



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
OFFICE OF FIELD EDUCATION

Clinical Advanced Practice Behaviors

Educational Policy 2.1.1—Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work recognize the importance of the therapeutic relationship, the person-in-environment and strengths perspectives, the professional use of self with clients, and adherence to ethical guidelines of professional behavior. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work readily identify as social work professionals and:

42. demonstrate professional use of self with client(s);
43. understand and identify professional strengths, limitations and challenges; and
44. develop, manage and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients within the person-in-environment and strengths perspectives

Educational Policy 2.1.2—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work are knowledgeable about ethical issues, legal parameters and shifting societal mores that affect the therapeutic relationship. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

45. apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to community-based clinical social work;
46. identify and use knowledge of relationship dynamics, including power differentials; and
47. recognize and manage personal biases as they affect the therapeutic relationship in the service of the clients' well-being

Educational Policy 2.1.3—Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

Advanced practitioners understand and differentiate the strengths and limitations of multiple practice theories and methods, clinical processes and technical tools, including differential diagnosis. They deconstruct theories and methods to evaluate how they relate to clients and client systems within their environmental context. They regularly question and reflect on their own assumptions and consider how these might affect practice. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

48. engage in reflective practice;
49. identify and articulate clients' strengths and vulnerabilities;
50. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of multiple theoretical perspectives and differentially apply them to client situations; and
51. communicate professional judgments to other social workers and to professionals from other disciplines in both verbal and written format

Educational Policy 2.1.4—Engage diversity and difference in practice.

Advanced practitioners are knowledgeable about many forms of diversity and difference and how these influence the therapeutic relationship and clients' presenting issues. Advanced practitioners are knowledgeable about the ways in which various dimensions of diversity affect (a) explanations of illness, (b) help-seeking behaviors, and (c) healing practices (Cal-SWEC, 2006). Advanced practitioners are cultural beings and understand how clinical practice choices can be culture-bound. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

52. research and apply knowledge of diverse populations to enhance client wellbeing;
53. work effectively with diverse populations; and
54. identify and use practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective.

Educational Policy 2.1.5—Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work understand the oppressive nature of systems/policies that deny access and professions that employ methods of coercion. Advanced practitioners understand the ways in which systems and policies violate rights and deny justice. Advanced practitioners also understand the ways in which social work can be used for both oppressive and anti-oppressive purposes. They understand strategies for advancing human rights and social and economic justice through anti-oppressive practice, system change, and policy change. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 55. advocate for the creation and revision of practices and tools that support anti-oppressive practice.
- 56. advocate for systems and policies that create and provide equal access for all populations.

Educational Policy 2.1.6—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Advanced community-based clinical practitioners are knowledgeable about evidence-based interventions, best practices, and the evidence-based research process. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 57. use the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients;

Educational Policy 2.1.7—Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

Advanced practitioners understand how to synthesize and differentially apply the theories of human behavior and the social environment (biological, developmental, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual). They are familiar with diagnostic classification systems used in the formulation of a comprehensive assessment. Advanced practitioners understand how familial and sociocultural contexts influence definitions of psychopathology. They have a working knowledge of psychotropic medications that are typically used in the treatment of mental health disorders, including expected results and side effects. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 58. synthesize and differentially apply theories of human behavior and the social environment to guide clinical practice;
- 59. use bio-psycho-social-spiritual theories and systems in formulation of comprehensive assessments

Educational Policy 2.1.8—Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work understand the power of decision-making within interdisciplinary teams and systems. Further, they understand the implications of these decisions for the well-being of their clients and the importance of the social work role within these decision-making spheres. They understand strategies for advancing both the well-being of the client and the voice of the profession. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 60. analyze policy with regards to the policy's impact on clients and practice; and
- 61. advocate for social policies or agency policies that will advance the social and economic well-being of clients.

Educational Policy 2.1.9—Respond to contexts that shape practice.

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work are knowledgeable about how relational, organizational, and community systems may impact clients. They anticipate and react to evolving cultural, technological, geographical, political, legal, economic, and environmental contexts. They encourage clients to affect changes within these contexts. Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 62. assess the quality of clients' interactions within their social contexts;
- 63. work collaboratively with others to impact systemic change that is sustainable.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(a)–(d)—Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(a)—Engagement

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

- 64. develop a culturally responsive therapeutic relationship;
- 65. establish a relationally based process that encourages clients to be equal participants in the establishment of treatment goals and expected outcomes.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(b)—Assessment

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

66. use bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment tools that are evidence-based and culturally sensitive;
67. assess clients' readiness for change;
68. assess client coping strategies to reinforce and improve adaptation to life situations, circumstances, and events; and engage in continuous clinical assessment and modify as needed

Educational Policy 2.1.10(c)—Intervention

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work:

69. critically evaluate, select, and apply best practice theories and evidence-based interventions;
70. demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns identified in the assessment, including crisis intervention strategies as needed; and
71. collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions

Educational Policy 2.1.10(d)—Evaluation

Advanced practitioners in community-based clinical social work

72. use clinical evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practice interventions for a range of bio-psycho-social-spiritual conditions