

**Indiana University School of Social Work**  
**PRAC Annual Report for the IUPUI MSW Program**  
**2016-2017 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 is being implemented to meet the Council on Social Work Education 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. These new measures will be linked to competencies in both the field and the classroom. For purposes of this report, the current (2008 EPAS) assessments will be used. The reason for this is that the MSW Program will not fully implement the 2015 EPAS until the 2018 – 2019 AY.

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 2016 2017 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 2016-2017 Academic Year, the lowest percentage of students achieving at least a '5' on the 10 competencies was 94.1% for the Child Welfare Concentration for Competency 6: Engage in Research Informed Practice/Practice Informed Research. For the remaining Competencies, the percentage of students across all concentrations that scored at least a '5' ranged from 95.5 – 100.0.

Students across the board 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. In future years, the IU School of Social Work will develop and measure Signature Assignments within coursework that require students to demonstrate competency in all 9 of the 2015 CSWE EPAS. Data collection will include Signature Assignment measures at the course-level, final evaluations from field placements and additional case presentation types of measures.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM – IUPUI**  
**ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: *FIELD FINAL EVALUATIONS***

**LAST COMPLETED ON AUGUST 2017**  
**2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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This form is used to assist the COA in the evaluation of the program's compliance with *Accreditation Standards* stated below.

**4.0.2:** *The program provides summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of its competencies, identifying the percentage of students achieving each benchmark.*

**4.0.4:** *The program uses Form AS 4 (B) and/or Form AS4 (M) to report its most recent assessment outcomes to constituents and the public on its website and routinely up-dates (minimally every 2 years) these postings.*

All Council on Social Work Education programs measure and report student learning outcomes. Students are assessed on their mastery of the competencies which comprise the accreditation standards of the Council on Social Work Education. These competencies are dimensions of social work practice which all social workers are expected to master during their professional training. A measurement benchmark is set by the social work programs for each competency. An assessment score at or above that benchmark is considered by the program to represent mastery of that particular competency.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK – INDIANAPOLIS CAMPUS**  
**FIELD FINAL EVALUATIONS, 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

COMPETENCY	COMPETENCY BENCHMARK*	PERCENT OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK				
		Mental Health and Addictions (N=64)	Children, Youth, and Families (N=22)	School (N=17)	Health (N=48)	Leadership (N=25)
Competency 1: Identify as a Professional Social Worker	5	98.4%	98.5%	100%	100%	100%
Competency 2: Apply Ethical Principles	5	100%	95.5%	100%	100%	100%
Competency 3: Apply Critical Thinking	5	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%
Competency 4: Engage Diversity in Practice	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Competency 5: Advance Human Rights/ Social and Economic Justice	5	99.2%	98.5%	100%	100%	96%
Competency 6: Engage Research Informed Practice/ Practice Informed Research	5	100%	97.7%	94.1%	100%	100%
Competency 7: Human Behavior Knowledge	5	100%	97.7%	100%	100%	96%
Competency 8: Engage Policy Practice to Advance Well-Being and Deliver Services	5	99.5%	95.5%	97.1%	100%	96%
Competency 9: Respond to Practice Contexts	5	100%	95.5%	98%	100%	98%
Competency 10a: Practice Engagement	5	100%	100%	97.1%	100%	100%
Competency 10b: Practice Assessment	5	100%	100%	96.1%	100%	96%
Competency 10c: Practice Intervention	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	97.3%
Competency 10d: Practice Evaluation	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%

\*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 a particular competency.