Lehman College

GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

# M.S.W. Student Handbook

# & Practicum Education Manual



LEHMAN COLLEGE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

CARMAN HALL, ROOM B18

250 BEDFORD PARK BOULEVARD WEST

BRONX, NEW YORK 10468-1589 www.lehman.cuny.edu

Revised Fall 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF POSSIBLE CHANGES

The City University of New York reserves the right, because of changing conditions, to make modifications of any nature in the academic programs and requirements of the University and its constituent colleges without notice. Tuition and fees set forth in this publication are similarly subject to change by the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York. The University regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**MSW STUDENT HANDBOOK and PRACTICUM EDUCATION MANUAL**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## SECTION I: Overview

Message from Faculty and Staff of the Social Work Department

Introduction, Program Overview, & Contact Information

Mission of Lehman College

Mission of the MSW Program

Goals of the MSW Program

Antiracism Statement

**SECTION II: MSW Student Handbook**

## Part 1: DESCRIPTION OF TRACKS

Description of Tracks

Curriculum by Track

Track A: 2-Year Full-time

Track C: Advanced Standing Program

Track D: 3-Year Extended Program

## Part 2: ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Requirements for Admission

Admission Requirements for All Tracks

Admission Requirements for Track C, Advanced Standing

Additional Admissions Policies

Policy on Selection of Track and Class Schedules

Policy on Transfer of Credits to the MSW Program

Policy on Life Experience Credit

Policy on Non-Matriculated Status

Admissions Procedures

## Part 3: ACADEMIC, CONTINUATION AND CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Grade Appeals, Probation, and Continuation Criteria

Grade Appeals Procedures

Academic Probation

Continuation in the M.S.W. Program

G.P.A. Requirement for Graduation

Classroom Policies and Procedures including Use of AI

Online Courses and Netiquette

Policies Regarding Safety including Bullying, Workplace, and Sexual Harassment

Policy Regarding Use of Recording Devices in Classes

Rules and Regulations on Campus Conduct; College Policies, Procedures and Regulations; and CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity

Social Work Department Retention Requirements and Procedures for Review and Termination for Violation of Professional Behavior

Purpose of the Retention and Review Committee

Composition of the Retention and Review Committee

Procedure for Review

Appeals Procedure

## Part 4: ADVISEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Role of the MSW Graduate Advisor

Role of the MSW Faculty Advisor

Role of the Office of the Graduate Studies Advisor

## Part 5: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND IN THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAM AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Social Work Department Meetings

Social Work Department Advisory Committee

Interview of Faculty Applicants

Social Work Club

Student Evaluation of Courses, Practicum, and the Program

## Part 6: THE MSW CURRICULUM

Foundation Year Curriculum

Competencies and Practice Behaviors of the Foundation Year

Advanced Year Curriculum

Conceptualization of Advanced Generalist Practice Competencies and Practice Behaviors of the Advanced Year

Organization of the Curriculum

Optional Certification

## Part 7: COLLEGE RESOURCES

APEX

Career Counseling

Childcare Center

Counseling Center

Student Disability Services

Information Technology Center

Instructional Support Services Programs (ISSP)

Library

MSW Academic Support Center

Parking

Health Center

Student Life

Alumni Activities

**Part 8: ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR STUDENTS**

Training for Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment

**SECTION III: Practicum Education Manual**

## Part 1: OVERVIEW

Practicum Education Overview

Contact Information

## Part 2: THE STUDENT IN THE PRACTICUM AGENCY

Assignment of Students to Practicum Agencies

MSW Practicum Educational Plan

Student Responsibilities

## Part 3: THE PRACTICUM AGENCY AND THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR

Criteria for Selection of Practicum Agencies

Criteria for Employment-Based Placements

Criteria for Practicum Instructors

Task Supervision

Ongoing Professional Opportunities for Practicum Instructors

Process Recordings

Supervisory Agendas

Classroom Assignments Related to Practicum Placement

Maintaining Practicum Liaison Contacts

Guidelines for Home and Community Visits

CUNY-Agency Affiliation Agreements

The Fieldwork Seminar and the Faculty Advisor

## Part 4: EVALUATIONS

Practicum Instructors’ Evaluation of Students’ Performance

Grading Procedures

Students’ Evaluation of Practicum Agencies

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1. About the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) NASW Code of Ethics

