



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

**Clinical Advanced Practice Behavior Examples**

**42. The intern demonstrates professional use of self with client(s)**

- Seek personal growth and discovery to integrate authentic self in social work practice
- Increase effectiveness with clients by utilizing authenticity and prominent personality traits as a therapeutic tool in relating to clients
- Maintain awareness of congruence (or lack thereof) between personal philosophies, the values and ethics of the social work profession as well as the worldview/personal beliefs of clients
- Recognize possibility of increased risk of transference and countertransference with use of self as therapeutic tool

**43. Understand and Identify professional strengths, limitations and challenges**

- Consider motivation for choosing social work as career and how this could affect work with clients
- Recognize personal triggers that could impede effectiveness with clients
- Seek professional consultation and/or support when faced with challenges or ethical concerns
- Routinely review the NASW Code of Ethics to ensure standards of professional practice are followed

**44. Develop, manage and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients within the Person-in-Environment (PIE) and Strengths Perspective**

- Maintain awareness of Person-in-Environment Perspective by viewing client as part of an environmental system in which influences occur between client and relevant others, individuals, and the physical and social environment
- Demonstrate knowledge of PIE and Strengths Perspective by utilizing specific practice skills and clinical interventions reflective of perspectives
- Recognize cultural factors that can influence the therapeutic relationship between client and social worker

**45. Apply ethical decision-making skills to issues specific to clinical social work**

- View all information related to or obtained from client as private and confidential
- Comply with local, state and federal mandates governing privacy and confidentiality such as the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements and state medical records laws
- Obtain informed consent in order to release or discuss any client information with another party
- Maintain familiarity with national, state, and local exceptions to confidentiality such as mandated reporting when client is a danger to self or others
- Maintain familiarity with national, state and local exceptions to confidentiality as it relates to reporting child or elder abuse and neglect

**46. Identify and use knowledge of relationship dynamics, including power differentials**

- Evaluate and treat problems within scope of practice
- Establish achievable treatment goals with client
- If client chooses to terminate treatment, the clinical social worker should assist the client in exploring barriers to treatment and refer to another qualified provider (if appropriate)
- Recognize racial, ethnic and cultural differences that may be interpreted as barriers to treatment

**47. Recognize and manage personal biases as they affect the therapeutic relationship in the service of the client's well-being**

- Continue to develop, appreciate and maintain specialized knowledge and understanding of cultural differences as they relate to clinical practice with individuals, families and groups
- Demonstrate knowledge and practice skills consistent with NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice
- Recognize the adverse effects of racism, ageism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination and its impact on client's behavior, mental and emotional well-being and options for treatment

**48. Engage in reflective practice**

- Seek a supportive social work peer group that is a "safe" space in which to talk about difficult cases and personal vulnerability without fear of repercussion
- Critically reflect upon one's own practice and performance through supervision and other support systems
- Continue to meet professional development needs by incorporating reflective practice into supervision and other support systems
- Utilize reflective practice as a tool to address and manage professional and personal weaknesses in an effort to improve overall performance

**49. Identify and articulate clients strengths and vulnerabilities**

- Integrate a strengths-based approach in order to recognize inherent strengths within a client or client system while acknowledging client challenges and vulnerabilities
- Identify and articulate client strengths and weaknesses while providing a positive environment that fosters empowerment and change
- Elevate client feelings of empowerment and self-control by identifying and verbalizing client's previous attempts at problem resolution and ways in which to improve future problem solving

**50. Elevate the strengths and weaknesses of multiple theoretical perspectives and differentially apply them to client situations**

- Utilize social work theories and perspectives to guide practice; recognizing that perspectives may be tailored to fit clients' needs
- Demonstrate knowledge of social work theories while allowing specific theories to provide a framework within which to guide practice with clients
- Seek consultation when faced with client situations that require additional knowledge, training or expertise
- Limit scope of practice to work within own knowledge base and skill set; making referrals when necessary

**51. Communicate professional judgments to other social workers and to professionals from other disciplines, in both verbal and written format**

- Recognize that communication of professional judgments can occur through implicit messages (things we do) and explicit messages (what we say) and should be respectful and accepting of differences
- All communication on behalf of clients (written or verbal) should demonstrate social worker authenticity, empathy and regard for client circumstances
- Verbal and written communication of professional judgments must reflect an accurate account of services
- All communication of professional judgments must be considered private and kept confidential

**52. Research and apply knowledge of diverse populations to enhance client well-being**

- Raise awareness of and maintain appreciation of cultural differences in order to provide effective social work services to clients
- Integrate cultural content and material to adequately assess, intervene and meet the needs of culturally diverse clients and groups
- Select appropriate intervention strategies and practice models that help clients facilitate a connection with their own power in a manner that is appropriate for their cultural context

**53. Work effectively with diverse populations**

- Model culturally competent behavior with client groups, community partners and other professionals
- Partner, collaborate and ally with client groups and advocacy efforts
- Identify formal and informal resources that are tailored to the culturally relevant needs of clients in order to facilitate referrals, when appropriate
- Provide support to diverse cultural groups who are advocating on their own behalf

