

**EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM**

**GENERALIST PRACTICE WITH COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
SWK 300**

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Program Description:

The student internship is an aspect of a professional knowledge and practice course for students seeking a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) from Eastern Connecticut State University. The course, Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations, is taken in conjunction with the internship. The internship is an opportunity for students to put into practice the knowledge that they gain in class with the goal of developing skills in macro practice.

Program Requirements:

The students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours involved in a project with the potential for bringing about actual community change. Potential projects include fund raising, community education, participation with a community action group or interagency council, or political action. The student should have some exposure to the planning process of the social action and direct contact with the community, as defined by the agency. Students may initiate their own project or serve with one of a wide variety of community or campus organizations. Projects should be designed to achieve measurable outcomes by the end of the semester based on mobilizing the participation of others. Stuffing envelopes, making calls, handing out flyers can be an aspect of the internship experience but the internship experience should not be limited to such activities.

The agency/organization must agree to provide adequate supervision to insure that agency standards are maintained. In addition, an agency staff member must be responsible for completing the learning contract at the beginning of the internship and the evaluation form evaluating the students' performance in the agency and certifying that the student has satisfactorily completed the community change project requirements.

Program Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of community types and the application of human ecology and social systems theory for understanding community function and change,
- Demonstrate an understanding of the value base of the social work profession and its application in macro practice,
- Demonstrate cultural competency in social work practice, showing knowledge about respect for and sensitivity to, diverse populations and the ability to effectively engage and intervene with persons who are culturally different from the worker,

Demonstrate an understanding of the causes, dynamics and consequences of social and economic injustice; understand the relationship between social conditions and specific problems and needs encountered in the practice setting; and have the ability to identify strategies for furthering the achievement of social and economic justice, Demonstrate an ability to develop a community assessment, using relevant demographic, economic, and political information and be able to use that information appropriately to inform their practice, Demonstrate an ability to apply macro level social work skills relevant to generalist practice (i.e. organization building, publicity/public education, lobbying, and grant writing, etc.) in a supervised setting, Demonstrate the ability to choose the most appropriate practice model for a given community, Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in task groups, Demonstrate an understanding of organizational structures and dynamics and how they impact upon practice, as well as the ability to develop appropriate interventions with an understanding of the organizational context.

For more information about the community change project requirement or about social work field education at Eastern Connecticut State University, contact the course instructor:

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