Appendix 2. Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles

International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and

International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)

Appendix 3. Council on Social Work Education 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS)

Appendix 4. Lehman College/CUNY Policies

Appendix 5. Link to Practicum Education Documents

**SECTION I: Overview**

## Message from Faculty and Staff of the Social Work Department

The faculty and staff of the Social Work Department at Lehman College welcome you to our

MSW Program and welcome our Practicum Instructors and Educational Coordinators to Practicum Education. This Handbook provides information students will need as they proceed through the Program. It should be read carefully and will be discussed in classes and in Practicum. The Handbook contains essential information about the policies, procedures, curriculum, governance, and resources that will guide you through the Program.

The Appendix to this Handbook includes important links to:

* The Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). It will be discussed at length in classes and in Practicum Education. The Code of Ethics is intended to guide the everyday professional conduct of social workers. Compliance with professional behavior, as described in the NASW Code of Ethics, is required of all social workers and social work students. Also included is a link to the Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), to be used as applicable.

* The 2015 Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. CSWE establishes standards that guide undergraduate and graduate social work education, thereby ensuring high quality professional education.

* Lehman College and City University of New York (CUNY) policies and procedures.

* Retention documents used by the Retention and Review Committee, including the Compliance Plan and Agreement and the Practicum Education Plan and Agreement. Review and appeals procedures of the Lehman College MSW Program are included in the Student Handbook and the Practicum Education Manual sections.

* Practicum Education documents, including the Application for Practicum, MSW Practicum Education Plan, Process Recording Form, and Practicum Instructors’ Evaluation forms.

The Social Work Department is in the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing. The Social Work Department works cooperatively with and contributes to the social work community in the Bronx and other boroughs and neighboring areas.

The faculty and staff wish you a very productive and successful educational experience in the MSW Program at Lehman College.

## Program Overview

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at Lehman College prepares social workers to assume positions of leadership in urban public and voluntary sector social service agencies and organizations. All students in the program complete an Advanced Generalist curriculum and develop social work skills in direct practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities, as well as skills in supervision, administration, research, and policy practice. The MSW program is registered with the New York State Education Department and is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Students who earn their MSW degree will have completed all requirements and be eligible to take the NYS licensing exam for the Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW). Students who complete the two-year curriculum and earn their MSW degree will have met the educational requirements for the New York State licensing exam for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Advanced Standing students, Track C, will need to take one additional course designated as having clinical content. The additional course can also be taken at another accredited MSW Program after graduation from Lehman. However, if the student chooses to take the course at another institution, the student needs to ensure that the elective course has been approved by the New York State Department of Education for clinical content. All electives in Lehman College's MSW

Program have been approved for clinical content. Please note that the New York State Education Department has established post-graduate clinical supervision requirements to be eligible to take the LCSW exam; those requirements must be met after graduation and passing the LMSW exam.

The Department of Social Work has been designated by the New York State Office of

Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) as an Education and Training Provider for MSW students who wish to obtain credentialing as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

**Contact Information:**

Brenda Williams-Gray, D.S.W., L.M.S.W., Chair

Professor of Social Work

Carman Hall, B-18

718.960.7862 / brenda.williams-gray@lehman.cuny.edu

Joy P. Greenberg, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., MSW Program Director

Professor of Social Work

Carman Hall, B-18

718.960.8774 / joy.greenberg@lehman.cuny.edu

Crystal L. George, M.Phil., L.M.S.W., Graduate Advisor

Professor of Social Work

Carman Hall, B-18

718.960.8964 / Crystal.George@lehman.cuny.edu

## Mission of Lehman College

Our program embodies both the “Mission Statement” and the “Values Statement” of Lehman College; as stated in the Lehman College Graduate Bulletin. The “Mission Statement” of the College lays the foundation for the mission of our programs:

