

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

MASTER SYLLABUS
Last Revised: March 2007

SWRK 6770: Field Education in Social Policy, Planning, and Administration

Course Instructor/Faculty Liaison:

Email Address:

Office Room Number:

Office Phone Number:

Classroom Number:

Day/Time:

Course Description:

Field education in the social policy, planning, and administration concentration (PP&A) is intended to provide students with opportunities to develop and exercise practice skills for designing, maintaining, and changing social systems. Field placements in social welfare organizations and special programs are arranged in accordance with student interests and abilities for approximately two hundred and thirty-six (236) hours. Two field seminars are also required during the course. Students are introduced to the theory and technique of planning and design in the planning seminar and in other courses. The student integrates and applies the knowledge given in the classroom to his or her field placement setting with the guidance of the field instructor and faculty liaison. This course is graded credit/no credit.

Prerequisites:

SWRK 6720 or SWRK 6750

Relationship to Other Courses:

Field courses are designed to teach students the application of material that is taught in other social work courses. Thus, this field course is directly related to the content of courses in practice, research, policy, and human behavior in the social environment as the link between knowledge and actual practice.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

During the semester the student will make progress toward demonstrating, at an advanced level, the ability to:

1. Apply critical thinking and analytical skills needed to assess the operational, organizational, and policy structures of the field placement organization, as well as other related organizations
2. Apply knowledge and skills related to internal organizational operations, and links with external organizational environments
3. Apply the knowledge and skills of macro social work practice to work with a variety of systems in social policy, planning and administration
4. Communicate effectively with various client populations, various levels of intra-agency staff, and various organizations within the community
5. Work in communities, organizations, and political settings in a manner that is culturally competent and that takes into account the diversity of people in areas such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability
6. Apply strategies of advocacy that advance social and economic justice for oppressed populations and populations at risk
7. Assess problems at community and organizational client system levels
8. Demonstrate ability to identify and evaluate community and organizational level interventions utilizing evidence-based methods
9. Assess problems at political levels as a means to effecting policy
10. Demonstrate ability to give presentations in political and other social change arenas and to understand the impact of such presentations on consumers, agencies, and communities
11. Demonstrate leadership in a multi-professional context, as well as working effectively as a member of a team within the structure of an organization or community
12. Practice in keeping with social work values and ethics