

University of Michigan School of Social Work
Technical Standards v04/13/18

Introduction & Purpose:

The University of Michigan School of Social Work (U-M SSW) is preparing students for careers as professional social workers and to be leaders of micro and macro social work practice. Becoming a professional social worker is a gradual process, and involves a commitment to lifelong learning and self-reflection. The U-M SSW is fully committed to supporting and educating students as they prepare to enter the social work profession. Given the ethical responsibilities of professional social work practice to promote and protect the well-being of the clients and communities we serve, the U-M SSW has established Technical Standards for students that not only focus on academic performance but that also emphasize the abilities and attributes essential for the profession.

This document describes the Technical Standards each student must satisfy with or without reasonable accommodations, to enroll in, fully participate in, progress through, and graduate from any U-M SSW program. These requirements apply in the classroom, in field placements, in our school, the university, and in the broader community and societal context.

1. Communication: Students must be willing and able to:

- Communicate effectively, responsibly, and in a timely manner in interactions with other students, faculty, field instructors, staff, clients and client systems, and other professionals they might come in contact within their student role.
- Demonstrate the capacity to use effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills, including the ability to listen objectively and interpret nonverbal communication.
- Communicate clearly through written products at a level appropriate for their stage of education.

2. Intellectual and Cognitive Skills: Students must have the ability to:

- Think critically and apply problem solving skills.
- Acquire knowledge and process experiences to inform practice.
- Demonstrate a willingness to continually reflect on their own values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, biases, current and past experiences, and consider how these factors affect their thinking, behavior, interactions and relationships.
- Take responsibility for their own actions and consider the impact of these actions on others.
- Be punctual and dependable, prioritize responsibilities, manage time, and attend class and field in accordance with relevant policy.
- Observe deadlines, and conscientiously arrange and keep appointments.
- Navigate transportation to attend field and classroom requirements.
- Integrate new and changing information obtained from the classroom and practice environment.
- Accept and integrate into practice constructive feedback received in both the classroom and field settings.

3. Emotional and Behavioral Readiness: Students must be willing and able to:

- Seek appropriate help to insure that personal issues do not interfere with professional and academic performance.

- Demonstrate the ability to tolerate demanding workloads, adapt to changing environments and situations.
- Maintain respectful relationships with peers, faculty, field instructors, staff, clients and client systems, and other professionals.
- Show the capacity to successfully complete required field practicum hours and demonstrate positive progress in the required social work competencies (see the following link https://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS_Web_FINAL.pdf.aspx) in the field and classroom settings.

A student can participate in the graduate social work program so long as they are able to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who would like to request reasonable accommodations to assist them in meeting these standards should contact: UM Services for Students with Disabilities located at G-664 Haven Hall 505 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045. The contact information options: (734) 763-3000; (734) 615-4461 (TDD); (734) 619-6661 (VP); (734) 936-3947 and be email at ssdoffice@umich.edu. In addition, please contact the Associate Dean for Educational Programs Office, if you are having difficulty in meeting the standards while enrolled in the program: (734) 764-5340 or ssw.adedpgm@umich.edu.

By my signature, I certify that I have read and understand the University of Michigan School of Social Work Technical Standards, and that I am committed to demonstrating all of the skills and abilities detailed in the policy.

Signature

Date

Printed Name