*Lehman College, an urban public institution and economic and cultural catalyst in the Bronx, is a national engine for social mobility and a vibrant center of discovery and creative work, providing a transformative educational experience while advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice.*

(Lehman College Graduate Bulletin/Catalog, online, 2025-26)

The “Values Statement” of the College articulates the values underpinning our Social Work programs:

*Lehman College is committed to providing the highest quality education in a caring and supportive environment where respect, integrity, inquiry, creativity, and diversity contribute to individual achievement and the transformation of lives and communities.* (Lehman College Graduate Bulletin, online, 2025-26)

## Mission of the MSW Program

The mission of our MSW Program is consistent with the profession’s purpose and core values. It derives from the mission and values of the College and the context of the community served:

 *The Lehman College Social Work Department, situated in the Bronx, provides advanced generalist graduate social work students the opportunity to develop the values, knowledge, and skills to advance social justice in metropolitan communities. Our key values include an unwavering anti-racist platform, which stems from cultural humility and a respect for intersectionality, inclusion, and equity.*

*We prepare social workers who will practice, work and lead in complex environments within a trauma-informed and strengths-based perspective. Students promote critical, evidence-informed social work interventions in direct practice, social action, policy advocacy and organizational leadership in partnership with the entire community and especially for those living in the margins, unseen, and unheard.*

*Our vision is one in which our advanced generalist trained students will integrate into and lead private, public, and nonprofit organizations in such a manner as will change the world in which we live into a more equitable reality where race, ethnicity, gender, identity, differing abilities, religious affiliation, age, immigration status, and sexuality are seen, but do not limit anyone’s possibilities.*

## Mission Goals of the MSW Program

The goals of the graduate Social Work Program derive from the mission of the program. Goals are focused on creating opportunities for learning that will prepare our graduates to assume leadership positions in agency-based practice in the complex urban environment in which we are located. The goals emphasize the importance of utilizing scientific inquiry while developing knowledge, core social work values, and skills that will enable graduates to provide ethical and competent services to the many diverse groups in our urban environment, and to assume leadership roles in the community and in the profession.

Specifically, the goals of the program are to:

1. Provide a curriculum for students, that builds on a liberal arts and interdisciplinary knowledge base and incorporates and reflects content based on current research;

1. Provide students with an Advanced Generalist Practice curriculum that is grounded in the profession’s history, purposes, and philosophy, and is based on a body of knowledge, core values, and skills of the profession;

1. Educate students for competent, effective, and ethical advanced professional practice based on critical thinking and aimed at the promotion of well-being and enhanced functioning of individuals and communities, with particular attention to needs, potentials, and resources of clients and organizational systems in our complex urban environment;

1. Respond to the needs of urban communities such as the Bronx by preparing graduates to assume leadership positions in urban social service agencies and organizations and in the development of service delivery systems to promote policies, services, programs, and allocation of resources, and alleviate injustices such as poverty, discrimination, and social and economic oppression;

1. Educate students for practice with a respect for human rights and diversity as they promote the well-being and enhance the functioning of urban populations, with special attention to clients’ age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation;

1. Utilize a range of current technologies to enhance learning;

1. Contribute to the development of leadership within the profession, to social work knowledge, and to the improvement of the effectiveness of social work practice, policies, and programs by creating an academic and professional context that furthers professional identification, participation, and intellectual and scientific inquiry, and promoting and supporting students, faculty, and practitioners in conducting and disseminating research.
2. Address systemic racism and structural oppression wherever it prohibits individual opportunity and community well-being.

### **Antiracism Statement**

The Social Work Department is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that actively opposes racism in all forms. We strive to create a learning space where diversity is valued and where every individual feels respected and supported. This commitment to antiracism is integral to our educational practices, curriculum, and community engagement. Students are encouraged to actively participate in cultivating an antiracist culture both within the department and in their broader communities.

**SECTION II: MSW Student Handbook**

## Part 1: DESCRIPTION OF TRACKS

Three tracks are offered in the MSW Program. The curriculum is the same for all tracks, except for Advanced Standing, which includes only the advanced level courses offered in the MSW Program.

