10/31/14

MEMO

To: Curriculum Reviewers

From: Mary Dallas Allen, MSW Program Coordinator

School of Social Work

Re: Curriculum revisions for the Master of Social Work Program

Attached are curriculum materials developed by the faculty of the School of Social Work in response to revisions to the standards of the Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation Educational Policies. Social work faculty are engaged in a five year strategic process to revise, implement, assess and report on program outcomes in a self-study due to the Commission in June, 2017.

The revised standards have moved to a competency based curriculum format, requiring programs to demonstrate graduates are competent in defined competency areas (e.g., ethical and professional behavior, practice-informed research, policy practice, social justice and human rights) with accompanying prescribed practice behaviors. Each program is required to create a curriculum map that shows where in the curriculum each competency and specific practice behavior is being taught. We have revised our curriculum such that each required course includes student learning outcomes (SLO) related to competencies and practice behaviors. Please note that the Course Content Guides (CCG) include a note in the SLO section to reference the specific course, SLO, competency and practice behavior being addressed in the course. For example, in SWK A608 Social Policy for Advanced Generalist Practice, the first student learning outcome is cited as: "608.1(Sa) Develop and evaluate policies that advance social well-being". For the purposes of our curriculum map, the notation 608.1 (Sa) indicates the first student learning outcome in 608 addresses competency (Sa)- Competency #S- policy practice, and practice behavior a. "develop and evaluate policies that advance social well-being". Using this format serves us in two ways: 1) it provides a structure to map our courses onto the accreditation competencies and practice behaviors to demonstrate compliance with the standards, and 2) it informs instructors on how each course addresses content areas required in the curriculum for accreditation. We request that you permit us this notation system to guarantee compliance with curriculum requirements for the program.

The UAA MSW program will utilize a master rubric to assess competency achievement as part of its annual program assessment and evaluation process. Courses in which a competency will be assessed will include a section in the CCG called "Program Assessment," which will inform the instructor of the competency to be assessed and the means of assessing it. The MSW Assessment Plan includes a rubric for aggregating student performance in MSW courses to meet competencies and practice behaviors required in the curriculum. Please see the MSW Assessment Plan for further details.

In addition to the curriculum revision work, the faculty of the School of Social Work have decided to delete the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Social Work and the Graduate Certificate in Social Work Management due to low enrollment. Please accept these changes as part of the materials submitted.

A great deal of work has gone into preparing this curriculum package. We respectfully submit them for your review and appreciate the work that you're doing on our behalf. Thank you.