**54. Identify and use practitioner/client differences from a strengths perspective**

- Demonstrate thoughtfulness regarding own personal values and self-awareness as it relates to ability to effectively work with diverse clients
- Empower clients to openly express cultural experiences and issues related to oppression, discrimination and/or privilege so that social worker can gain understanding of practitioner/client differences
- Avoid imposing own values on clients and facilitate respectful collaboration in determining mutually agreed-upon goals for change

**55. Advocate for the creation and revision of practices and tools that support anti-oppressive practice**

- Advocate for public policies that respect the cultural values, norms and behaviors of diverse groups and communities
- Evaluate the validity and applicability of new techniques, practice models, research and knowledge as effective tools that support anti-oppressive practice
- Identify appropriate service delivery models that target specific populations and enhance culturally competent/anti-oppressive practice

**56. Advocate for systems and policies that create and provide equal access for all**

- Participate in social advocacy and social action at the local, state and national level to increase equal access for all clients
- Empower clients to assume advocacy roles within their community
- Plan activities that address social problems, improve services, enhance social well-being and empower clients and combat social injustice

**57. Use the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients**

- Utilize skills, clinical experience and client-centered research evidence to guide delivery of services with clients
- Honor client self-determination and autonomy when planning interventions
- Identify clients' unique psychosocial issues, personal values and expectations in order to best determine appropriate interventions

**58. Synthesize and differentially apply theories of human behavior and the social environment to guide clinical practice**

- Apply knowledge of life span development, the range of social systems in which people live and how social systems promote or deter clients' health and well-being into clinical practice setting
- Seek consultation and consistently critique knowledge base as it relates to understanding person and environment
- Recognize how sociocultural contexts influence definitions of psychopathology

**59. Use biopsychosocial-spiritual theories in formulation of comprehensive assessments**

- Use biopsychosocial-spiritual theories and multiaxial diagnostic classification systems in formulation of comprehensive assessments
- Maintain working knowledge of psychotropic medications that may be used in the treatment of mental health disorders; including expected results and side effects
- Consult with medical professionals when necessary to confirm diagnosis and/or to monitor medication throughout treatment process

**60. Use evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence in advocacy for policies that advance social and economic well-being**

- Stay current with social work trends and research in order to advocate for client rights on both micro and macro levels

**61. Advocate with and inform legislators to influence policies that impact clients and service**

- Communicate to stakeholders the implication of policies and policy change in the lives of clients

**62. Assess the quality of clients' interactions within their social contexts**

- Empower clients to effect change within the social context of political, geographical, cultural, legal and environmental systems

**63. Work collaboratively with others to effect systemic change that is sustainable**

- Identify and connect with community organizations interested in promoting systemic change that reduce or eliminate inequalities among members of society
- Foster and promote dialogue to encourage participation of clients and communities to strengthen sustainable change

**64. Develop a culturally responsive therapeutic relationship**

- Attend to and maintain awareness of interpersonal dynamics and contextual factors that both strengthen and potentially threaten the therapeutic alliance
- Recognize complexities associated with varying cultural backgrounds and client expectations in clinical practice

**65. Establish a relationally based process that encourages clients to be equal participants in the establishment of treatment goals and expected outcomes**

- Create and maintain a relationship of mutual respect, acceptance and trust so that mutually agreed-upon treatment goals can be established
- Facilitate cognitive, affective, and behavioral changes consistent with treatment goals

**66. Use multidimensional biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment tools**

- Establish treatment and intervention strategies based on multidimensional assessment tools
- Assess and reassess client needs and modify accordingly; considering relevant biomedical, psychosocial and spiritual factors and needs of the client
- Engage in ongoing training and technology applications relevant to social work assessment tools utilized in clinical practice

**67. Assess clients' readiness for change**

- Identify ways to engage client and enhance motivation for treatment based on readiness for change
- Recognize therapeutic alliance and its influence on the change process

**68. Assess client coping strategies to reinforce and improve adaptation to life situations, circumstances and events**

- Assist client in identifying and developing coping strategies and problem-solving skills inside and outside the context of treatment
- Select and modify appropriate intervention strategies based on continuous clinical assessment
- Use differential and multiaxial diagnoses

**69. Critically evaluate, select and apply best practices and evidence-based interventions**

- Remain knowledgeable about emerging theories and interventions, best practice social work models and changes in policy and regulatory reforms
- Seek to enhance clinical skills and understanding by staying up-to-date with research; ensuring practice skills reflect most current knowledge

**70. Demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns identified in the assessment, including crisis intervention strategies as needed**

- Adapt approaches and clinical techniques to the special needs, characteristics, and circumstances of client
- Participate in continuing education opportunities to stay informed about risk management and professional liability issues
- Utilize specialized techniques and interventions when assisting a client in crisis; adhere to agency guidelines and seeking consult when necessary

**71. Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions**

- Seek supervision and/or consultation when necessary to ensure appropriate treatment options for client
- Facilitate coordination and transition of client to other services to safeguard continuity of care
- Maintain collaborative contacts with social workers and other related professionals and make referrals if needed

**72. Use clinical evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practice interventions for a range of biopsychosocial-spiritual conditions**

- Continually use research methodology to evaluate effectiveness and outcomes; working to improve upon best practice interventions