

RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Waldron College of Health and Human Services
School of Social Work

SOWK 641/642: Foundation Practicum and Seminar

Course Description

This two semester foundation field practicum and supporting seminar provides a forum in which students apply the knowledge, skills, and values acquired from the foundation curriculum to direct and macro practice. An emphasis is placed on assessment and practice grounded in theory. The concepts of person in environment assessment and the generalist perspective are applied with a focus on strengths based practice. Systems and ecological theory provide a frame for critical analysis and assessment. Social construction and empowerment theories help focus toward a respect for diversity and the use of practice methods that support “client” decision-making. Practice is based on ethical decision making, valuing and respecting diversity, and working toward the dismantling of oppression, and establishing social and economic justice.

The focus is placed on assessment/analysis of client needs, client-worker relationships, professional values and ethics, service delivery issues, agency/organizational dynamics, and social work supervision. Practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels is incorporated. This is a practicum experience in which a seminar is embedded.

Prerequisites/co-requisites for 641: SOWK 631

Prerequisites/co-requisites for 642: SOWK 632 & 641

Educational Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Delineate the values and ethics of the social work profession.
2. Develop culturally competent techniques for work with diverse cultural contexts.
3. Use practice knowledge and skill to promote alleviation of poverty, oppression, and other forms of social and economic injustice.
4. Function effectively within the structure of organizations and across service delivery systems.
5. Demonstrate how the generalist practice model can work with clients systems of all sizes, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.