* Track A: 2-year full-time program, 65 credits
* Track C: Advanced standing program, 34 credits, for qualified graduates of baccalaureate social work programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
* Track D: 3-year extended program, 65 credits

## Track A: 2-Year Full-time Program

Year One: Full-time student status

* Classes meet 2 evenings per week
* Practicum 3 full days, at least 2 of which are weekdays, (21 hours) per week: 600 hours each academic year
* A full day of practicum is 7 hours

Year Two: Full-time student status

* Classes meet 2 evenings per week
* Practicum 3 full days, at least 2 of which are weekdays, (21 hours) per week: 600 hours each academic year
* A full day of practicum is 7 hours

## Track C: 1-Year Advanced Standing Program

Students enter the second-year curriculum and are full-time students.

* Classes meet 2 evenings per week
* Practicum 3 full days, at least 2 of which are weekdays, (21 hours) per week: 600 hours in the academic year
* A full day of practicum is 7 hours

## Track D: 3-Year Extended Program

Year One: Part-time student status

* Classes meet 2 evenings per week

Year Two: Part-time student status

* Classes meet 1 evening per week
* Practicum 2 full days, at least 1 of which is a weekday, (15 hours) per week: 600 hours each academic year
* A full day of practicum is 7.5 hours

Year Three: Full-time student status

* Classes meet 2 evenings per week
* Practicum 2 full days, at least 1 of which is a weekday, (15 hours) per week: 600 hours each academic year
* A full day of practicum is 7.5 hours

**Curriculum by Track**

## Track A: 2-Year Full-time

YEAR ONE fall semester

SWK 605..................Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)

SWK 611..................Generalist Social Work Practice I (3 credits)

SWK 639..................Social Welfare Institutions and Programs (3 credits)

\*SWK 671.................Practicum and Seminar I (5 credits)

YEAR ONE spring semester

SWK 606..................Human Diversity and the Social Environment (3 credits)

SWK 612..................Generalist Social Work Practice II (3 credits)

SWK 643..................Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3 credits)

SWK 646..................Social Work Research I (3 credits)

\*SWK 672................. Practicum and Seminar II (5 credits)

YEAR TWO fall semester

SWK 707....................Understanding Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis (3 credits)

SWK 713...................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment I (3 credits)

SWK 727...................Supervision in Agency-Based Practice (3 credits)

SWK 747...................Social Work Research II (3 credits)

\*SWK 773.................. Practicum and Seminar III (5 credits)

YEAR TWO spring semester

SWK 714...................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment II (3 credits)

SWK 729...................Administration in Urban Agencies (3 credits)

SWK 745...................Social Welfare Policy Practice (3 credits)

\*SWK 774.................. Practicum and Seminar IV (5 credits)

SWK 680-694............Special Topics in Social Work or Social Work Elective (3 credits)

\*Students are required to complete 3 full days per week of practicum placement each semester.

**Track C: Advanced Standing Program**

Fall semester

SWK 707...................Understanding Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis (3 credits)

SWK 713...................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment I (3 credits)

SWK 727...................Supervision in Agency-Based Practice (3 credits)

SWK 747...................Social Work Research II (3 credits)

SWK 773................... Practicum and Seminar III (5 credits)

Spring Semester

SWK 714....................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment II (3 credits)

SWK 729....................Administration in Urban Agencies (3 credits)

SWK 745....................Social Welfare Policy Practice (3 credits)

\*SWK 774................... Practicum and Seminar IV (5 credits)

SWK 680-694…….…Special Topics in Social Work or Social Work Elective (3 credits)

\*Students are required to complete 3 full days of practicum placement per week each semester.

## Track D: 3-Year Extended Program

Students complete the first-year curriculum in two years.

The second-year curriculum is on a full-time basis.

