

**Indiana University School of Social Work**  
**PRAC Annual Report for the IUPUI MSW Program**  
**2015-2016 Academic Year**

**Defining Student Learning Outcomes**

The MSW Program is offered on the IUPUI, IUPFW, IUN, IUSB, and IUE campuses. Recently, social work transitioned from an objectives-based curriculum to a competencies-based curriculum as articulated in the Council on Social Work Education 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). The faculty in the MSW program linked competencies to the objectives of each course in the curriculum, and the competencies are now assessed in the classroom and in the field practicum.

In addition to a foundation year of study, the MSW Program has five concentrations from which students select their advanced study. These are: child welfare, health, leadership, mental health, and schools. Throughout the foundation and concentration years MSW students are expected to achieve basic competency in the knowledge and skills for entry-level social work practice and build on those during their concentrations to practice proficiently in selected social work practice areas. The CSWE (EPAS, 2008) competencies follow.

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
6. Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice.
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

## **Student Learning Opportunities**

The faculty, through the MSW Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate, establishes course learning outcomes for each course. The learning outcomes of all courses are linked to the core competencies above. The learning outcomes are, in turn, linked to assessment measures. In the past years, the assessment tools used within courses have been considered formative and the program has not relied on these for overall measures of success. With the move to competency-based education, a new set of assessment measures has been implemented. These are linked to competencies in both the field and the classroom.

The field practicum (12 credits) at the intermediate and advanced levels provide students with the opportunity to learn and apply the course work and demonstrate expected learning outcomes. Field seminars were added to the intermediate practicum as well, in order to promote greater integration between classroom and field.

### **Measuring Student Learning Outcomes**

Measures of student mastery of competencies, as operationalized by each concentration's practice behaviors, logically come at the end of the concentration field placement. The Learning Evaluation Tool (LET) is an instrument that links practice behaviors that are associated with competencies to specific tasks and products. The LET is completed by both the agency field instructor and as a self-report by the student. In this way, the LET serves as two measures. Field instructors' final ratings of students' achievement of competencies are presented in this report.

### **Findings**

Appendix A contained the aggregated results for the IUPUI 2015 assessment of student competencies. Students were rated on a 7-point scale according to the extent to which they have mastered social work competencies. The following scale anchors are used: (1) Complete inability to demonstrate the skill, (3) Beginning-level MSW student, (5) New MSW graduate, and (7) highly-experienced post-MSW practitioner. The benchmark used by the School of Social Work is that 80% of students will score at '5' or above on the scale.

For the 2015-2016 Academic Year, the lowest percentage of students achieving at least a '5' on the 10 competencies was 95.1% for Competency 8: Engage policy practice to advance well-being and deliver services. On Competency 5 and 8, 98.2% of students achieved a '5' or above. Between 99.1 and 99.5% of students scored a '5' or higher on Competencies 2, 4, and the Intervention portion of Competency 10. One-hundred percent of students scored at a '5' or higher on Competencies 1, 3, 6, 7, and on the remaining 3 components of Competency 10.

Students across the board had accomplished the level of competency required for professional social work at the MSW-level across all 5 of the concentrations by the end of their practicums. Please follow this link to additional information about BSW student assessments:

[https://socialwork.iu.edu/OfficeOfEducationAssessment/Assessment\\_of\\_Student\\_Outcomes/MSW.php](https://socialwork.iu.edu/OfficeOfEducationAssessment/Assessment_of_Student_Outcomes/MSW.php)

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY IUPUI MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM  
ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES  
FOR 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

COMPETENCY	COMPETENCY BENCHMARK*	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK				
		HEALTH CONCENTRATION	MENTAL HEALTH CONCENTRATION	SCHOOLS CONCENTRATION	CHILDREN, YOUTH FAMILY CONCENTRATION	LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION
Identify as a Professional Social Worker	≥ 5	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Apply Ethical Principles	≥ 5	100%	99.3	100%	97.8%	99.3%
Apply Critical Thinking	≥ 5	100%	99.3	100%	100%	99.3%
Engage Diversity in Practice	≥ 5	100%	99.3	100%	95.7%	99.3%
Advance Human Rights/ Social and Economic Justice	≥ 5	100%	98.5%	100%	95.7%	98.5%
Engage Research Informed Practice/Practice Informed Research	≥ 5	100%	99.3%	100%	100%	98.5%
Apply Human Behavior Knowledge	≥ 5	100%	97.0%	100%	97.8%	99.3%
Engage Policy Practice to Advance Well-Being and Deliver Services	≥ 5	100%	99.3%	100%	95.7%	97.8%
Respond to Practice Contexts	≥ 5	100%	99.3%	100%	97.3%	97.8%
Practice Engagement	≥ 5	100%	99.3%	100%	100%	100%
Practice Assessment	≥ 5	100%	97.7%	100%	100%	99.3%
Practice Intervention	≥ 5	100%	97.7%	100%	97.3%	97.8%
Practice Evaluation	≥ 5	100%	99.3%	100%	93.5%	98.5%

\*Students were evaluated on the following 1-7 rating scale: (1) Inability, (3) beginning-level MSW, (5) new MSW graduate, and (7) highly-experienced post-MSW practitioner. Students were required to achieve a minimum evaluation score of 5 to demonstrate mastery of that particular competency.