

Title: Social Work Specialist Practice
Status: Definitive
Code: **7202PGDSW** (123737)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2020

Owning School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health
Teaching School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health

Team	Leader
Mel Hills	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 30 **Total Delivered Hours:** 120
Total Learning Hours: 300 **Private Study:** 180

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Non Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	45
Workshop	75

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	Essay covering the three specialisms (3000 words)	50	
Reflection	REF	Critical reflection drawn from practice (3000 words)	50	

Competency	Social Work placement practice
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Aims

To enable students to understand the complexity of specialist practice in social work and develop the associated skills.

The placement component of this modules aims to -

- enable the effective use of knowledge, skills and values within complex situations in a social work setting;
- enable students to demonstrate professionalism through the appropriate engagement with supervision and support;
- enable students to work with people and situations where there may be no clear cut solutions;
- enable students to evidence their proficiency at the appropriate level as set out by the Health and Care Professions Council's Standards of Proficiency (SOP 1-15) and the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF 1-9).

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review the skills base for anti-oppressive, specialist social work practice
- 2 Synthesise social policy and legislative developments in specialist social work practice.
- 3 Critically explore key theories in relation to specialist practice
- 4 Critically explore the evidence base for aspects of specialist social work practice
- 5 Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within organisational frameworks and partnerships, and contribute to their development (PCF 8)
- 6 Behave as a professional social worker, committed to personal development and leadership (PCF 1&9)
- 7 Apply social work values and demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of social work knowledge and skills in practice (PCF 2, 5, 7)
- 8 Recognise diversity and demonstrate the ability to apply anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in practice (PCF 3)
- 9 Recognise the importance of promotion of human rights and social justice and economic well-being and apply them in practice (PCF 4)
- 10 Demonstrate the ability to undertake critical reflection and analysis to inform professional decision-making (PCF 6)

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay covering specialisms	1	2	3							
Reflection on practice	1	2	3	4						
Social Work placement practice					5	6	7	8	9	10

Outline Syllabus

1. Theory and practice related to specialist areas of social work
2. Safeguarding
3. Communication with parents, children and within inter-professional groups
4. Advanced communication and engagement skills
5. Dealing with resistance to engagement and hostility
6. Key psychological concepts related to human growth and development for specific

service user groups

- 7. Assessment procedures in specialist social work*
- 8. Ethical standards (with reference to the HCPC, the PCF and BASW codes of ethics) and anti-oppressive practice in a contemporary social work setting*
- 9. Working in partnership with service users and carers*
- 10. Understanding the legal mandate and key social policy in specialist social work*
- 11. Inter-professional practice in the specialist arena*
- 12. Professional accountability and responsibility in specialist practice*

This module includes 15 days skills training.

Placement outline syllabus -

This module will enable students to evidence the effective use of knowledge, skills and values in a more complex social work setting. They will demonstrate proficiency working with people and situations where there may not be simple clear-cut solutions. This will be facilitated through:

- Initial Induction programme at the Agency.*
- Opportunities to observe and shadow other workers in the Agency.*
- Supervision of the student's work in the agency.*
- Reflection on practice, practice supervision and theory linked to practice to support the student's learning.*
- Opportunities to develop social work practice skills through the allocation of work, which is appropriate to the level of development of the student.*
- Delivering work which meets the requirements of the assessment schedule for placement.*

Learning Activities

This module blends direct teaching and VLE.

The students will receive a series of lectures and seminars relating to different specialisms. The methods of delivery will include case discussion and group work. These will be supported by the use of different learning technologies and consolidated by the specialist skills training sessions. These will include the input of service users, carers and practitioners.

This module incorporates 15 days of practice skills development sessions. During the practice skills sessions you will be able to build on skills you have as well as develop a range of practice skills which will enable you to engage safely and work effectively with a range of service users and practice situations. It is a requirement that students complete 30 days skills. 15 of these days are included in this module; therefore you are required to attend all of these sessions. If for any reason you have to miss a teaching session, you will be required to complete a 500 word written task on the subject, which will reflect the session that the student has been unable to attend.

For placement: A Practice Learning Agreement is drawn prior to (or during the

induction period) the placement commencing. The placement begins with a period of induction and training; the student will be allocated appropriate work. Learning is supported and facilitated through close links between placement provider, practice educator and LJMU. Supervision with the practice educator and dialogue with and observations by colleagues will also form part of the assessment and provide opportunities for professional development. Feedback from service users will be an integral part of the student's learning process.

Notes

The module enables students:

- to understand the complexity of current specialist approaches to social work practice
- to critically evaluate the roles of practitioners working with service users, their families and carers in a range of service delivery areas, e.g. disability, child care, mental health, people with learning difficulties, older people
- to introduce students to a number of key theoretical ideas, social policy, legislative developments and processes which underpin specialist social work practice
- to examine assessment, safeguarding and protection procedures in specialist social work practice
- to develop an understanding of the need to work within professional ethical frameworks

To incorporate the 15 day skills training requirement, there is an emphasis upon combining practical social work skills relating to communication, interventions, etc. with academic knowledge. A related aim will be to assist students in becoming more confident in their work and where appropriate take the lead / be imaginative in their interventions, while at the same time being aware of the complex relationship between research, theory and practice.

This module aims to ensure that students meet the 'End of Last Placement/completion of qualifying programmes' level descriptor outlined in the Professional Capabilities Framework.

The placement is designed to enable the student to develop their social work practice skills. It provides an opportunity for the student to meet the Health and Care Professional Council's Standards of Proficiency along with the Professional Capabilities Framework Qualifying Social Worker Level Capabilities.

The module includes placement 2, which will be assessed by the Practice Educator using the Placement Assessment Report. This placement is a 100 day placement and students must complete 100 days in order to complete the programme.

The module has been mapped to the knowledge and skills statements (child and family social work and social workers in adult services)

All individual assessment tasks must be passed to achieve an overall pass grade on this module.

The University acknowledges that there may be occasions when a student's performance in assessment may be severely affected by unforeseen or unexpected circumstances. Such events include sudden acute illness or close personal bereavement. Any extension requests must be discussed with the Module leader prior to the submission date.

For information about extensions and the Extenuating Circumstances Process please visit: www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/student-regulations/guidance-policy-and-process