YEAR ONE fall semester

SWK 605..................Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)

SWK 639..................Social Welfare Institutions and Programs (3 credits)

SWK 680-694………Special Topics in Social Work or Social Work Elective (3 credits)

YEAR ONE spring semester

SWK 606..................Human Diversity and the Social Environment (3 credits)

SWK 643..................Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3 credits)

SWK 646..................Social Work Research I (3 credits)

YEAR TWO fall semester

SWK 611..................Generalist Social Work Practice I (3 credits)

\*SWK 673.................Extended Practicum and Seminar I (4 credits)

YEAR TWO spring semester

SWK 612...................Generalist Social Work Practice II (3 credits)

\*SWK 674................. Extended Practicum and Seminar II (5 credits)

YEAR TWO summer semester

\*SWK 675……………Extended Practicum and Seminar III (1 credit)

YEAR THREE fall semester

SWK 707...................Understanding Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis (3 credits)

SWK 713...................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment I (3 credits)

SWK 727...................Supervision in Agency-Based Practice (3 credits)

\*SWK 775.................Extended Practicum and Seminar IV (4 credits)

YEAR THREE spring semester

SWK 714...................Advanced Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment II (3 credits)

SWK 729...................Administration in Urban Agencies (3 credits)

SWK 745...................Social Welfare Policy Practice (3 credits)

\*SWK 776..................Extended Practicum and Seminar V (5 credits)

YEAR THREE summer semester

\*SWK 777……………Extended Practicum and Seminar VI (1 credit)

\*Students are required to complete 2 full days of practicum placement per week each semester in both their Second and Third Years in the Program.

**Part 2: ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Requirements for Admission**

## Admission Requirements for all Tracks

* Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, including 45 liberal arts credits;
* Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0;
* Electronic application to the program, including a personal statement that addresses the student’s preparation for the program, career goals and commitment to social work values;
* Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which should be from college faculty and/or professional supervisors in fields related to social work. Letters should address applicant’s suitability for the social work profession and preparedness to enter a rigorous academic program;
* Resume;

## Additional Admission Requirements for Track C, Advanced Standing Program

In addition to the above requirements, since candidates enter in the advanced year, they must:

* Have completed a bachelor's degree with a social work major from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
* Have attained a minimum 3.2 cumulative index in the major;
* Include, among the three recommendations, one from the most recent Faculty Advisor or from the Program Director of the baccalaureate social work program, and another recommendation from a practicum instructor or agency supervisor;
* Complete additional essay questions that focus on a practice example from the Practicum.

**Admissions Policies**

## Policy on Selection of Track and Class Schedules

Students accepted into the MSW Program remain in the same Track (A, C, or D) throughout their time in the Program. All MSW courses require permission from the MSW Advisor to register.

## Policy on Transfer of Credits to the MSW Program

The MSW Program at Lehman College does not accept transfer credits, except the 3-credit elective with approval of the Social Work Graduate Advisor. This policy differs from and takes precedence over the College policy on transfer of graduate credits.

## Policy on Life Experience Credit

The program does not grant social work course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

**Policy on Non-Matriculated Students**

All students in the MSW Program must be matriculated in Track A, C, or D.

## Admissions Procedures

Applications are reviewed by the MSW Program Director, the MSW Admissions Director, and multiple faculty readers. Applications are evaluated holistically on:

1. Academic history;
2. Quality of personal statement, including degree of self-awareness and understanding of the social work profession, and written communication skills;
3. References;

 d) Interpersonal skills and professional behavior.

**Part 3: ACADEMIC, CONTINUATION, AND CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Grade Appeals, Probation, and Continuation Criteria**

## Grade Appeals Procedures

As stated in the current online Lehman College Graduate Bulletin:

*A graduate student dissatisfied with his/her course grade should first discuss the situation with the instructor who assigned the grade. If the student is still not satisfied that the grade is fair, he/she should then consult the Graduate Program Advisor for the department in which the course was offered. The Graduate Program Advisor will then attempt to resolve the disagreement.*

*If the student is still dissatisfied, or if the program Advisor was the instructor who assigned the grade originally, the student should appeal in writing to the department chair. If the chair is the instructor of the course in question, the senior member of the department Personnel and Budget Committee will act for the chair.*

*The chair will appoint a Graduate Grade Appeal Committee consisting of three faculty members from the department, all of whom have taught graduate courses. The Graduate Program Advisor may not serve on this committee. The committee will examine all materials relevant to the appeal, submitted by both the instructor and the student, and will prepare a written report of its findings, either sustaining the original grade or recommending a change.*

*The chair will notify the student, the instructor, and the Office of Graduate Studies of the Committee's decision. If the Committee recommends a grade change, the chair will forward a grade change form reflecting the decision. Grade appeals must be initiated in the semester following the entry of a permanent grade, and no grades can be changed after the date of graduation. The decision of the Graduate Grade Appeal Committee is binding on all parties.*

## Academic Probation

As per the Lehman College Graduate Bulletin, the lowest passing grade is a C. Graduate student whose G.P.A. falls between 2.7 and 3.0 will be placed on academic probation.

