

Learning Objectives

1. The student will integrate theoretical knowledge about organizations, management, and leadership into practice and apply related skills in the practicum setting.

Activities:

- Student will attend a forum on nonprofit boards at the St. Louis Public library.
- Student will review materials from previous Urban Strategies board meetings before preparing and distributing an appropriate agenda for the upcoming board meeting.
- Student will organize and plan the quarterly Board of directors meeting.
- Student will apply theories learned in Social Work Course 4940: Leadership and Management in Nonprofit Organizations.

Evaluation:

- Student will meet with her supervisor throughout the planning process, and after the board meeting to discuss the outcome.
- Student will receive oral feedback from her supervisor.

Learning outcomes:

- Student will display leadership skills, and demonstrate an understanding of the kinds of leadership and managerial roles that exist within a nonprofit organization.
- Student will acquire confidence and practice skills in professional oral and written communications.

2. The student will integrate theoretical knowledge about communities into practice and apply related skill in the practicum agency.

Activities:

- Student will thoroughly research Urban Strategies current and past projects, including the human capital plan for a project in Camden, New Jersey.
- Student will compile persuasive and creative materials to present to a representative from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Student will arrange for Urban Strategies' client, Judge Ted Davis, and a representative from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bruno Manno, to visit Urban Strategies and tour its facilities, housing sites, and recently redeveloped schools.
- Student will prepare for the visit by interviewing Urban Strategies' Associate director of Education to learn about the company's philosophy of community schooling.
- Student will read Sandra Moore and Susan Glassman's publication "The Neighborhood and Its School in Community Revitalization".

Summary of Practicum Experience: Briefly describe the agency setting and the population served by the agency. Provide a short overview of your role within that setting.

Urban Strategies, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that works with its development partner, McCormack Baron Salazar, to transform distressed urban-core neighborhoods into safe, stable, self-sustaining communities. Urban Strategies works with community stakeholders and residents to develop a vision and then builds sustainable, neighborhood-based leadership by training local resident leaders. Urban Strategies helps families to live healthy and productive lives by revitalizing physical, social and economic elements of the neighborhood. They believe that healthy families need good schools and safe housing. Urban Strategies also develops, coordinates, and implements community supportive service plans that seek to provide critical social services for low-income residents of these communities. The organization's mission is to lead distressed residential communities and low-income families toward positive social and economic mobility.

As an intern with Urban Strategies, the student will gain hands-on experience working with the company's board of directors, clients, potential donors and development partners. The student will participate in various processes of administration, management, budgeting and planning including:

- organizing Urban Strategies' quarterly Board of Directors meeting
- planning a visit from an important client and a representative from the Annie E. Casey foundation
- researching sources of income, including New Orleans's Make It Right Foundation
- creating a proposal for a grant funding executive training for the president and vice-president
- interacting with diverse groups of people, including individuals with diverse socioeconomic levels, ages, cultures and beliefs.
- developing a broad knowledge base regarding the needs of urban-core communities
- researching the role of schools in developing communities
- reflecting the six core values of the NASW Code of Ethics

By working closely with the agency's president, the student will have the opportunity to observe the collaborative process used to address multiple dimensions of a social problem. At the end of her practicum, the student will possess the analytical and political skills necessary to become a successful community development practitioner.

Evaluation: Student will present any written work to supervisor prior to funder/client meeting for written feedback.

Learning outcomes: Student will develop a broad knowledge base regarding the needs of urban core communities, the role of schools in developing communities and the process of cultivation in philanthropic fund raising.

3. The student will apply knowledge of social and economic policies relevant to the practicum setting.

Activities: Student will become familiar with current local, state and federal policies affecting Urban Strategies, such as the requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI Program and of local public housing authorities.

Evaluation: Student will be observed, supervised and evaluated by her supervisor.

Learning outcomes: Student will demonstrate knowledge of current policies that apply to the management of nonprofit organizations.

4. The student will understand and apply values and ethics relevant to social work practice in the practicum agency.

Activities: Student will review the NASW Code of Ethics and apply the values and ethics she has learned during her Social Work courses in the Masters of Social Work Program that pertain to her practicum setting. This includes focusing on community strengths and empowering community members.

Evaluation: Student will discuss ethical dilemmas that arise with her MSW supervisor, brainstorming and implementing prudent solutions.

Learning outcomes: Student will reflect the six core values of the NASW Code of Ethics, strictly adhering to its high standards of behavior.

5. The student will understand the impact of race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, mental/physical ability and ethnicity on practice and the impact of one's own values and biases affect leadership and management in the practicum setting.

Activities: Student will interact with diverse groups of people, including individuals with diverse socioeconomic levels, ages, cultures and beliefs whose values, lifestyles, and behaviors differ from student.

Evaluation: Student will explore her biases and values, working through issues with her MSW supervisor when necessary.

Learning outcomes: Student will develop a better understanding of the diverse and complex nature of communities and demonstrate competence when working with people who have different backgrounds.

6. The student will learn to evaluate social work practice in organizations and communities. This objective will be completed in conjunction with SW 6400 during the Fall/Winter (circle one) semester of 2009.

7. The student will have reasonable prospects with regard to employment within a community development based nonprofit organization upon graduation in May, 2009.

Activities:

- Student will research different agencies in the St. Louis area that practice macro social work.
- Student will apply for 5 or more positions in the hopes of going on 3 interviews.

Evaluation:

- Task supervisor will offer suggestions for agencies that may provide suitable employment, and provide recommendations as necessary.

Learning outcomes: The student will obtain the skills, knowledge and abilities needed to obtain full-time employment in the field of community development.

Comments:

Distribution of copies: Student
Faculty liaison
Certificate option coordinator (if applicable)
Original on file with the Office of Field Education