
CSWE Annual Program Report: 2013-2014
Master of Social Work
School of Behavioral Health
Loma Linda University

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Based on the mission of Loma Linda University and the purposes of social work education, *the mission of the Master of Social Work Program at Loma Linda University is to provide graduate level education that prepares competent, ethical, and compassionate social work professionals who possess the knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills necessary for a life dedicated to whole person care in advanced practice and leadership in behavioral health institutions and agencies.*

The Master of Social Work Program at Loma Linda University seeks to prepare advanced practitioners whose work centers on the improvement of the quality of life for people and the enhancement of human potential for full productive participation in society. With this philosophy at its core, program-learning outcomes serve as the foundation for the development of program and curriculum objectives for the MSW Program.

The Faculty of the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology have identified five broad outcome goals for the Master of Social Work Program. These goals are derived from the shared vision of the LLU mission, the MSW Program mission, and the purposes of social work education. These influences embody five key ideas that were used to derive a set of program learning outcomes that encompass the core competencies of social work education: (a) ethical practice, (b) commitment to social and economic justice, (c) applied research competencies that enhance practice, (d) advanced practice skills, and (e) leadership ability. The program learning outcomes are evident throughout the entire curriculum, all classes, and in the field practicum experience.

Program Learning Outcomes

The Program's philosophical base, mission and goals have directed the development of the following program learning outcomes and indicators:

Foundation Program Outcomes

Program Learning Outcome Number 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge, ethics, values and skills expected of professional social work practitioners. Performance indicators include the ability to:

*1.1 Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.

*1.2 Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.

1.3 Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.

1.4 Apply the knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes.

1.5 Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.

1.6 Analyze and evaluate social policies designed to resolve or prevent social and human problems and formulate recommendations to improve social policies and service delivery systems.

1.7 Use effective communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and/or communities.

*1.8 Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.

1.9 Identify organizational structures and service delivery systems, as well as the mechanisms required for organizational or systems change.

Program Learning Outcome Number 2: Students will be prepared for global practice and develop competency in and respect for all aspects of human diversity, populations at risk and the promotion of social and economic justice. Performance indicators include the ability to:

*2.1 Understand the theories, forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.

*2.2 Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, physical and mental ability, gender, transgender, sexual orientation, color, culture, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, and spirituality.

Program Learning Outcome Number 3: Prepare MSW graduates with the ability to integrate research competencies that equip them for advanced professional practice. Performance indicators include the ability to:

*3.1 Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.

Advanced Program Outcomes

Program Learning Outcome Number 4: Students will develop into social work leaders in both clinical and policy/planning/administration practice for work in behavioral health institutions and agencies. Performance indicators include the ability to:

Specific to the Clinical Practice Concentration

4.1 Demonstrate the ability to independently assess, diagnose and treat clients emphasizing evidence-based practices that reflect advanced social work practice in varying roles, agencies, and institutions.

4.2 Ability to engage in self-critical analysis for the purpose of integrating therapeutic use of self with diverse client populations.

Specific to the Policy, Planning, and Administration Concentration

4.3 Demonstrate understanding of both the conceptual and analytical requirements of policy analysis used in considering human needs and applying policy choices that promote policy solutions.

4.4 Demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills required of social work administrators, including the design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of effective service delivery systems in behavioral health institutions and agencies.

Program Learning Outcome Number 5: Prepare MSW graduates to use curricular and co-curricular experiences for the purpose of transitioning students into professional roles, advanced practice and lifelong learning. Performance indicators include the ability to:

5.1 Demonstrate the ability to engage in cooperative and collaborative intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary practice.

5.2 Understand and prepare for leadership roles in the future.

** Indicates that the objective applies to both the foundation and advanced curriculum.*