Students on academic probation must raise their G.P.A. to 3.0 within the next semester to continue in the MSW program. Graduate students whose G.P.A. remains below 3.0 at the end of the probationary semester will be allowed to continue in the MSW program only upon successful appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee.

## Continuation in the MSW Program

Graduate students whose G.P.A. falls below 2.7 will not be eligible for probation and will not be permitted to continue in the MSW program. These students may only continue in the MSW program upon successful appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who receive less than a C in Practicum and Seminar (SWK 671, 672, 673, 674, 675,773, 774, 775, 776, 777) will be dismissed and may only continue in the MSW program upon successful appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who receive a failing grade in a course may not continue in any course for which the failed course is a prerequisite. They may enroll in the class for which they received the failing grade in the semester in which it is offered if their G.P.A. meets the criteria for probation and continuation.

## G.P.A. Requirement for Graduation

According to the current online Lehman College Graduate Bulletin:

*To be awarded a master's degree, a graduate student must finish his/her program with a cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.0 (B) or higher.*

**Classroom Policies and Procedures including Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

### **Online Courses and Netiquette**

In our online courses, maintaining a respectful and professional environment is crucial. Students are expected to engage in discussions and activities with the same level of decorum as they would in a face-to-face setting. This includes using respectful language, being mindful of tone, and adhering to the guidelines set forth by the instructor. Professional behavior online ensures a positive learning experience for everyone involved.

### **Camera Use Guidance for Online and Hybrid Courses**

CUNY has established guidelines regarding the use of cameras in online and hybrid courses:

* **Camera Requirement**: Faculty may require students to turn on their cameras during class periods or for remote testing to enhance engagement, social connection, accountability, and collaboration. The necessity of camera use will be communicated in CUNYfirst for all online and hybrid courses and must be clearly stated in the course syllabus. Instructors will also discuss this requirement on the first day of class.
* **Remote Instruction Pivot**: If a class is temporarily shifted to remote instruction, faculty may encourage but not require camera use for purposes other than testing unless this requirement is clearly outlined in the syllabus and discussed on the first day of class.
* **Financial Aid and Camera Use**: Students can meet the engagement criteria for Title IV financial aid without using a live camera by participating in online discussions, engaging in academic activities, or contacting the instructor with course-related questions.

Paraphrased from communication sent by Wendy F. Hensel, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost (June 20, 2024). Link to policy: [**https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/academics/faculty-affairs/Camera-Use-Guidance-for-Online-and-Hybrid-Courses\_FINAL-JUNE-20-2024.pdf**](https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/academics/faculty-affairs/Camera-Use-Guidance-for-Online-and-Hybrid-Courses_FINAL-JUNE-20-2024.pdf)

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in coursework is governed by specific guidelines. The instructor will provide detailed instructions on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools may or may not be used for assignments. Students must adhere to these guidelines to ensure compliance with academic integrity policies.

**CUNY Academic Integrity Policy**:

* **Prohibited Actions**: Copying work from another person, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system, or allowing others to copy work submitted for credit is prohibited. This includes uploading assignments or exams to unauthorized platforms. Any use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools must align with the usage policy specified in the course syllabus or as communicated by the instructor.
* **Plagiarism**: Plagiarism, including copying another person’s or Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool’s words or images without proper citation, is strictly prohibited. Examples of acceptable Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool citation can be found in the APA Style guidelines.

For more details, refer to the [CUNY Academic Integrity Policy](https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/academic-integrity-policy/) and [Lehman College Academic Integrity Policy](https://lehman-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/academic-services-and-policies/academic-integrity).

