second semester.**

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 your practicum that will promote/maintain good self-care?
* What strengths/contributions do you feel you can make at 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 my 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 professionals/departments have you become familiar with?
* 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 use personal reflection to meet the professional roles, boundaries, behaviors, appearance and communication of the agency/profession?
* How will you become aware of the resource needs of the clients at the field agency?
* What does the phrase ‘career long learning’ mean to you?
* Have you developed a plan for a weekly meeting with your supervisor for supervision?

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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. Inquire about how the social worker arrived at a theory based intervention strategy in a complicated case.

Describe the ways in which technology, oral, and written communication is used at the 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, discuss the diversity of staff in terms ethnicity, gender, age, disability. Answer the questions below after this discussion.

* Does the range of diversity reflect the client population served by the agency?
* Does diversity of staff affect the quality of service delivery?
* Should staff composition 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 background (oppression and discrimination) 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 theories that guide the delivery of services at your practicum agency and describe how these theories are reflected in the service delivery. If there are no predominant theories that guide practice at the agency, explain.

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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
* 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 with 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.

**Engagement Observation**

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

* How do the social workers prepare for action?
* How has empathy and interpersonal skills been demonstrated?
* What is the process for developing a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes?

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WEEK 13 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (10) ASSESS individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Recognizes the importance of collaborating with clients to develop intervention goals and objectives.

**Assessment Observation**

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

* How is client data collected, interpreted, and organized?
* How are client’s strengths and limitations considered in the assessment process?
* Are intervention goals and objectives developed mutually with client?
* How do the social workers select appropriate intervention strategies?

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WEEK 14 ACTIVITY LOG

**COMPETENCY (10) INTERVENE with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.**

**Field Specific Practice Behaviors**

* 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.

**Intervention Observation**

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

* How are actions initiated to achieve organizational goals?
* How are prevention interventions that enhance client capacities implemented?
* How are clients helped to resolve problems?
* How do the social workers negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients?
* How do the social workers facilitate transitions and endings?

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**WEEK 15 ACTIVITY LOG**

**COMPETENCY (10) EVALUATE individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.**

**Field Specific Practice Behavior**

* Understands evaluation process.

**Evaluation Observation**

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

* How do social workers critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions?

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WEEK 16 ACTIVITY LOG

**Wrap-Up/Reflection of Practicum Experience**

* After a semester in practicum, how do you feel about your practicum and why?
* Is the population one that you would like to work with in the future? Why/why not?
* How well did you employ the self-care strategies outlined at the beginning of the semester?

Be prepared to discuss how you will update the learning contract for second semester so that this can be presented to the agency instructor and field consultant during the final evaluation meeting.

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