SSW 3844 CSWE Competency Appendix

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
Implications Write-Up Assignment. Students will write a paper to describe how the expected findings of their proposed study (i.e., Methods Paper) could inform practice and policy. To ensure their research aligns with social work values, students will apply an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens to craft implications, intentionally tailoring implications for diverse populations and avoiding the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes. Students will also show proficiency in accessing and synthesizing evidence by integrating at least five peer-reviewed citations to support their practice and policy claims.

Competency 4 Description

Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

Social workers use ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive approaches in conducting research and building knowledge. Social workers use research to inform their practice decision making and articulate how their practice experience informs research and evaluation decisions. Social workers critically evaluate and critique current, empirically sound research to inform decisions pertaining to practice, policy, and programs. Social workers understand the inherent bias in research and evaluate design, analysis, and interpretation using an anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspective. Social workers know how to access, critique, and synthesize the current literature to develop appropriate research questions and hypotheses. Social workers demonstrate knowledge and skills regarding qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis, and they interpret data derived from these methods. Social workers demonstrate knowledge about methods to assess reliability and validity in social work research. Social workers can articulate and share research findings in ways that are usable to a variety of clients and constituencies. Social workers understand the value of evidence derived from inter-professional and diverse research methods, approaches, and sources.

Competency Assessment Rubric

Note: This rubric assesses professional competency levels separately from the assignment grade.

	1 Not Evident	2 Developing	3 Foundational Proficiency	4 Proficient	5 Exemplary
Competency 4: Assessed by the Implications Write-Up Assignment					
A. Apply research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and programs	Does not describe how findings inform practice, policy, or programs.	Identifies a general connection to practice/policy but lacks a specific explanation of how research could guide practice or policy.	Identifies how specific findings could inform practice and policy decisions for at least one level of practice (micro, mezzo, macro).	Provides a logical rationale for how findings impact practice and/or policy advocacy across micro, mezzo, and macro contexts.	Demonstrates advanced ability to bridge research, practice, and policy across levels of practice, and understanding of how research is situated within current social work practice frameworks and theories.
B. Identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases in research	Does not address anti-oppressive frameworks or ethical strategies	Acknowledges the need for ethics or bias-reduction but provides no specific strategies for identifying or addressing them in practice	Identifies specific inherent biases in research (e.g., in design or analysis) and describes how an anti-racist lens was applied to craft implications.	Actively utilizes an anti-racist lens to tailor implications for specific populations, ensuring that practice and policy strategies directly mitigate identified biases and avoid reinforcing harmful stereotypes.	Critically evaluates the intersection of research design and interpretation to ensure results and implications are empowering, actionable, and promote equity for diverse clients and constituencies.
Scoring: Overall student competency scores are averages of the two items above.					