OpenAI. (2024). *Policy generated with the assistance of ChatGPT (Aug 28 version)* [Large language model]. Retrieved from <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

**Policies Regarding Safety including Bullying, Workplace, and Sexual Harassment**

### **Overview**

The Social Work Department is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment free from bullying, microaggressions, and workplace harassment. This policy outlines the steps to address concerns related to these issues, ensuring alignment with CUNY’s policies on sexual harassment and equal opportunity.

**Bullying, Workplace, and Sexual Harassment**

The Social Work Department adheres to CUNY’s policy on sexual harassment and workplace harassment. Any internal concerns regarding these issues will be processed in accordance with CUNY guidelines:

* [CUNY Policy on Sexual Harassment](https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/title-ix/?post_type=campus_profile&p=151)
* [CUNY Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/equal-opportunity-and-non-discrimination-policy/)

### **Addressing Microaggressions in Practicum Placement**

#### **Student Identification and Initial Discussion**

* **Student Identification**: If a student experiences or identifies a microaggression, they should promptly discuss the concern with their seminar professor.
* **Initial Exploration**: The seminar professor listens, asks questions, and explores the context of the concern with the student.

#### **Program-Specific Protocols**

* **Undergraduate Program**:
	+ The seminar professor informs the Assistant Director of Practicum Education and keeps the Undergraduate Program Director and Undergraduate Program Coordinator informed.
* **Graduate Program**:
	+ The seminar professor informs the MSW Graduate Advisor, MSW Program Director, and Director of Practicum Education.

#### **Coaching and Resolution Process**

* **Student-Professor Discussion**: The professor coaches the student on how to address the issue with the practicum instructor, emphasizing the importance of learning to navigate such challenges for future professional scenarios.
* **Meeting with Practicum Instructor**: The student meets with the practicum instructor to discuss the concern. The department continues to support the student throughout this process.
* **Follow-Up**: If the student is satisfied with the outcome, no further action is needed. If the issue persists, a joint meeting with the student, practicum instructor, and seminar professor is arranged.
* **Escalation**: If the problem remains unresolved, a meeting involving the student, practicum instructor, seminar professor, and program administrators will be held.
* **Alternative Placement**: If a resolution is not possible, the student may be moved to a new practicum placement.

### **Flexibility in Process**

While the above steps serve as a guideline, the Social Work Department reserves the right to adjust the order of these steps as needed to best address the situation.

### **Addressing Workplace Harassment**

For issues related to workplace harassment within a practicum site, the Social Work Department will defer to CUNY’s guidelines and the specific agency’s policy.

## Policy Regarding Use of Recording Devices in Classes

Due to the confidential nature of classroom discussions, recording in classes is not allowed. Any student who has registered with the Office of Student Disability Services and has a documented need for this accommodation must discuss the need for this accommodation with the classroom instructor. In such cases there must be an agreement about confidentiality of the classroom material.

Cellular telephones must be turned off during classes and during exams.

## Rules and Regulations on Campus Conduct; College Policies, Procedures and Regulations; and CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity

Students who violate rules and regulations on Campus Conduct; College Policies, Procedures, and Regulations; or the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, will be subject to due process guidelines of the Board of Trustees Bylaws, as they appear in the Lehman College Graduate Bulletin and in the Appendix of this Handbook. In situations related to conduct or activity encompassed by the College and CUNY Rules and Regulations, the classroom instructor will refer the situation to the Vice-President for Student Affairs at the College, where the matter will be handled in accordance with the CUNY Rules and Regulations on Campus Conduct, Student Disciplinary Procedures, pursuant to Article 15 of the Board of Trustees Bylaws, of the online 2012-2015 Lehman College Graduate Bulletin.

## Social Work Department Retention Requirements and Procedures for Review and Termination for Violation of Professional Behavior

All students in the Social Work Program are required to demonstrate professional behavior consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics. This applies to behavior in the classroom, in practicum, in college-related activities, and on the Lehman College campus. Failure to do so supersedes any grade earned in a Social Work course and supersedes a student's current standing in the Social Work Program. Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics may result in dismissal from the MSW Program.

