

APPENDIX B **Educational Policy M2.1—Specialized Practice**

The master's program in social work prepares students for specialized practice. Programs identify the specialized knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes, and behaviors that extend and enhance the nine Social Work Competencies and prepare students for practice in the area of specialized practice.

Example responses to standards for Accreditation Standard M2.1—Specialized Practice

M2.1.1 *The program identifies its area(s) of specialized practice (EP M2.1), and demonstrates how it builds on generalist practice.*

MSW Specialized Practice Curriculum for Clinical Social Work Practice

Clinical social work practice augments the generalist social work competencies and is grounded in the values of the profession: service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, competence, human rights, and scientific inquiry are among the core values of social work. The clinical social work practice curriculum builds on generalist practice through courses and assignments that establish the expectation that clinical social work practice addresses all dimensions, from macro through mezzo to micro, of the client experience. Nine courses provide the framework, substance and experience of the clinical social work practice curriculum.

M2.1.3 *The program describes how its area(s) of specialized practice extend and enhance the nine Social Work Competencies (and any additional competencies developed by the program) to prepare students for practice in the area(s) of specialization.*

NOTE: The example below illustrates how a program extends and enhances the nine social work competencies by describing the dimensions (knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive/affective processes) that comprise Competency 1 and 2 for its Clinical Social Work Practice area of specialized practice. The bullets that follow the competency dimension description are behaviors that represent observable components of each competency that integrate the dimensions of the competency.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Practitioners in clinical social work recognize the importance of the therapeutic relationship, the person---in-environment and the strengths perspectives, the professional use of self with clients, and adherence to ethical guidelines of professional behavior. Practitioners in clinical social work recognize their role on interprofessional teams in practice and the ethical use of technology tools for clinical social work practice. Practitioners in clinical social work understand and apply ethical standards, modeling ethical use of treatment modalities in practice. Practitioners in clinical social work:

- readily identify as social work professionals;
- demonstrate professional use of self with client;
- identify professional strengths, limitations and challenges;
- demonstrate their role on interprofessional teams in practice
- develop, manage, and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients within the person-in-environment and strengths perspectives; and
- use technology tools ethically for clinical social work practice; and
- demonstrate ethical use of clinical modalities in practice.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Practitioners in clinical social work are knowledgeable about many forms of diversity and difference and how these influence the therapeutic relationship and client's presenting issues. The various dimensions of diversity affect (a) explanations of illness, (b) help---seeking behaviors, and (c) healing practices. Practitioners in clinical social work are cultural beings and understand how clinical practice choices can be culture---bound. Practitioners in clinical social work:

- use and apply research knowledge of diverse populations to enhance client wellbeing, to work effectively with diverse populations;
- identify and use practitioner/client differences and life experiences from a strengths perspective.

APPENDIX C, part 1

M2.1.4 For each area of specialized practice, the program provides a matrix that illustrates how its curriculum content implements the nine required social work competencies and any additional competencies added by the program.

Curriculum Matrix Example Location of Curriculum Content Associated with Clinical Social Work Area of Specialized Practice

This is a sample matrix, but at a minimum the curriculum matrix should include: 1) the nine social work competencies; 2) the course(s) where each competency is implemented; 3) course content (e.g. readings, module, assignments, class activities) where each competency is implemented; and 4) the dimension(s) (knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive & affective reactions) associated with the course content for each competency.

Each dimension must be represented for each competency.

Note: Programs are encouraged to develop their own matrix format that works with their syllabi and curriculum content.

Competency	Competency Description	Courses	Course Content	Competency Dimension	Page Number in Volume 2*
1: Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior	Practitioners in clinical social work recognize the importance of the therapeutic relationship, the person-in-environment and the strengths perspectives, the professional use of self with clients, and adherence to ethical guidelines of professional behavior of professional behavior. Practitioners in clinical social work recognize their role on interprofessional teams in practice and the ethical use of technology tools for clinical social work practice.	603: Methods of Clinical Social Work 610: Specialized Practice Field Placement	Students read about and discuss ethical decision-making (e.g. Luepker; Cooper & Lesser). Assessment and Treatment Planning assignment requires students to address ethical concerns	Knowledge and Values Skills and Cognitive/Affective Processes	
2: Engage diversity and difference in practice	Practitioners in clinical social work are knowledgeable about many forms of diversity and difference and how these influence the which various dimensions of diversity affect (a) explanations of illness, (b) help-seeking behaviors, and (c) healing practices. Practitioners in clinical social work are cultural beings and understand how clinical practice choices can be culture-bound. Advanced practitioners in clinical social work	603 and 604: Methods of Clinical Social Work I & II	Guest speakers, role play and/or video are used in classroom to demonstrate application of knowledge related to diverse populations and how to form alliances with them, as well as a diversity assignment focused on reflection	Knowledge, Values, Skills, and CA	<div style="float: right; margin-right: 10px;">*Optional Column</div>

APPENDIX C- part 2, sample 1
Sample Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix with 2015 EPAS Competencies 6-9

Note: The following competency description was developed as part of the *Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Gero Social Work Practice*.

Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix Example Area of Specialized Practice: Gerontological Social Work				
Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities				
	Courses	Course Content	Dimension(s)	Page Number in Volume 2*
Competency 6: Engage with				
Individuals	SW 825: Social Work Practice with Older Adults and their Families SW 875: Field Practicum I	Assignment Psychosocial Assessment: students will complete a psychosocial assessment of an older adult via role play in class Field Activity: Conduct an intake session with new resident/client or follow-up session with current resident/client of agency	K, V, S, CA	25 85
Families	SW 825: Social Work Practice with Older Adults and their Families	Video and Discussion: Film, "I Won't Go" that discusses rights of older adults and issues related to caregiving by family and friends	K, V, S, CA	50
Groups	SW 840: Group Practice with Older Adults	Assignment: Visit to Senior Center and discussion of group activities on health and well-being; focus on importance of capitalizing on strengths of older adults	K, V, S, CA	61
Organizations	SW 850: Social Service Agencies for Older Adults	Assignment: Evaluate agency services for connection to evidence-based practices and strengths-based approaches to services	K, V, S, CA	70
Communities	SW 875: Healthy Communities for Older Adults	Group Oral History Project: Each student will conduct an interview with an older adult who has lived in community for 20 more years; focus of interviews is the impact of community and its changes over time on the health and well-being of the older adult; stories will be compiled to present a cross-cultural look at community and its responsiveness to older adults	K, V, S, CA	77

*Optional column

APPENDIX C- part 2, sample 2
Sample Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix with 2015 EPAS Competencies 6-9

Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix Area of Specialized Practice: Community Practice in Social Work				
Competency 7: Assess with Groups, Organizations, and Communities				
<p>Community practitioners are concerned with understanding the functioning of communities and the subsequent effects of that functioning on the well-being of people in those communities. They value diversity and strive to include all perspectives to assess unique strengths and areas of concern within a community. Community practitioners create effective relationships with people and recognize existing networks and social supports that enhance community well-being. Community assessment involves synthesizing multiple sources of data and evaluating systemic aspects of community (groups that reflect the diversity of the community and organizations {education, employment, health, recreation, spiritual, public services, etc.}). Through examining the interaction of various levels of the system within the community, they develop a comprehensive understanding of issues and strategies for making change. Community practitioners recognize how their personal experiences shape interactions with and assessment of communities.</p>				
	Courses	Course Content	Dimension(s)	Page Number in Volume 2*
Competency 7: Assess with				
Groups	SW 752: Community Group Practice	Social Supports Paper: Survey social supports for community groups, identify gaps in resources.	K, S	61
Organizations	SW 850: Community Social Service Agencies	Organizational Needs Assessment: Assess organizational relationships with community members, and examine interactions across system levels.	K, S, CA	70
Communities	SW 815: Social Work and Community Health	Community Context Presentation: Identify social, economic, environmental, and demographic context of a community, and present the subsequent effects of that context of community health outcomes on the well-being of this community.	V, CA	77
				*Optional column

APPENDIX C- part 2, sample 3
Sample Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix with 2015 EPAS Competencies 6-9

Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix Example
Area of Specialized Practice: Gerontological Social Work

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Practitioners in aging engage older adults, caregivers, and related systems by understanding and applying a range of appropriate theories. To foster this engagement, gero social workers interpret the diverse life courses (including resilience, contributions, and strengths) of older adults and consider the cohorts and contexts in which they have lived. They also recognize how their own life trajectory influences their engagement with diverse older adults and their constituents. reactions) associated with the course content for each competency.
 Each dimension must be represented for each competency.

Specialized Practice Curriculum Matrix					
Competency	Courses	Course Content	Dimension(s)	Level of Practice	Page Number*
Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	SW 825: Social Work Practice with Older Adults and their Families SW 875: Field Practicum I SW 825: Social Work Practice with Older Adults and their Families SW 840: Group Practice with Older Adults SW 850: Social Service Agencies for Older Adults SW 875: Healthy Communities for Older Adults	Assignment Psychosocial Assessment: students will complete a psychosocial assessment of an older adult via role play in class Field Activity: Conduct an intake session with new resident/client or follow-up session with current resident/client of agency Video and Discussion: Film, "I Won't Go" that discusses rights of older adults and issues related to caregiving by family and friends Assignment: Visit to Senior Center and discussion of group activities on health and well-being; focus on importance of capitalizing on strengths of older adults Assignment: Evaluate agency services for connection to evidence-based practices and strengths-based approaches to services Group Oral History Project: Each student will conduct an interview with an older adult who has lived in community for 20 more years; focus of interviews is the impact of community and its changes over time on the health and well-being of the older adult; stories will be compiled to present a cross-cultural look at community and its responsiveness to older adults	K, V S, CA K, V, S, CA K, V, S, CA K, V, S, CA K, V, S, CA	Individuals Individuals Individuals, Families Groups, Organizations Organizations Individuals, Communities	25 85 50 61 70 77

*Optional column