LOYOLA MSW AT CARTHAGE

Instructions for the Student Learning Agreement

The Student Learning Agreement is designed to help students take an active role in developing a list of specific learning assignments and objectives in consultation with the field supervisor. The purpose of the Learning Agreement is to provide a focus for the student’s learning in the internship, clarify expectations, identify responsibilities, and to establish the methods to be used for the evaluation of performance.

The Learning Agreement may be used to document student's clinical proficiency if they apply for certification or clinical licensure in the state of Wisconsin. As such the specific wording of the Learning Agreement has a potential impact on your future clinical licensure. Wisconsin statutes for the certification and licensure of social workers require that licensed clinical social workers have one "clinical field placement". The statute defines this as a "minimum of one academic year in the supervised practice of clinical social work services consisting of assessment; diagnosis; treatment, including psychotherapy and counseling; client-centered advocacy; consultation; and evaluation (SFC 2.01)". ALL STUDENTS IN THE MSW PROGRAM AT CARTHAGE (including Illinois students) will have to address these skills in their Learning Agreements when they have a therapy placement.

The Learning Agreement addresses EPAS Competencies such as Professionalism, Values and Ethics, Policy/Research, Critical Thinking, Diversity, Social and Economic Justice and Social Work Practice.

Guidelines For Completing Wisconsin Clinical Internship Section of EPAS Learning Evaluation

7. Students should use the Wisconsin statute definitions of clinical field placement as a basis to document that the placement was clinical.

A. **Assessment**: Students should demonstrate skills of making thorough assessments independent of what types of forms the agency uses.
   
   Example: Complete comprehensive biopsychosocial assessments on clients.

B. **Diagnosis**: The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing's Social Work Section Examining Board want students to demonstrate that they are able to use the DSM IV. Again, independent of the forms that your agency utilizes, students should demonstrate their ability to make a complete DSM diagnosis. For students in agencies that don't use DSM, you can do the diagnostic work as part of your supervision (as opposed to writing it in the clients' report).
   
   Example: Diagnose clients utilizing DSM-IV.

C. **"Treatment including psychotherapy and counseling".** Counseling includes "education, support, advice, guidance, or assistance with planning..." Psychotherapy is differentiated as
more therapeutic work in the context of professional relationship.

Examples: Make treatment plans with clients for counseling and/or psychotherapy services.
Provide supportive counseling and psychotherapy to clients.
Lead (or Co-lead) a psychotherapy (or education) group for clients with.....disorders.

D. **Consultation:** Document working and consulting with your clinical supervisor and staff from other disciplines.

Examples: Staff cases with the interdisciplinary team consisting of the social workers,
psychiatrist, and psychologist.
Consult with the psychiatrist as needed about clients’ psychotropic medications.
Consult with the psychologist about diagnostic testing procedures and specific results with your clients.

E. **Evaluation:** Demonstrate that you can evaluate your own clinical services and that you are being evaluated.

Example: Periodically evaluate clinical progress toward treatment goals with clients.