SO231

APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES PRACTICUM II

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

Unit code	SO231
Unit name	Applied Social Sciences Practicum II
Associated higher education awards	Bachelor of Applied Social Science
Duration	One semester
Level	Intermediate
Core/Elective	Elective Required for Practicum stream
Weighting	Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: 240
Student workload	*Face-to-face on site* Contact hours 20 hours Reading, study, and preparation 30 hours Meeting with placement mentor 10 hours Practicum placement including assignment 90 hours **TOTAL** **150 hours** Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.
Delivery mode	Face-to-face on site
Prerequisites/ Corequisites/ Restrictions	*Prerequisite* SO230 Applied Social Sciences Practicum I *Prerequisite or Corequisite* SO223 Ethics, Policy and Professional Issues in the Social Sciences
Rationale	People helping practitioners increasingly work within a complex array of practice contexts which require them to interact with diverse groups holding different priorities. It is important for such workers to be able to draw on and critique an applied social sciences practice ethical framework within a set of policies – understanding and applying models, approaches, strategies – to make sense of their professional practice in their contexts. This practicum is the second half of the practicum commenced in SO230. Applied social sciences skills and processes are also mastered by practice and therefore embedded in this unit. While several units in the course equip students with skills and theory necessary for effective work in applied social sciences fields, it is not until the student uses those skills in a real life setting that he or she can really appreciate the utilisation of the skills. It is expected that students will experience application of theories, the organisational dynamics of settings, the integration of ethical behaviour and the challenges of building relationships with clients and establishing appropriate strategies and procedures within a specific practical environment.
Prescribed text(s)	Cleak, H., & Wilson, J. (2012). *Making the most of field placement* (3rd ed.). Melbourne, VIC, Australia: Cengage Learning.

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Recommended readings	**Books** Baird, B. (2013). *Internship, practicum and field placement handbook* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. Guransky, D., Kennedy, R., & Camilleri, P. (2012). *The practice of case management: Effective strategies for positive outcomes*. Sydney, NSW, Australia: Allen & Unwin. Johns, C. (2013). *Becoming a reflective practitioner* (4th ed.). West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons. O'Hara, A., & Pockett, R. (2012). *Skills for human service practice: Working with individuals, groups and communities*. Melbourne, VIC, Australia: Oxford University Press. Summers, N. (2012). *Fundamentals of case management practice: Skills for the human services* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole. **Journals** *Community Development Journal* *Journal of Community Practice* *Journal of Progressive Human Services* *Journal of Social Work Practice* In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV). These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.
Specialist resource requirements	Students must first receive a placement verification from the Practicum Manager, have it signed by the placement mentor and return it to the Practicum Manager. Before students undertake placements, they must demonstrate their possession of a Blue Card issued by the Public Safety Business Agency of the Queensland Government, or equivalent (some placements will require other types of documentation), and receive a Placement Verification letter from the Practicum Manager. They also need to be familiar with Workplace Health and Safety and organisational policy documents, and wear appropriate work clothing.
Content	1. Introduction to Practicum – forms and booklet 2. Revision of Workplace Health and Safety in a practicum setting 3. Continuing the practicum – redefining aims and relationship to placement mentor; building on goals for a new Student Learning Plan 4. Learning on practicum – observation and questions for learning about the professional setting and client relationships 5. Developing an organisational case study 6. Being professional in a professional setting – ACWA Ethics and developing an ethical metaphor 7. The reflective practitioner – risk assessment and management; referrals 8. Personal and professional critical evaluation and the organisational value and practice gap 9. Personal, interpersonal, and professional qualities 10. Community of practice and practicum debrief
Learning outcomes	On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have: 1. Demonstrated appropriate levels of personal, interpersonal and professional qualities and behaviour in interactions with clients, placement mentors and colleagues; 2. Employed, and reflected on appropriate strategies and procedures for undertaking applied social sciences work; 3. Appraised the aims, outcomes, policies and ethics relevant to best practice;

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	4. Applied, critiqued and reassessed their personal and professional learning in the context of their personal practice framework;
	5. Demonstrated emerging leadership and organisational skills in an applied social sciences setting and critically reflected upon the outcomes;
	6. Demonstrated practice which integrates ACWA Practice Standards, ACWA Code of Ethics, Workplace Health and Safety and Christian worldview; and
	7. Communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.
Assessment tasks	**Task 1: Student Learning Plan**
	Develop professional goals and strategies for increasing knowledge and skills during the second part of your practicum. This must be in consultation with your unit coordinator and placement mentor and show specific links to ACWA Practice Standards and Ethics. These goals should build upon those from your first practicum and in addition to general goals, focus on one program/activity throughout the placement.
	Word Length/Duration: 500 words
	Weighting: 10%
	Learning Outcomes: 1, 4, 5-7
	Assessed: Week 3
	Task 2: Personal Ethics Metaphor and Placement Mentor Formative Report
	Develop a pictorial metaphor of your personal ethics in the workplace. Relate your metaphor to ACWA Code of Ethics, and evaluate its practicality.
	Word Length/Duration: 1,000 words
	Weighting: 25%
	Learning Outcomes: 1, 4, 6, 7
	Assessed: Weeks 5-8, during lecturer visit
	Task 3: Organisation Case Study Presentation
	While based in your placement setting investigate the models, processes, policies, issues, service approaches and ethics employed in your context, and present these as a case study.
	Word Length/Duration: Presentation - 10 minutes; Handout - 500 words
	Weighting: 20%
	Learning Outcomes: 1-3, 7
	Assessed: Week 13, during final intensive
	Task 4: Evaluation of Practice, Placement Mentor Report and Time Sheets
	Provide a personal evaluation of your achievement of the goals of the Student Learning Plan and what you might do to further develop these goals into the future. The evaluation should consider ACWA Practice Standards/Ethics and include examples as evidence on goals achieved.
	Word Length/Duration: 2,000 words
	Weighting: 45% (15% Evaluation; 30% Placement Mentor Report)
	Learning Outcomes: 1-7
	Assessed: Week 13 or one week after completion of practicum

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Unit summary	This professional placement unit is the second part of SO230 and also consists of a practicum of 100 hours (of which 90 hours must comprise actual applied social sciences experience in one of the discipline areas). This may be undertaken in a minimum of eight weeks and a maximum of 14 weeks. The placement occurs in an actual applied social sciences context and requires students to meet with their designated mentors for one hour for every 10 hours of activity. This unit comprises the second half of a 200 hour applied social sciences placement in the one setting.
	Briefing sessions will be held both before and during the placement to facilitate the success of the experience and to establish working relationships between students, placement mentors, CHC and the organisation that is offering the placement. Sessions after the placement will give students the opportunity to share their knowledge and to debrief about the events and learning from the placement.

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