The faculty of the MSW Program is aware that becoming a professional social worker is a complex process requiring the student to make commitments to the mission of the profession; to the policies of practicum agencies; to personal growth and development, including exploration of one’s feelings as they pertain to issues of professionalism, diversity, and social justice; and to adhering to the NASW Code of Ethics. While most students pursuing social work education will be successful in these areas, there are situations that arise that require the attention of the Retention and Review Committee of the MSW Program.

## Purpose of the Retention and Review Committee

The Retention and Review Committee reviews situations that are of a professional, rather than academic nature, or that involve conduct contrary to the rules and regulations of the College and University addressed above. The Retention and Review Committee of the MSW Program reviews situations that have to do with violations of professional or ethical conduct. The Committee can recommend the dismissal of a student from the MSW Program. Students have the right to appeal this decision as described below under Appeals Procedure.

## Composition of the Retention and Review Committee

The Social Work Department Chair will convene the Retention and Review Committee, as needed. It should be comprised of three full-time faculty members within the Social Work Department. The Chair of the Social Work Department will not serve on the Committee. The Social Work Department Chair will designate one of the three faculty members to serve as Committee Chair. Below is the procedure for review.

## Procedure for Review

1. The student, with the classroom instructor, tries to resolve any issues before being referred for review by the Retention and Review Committee.

1. At any point during the discussions referred to in number one, above, the student or the classroom instructor may invite the student’s faculty advisor and, in the case of an issue related to Practicum, the Director of Practicum Education, to facilitate a resolution of the issues. If the classroom instructor is also the student’s faculty advisor or is also the Director of Practicum Education, the student may request another full-time faculty member of the MSW Program to attend. If the issue is related to a classroom situation, a Compliance Plan and Agreement will be completed. If the issue is related to Practicum, a Practicum Education Plan and Agreement will be completed. This paperwork must be completed with the student before they are referred to the Retention and Review Committee unless the situation warrants immediate and direct referral to the Committee.

1. If the student does not comply with the steps outlined in the Compliance Plan and Agreement or the Practicum Education Plan and Agreement, the student will be referred for review by the Retention and Review Committee.

1. The Social Work Department Chair will inform the student that he or she will hear from the Committee Chair to discuss a mutually convenient time for the Review and Retention Committee meeting and provide the student with the written procedure for the review and appeal, as found below.

1. The Social Work Department Chair will contact the student and invite the student to provide supporting documents to be shared with the Retention and Review Committee.

1. The Chair of the Social Work Department will invite the following individuals to attend and participate in the discussion at the review meeting:
	1. The student’s current faculty advisor (if relevant)
	2. An advocate of the student’s choosing (if relevant)
	3. The Director of Practicum Education (if relevant)

1. Upon completion of the Committee’s review and deliberation, Committee members will vote, and the Chair of the Committee will submit, in writing, the determination of the Committee to the Social Work Department Chair who informs the student and the classroom instructor. The Committee can recommend whether to dismiss the student from the program, to uphold the student’s grade, or to change it. In order to ensure timeliness of action, the Committee will not exceed a deliberation period of 14 calendar days. The Committee Chair places supporting documents and a copy of the determination in the student’s file.

## Appeals Procedure

The student has five school days to submit a written appeal of the Committee’s decision to the Department Chair and the Office of Graduate Studies, where the appeal will be heard. The decision of the Office of Graduate Studies will be final.

Note: If the situation relates to conduct or activity encompassed by the CUNY Rules and

Regulations on Campus Conduct, the classroom instructor will refer the situation to the Vice- President of Student Affairs at the College, where the matter will be handled in accordance with the CUNY Rules and Regulations on Campus Conduct, Student Disciplinary Procedures, pursuant to Article 15 of the Board of Trustees Bylaws, included in the Appendix of the Lehman College Graduate Bulletin.

## Part 4: ADVISEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There are two levels of advisement within the MSW program, and there is advisement by the college’s Office of Graduate Studies:

## Role of the MSW Graduate Advisor

The MSW Graduate Advisor provides professional advisement to help students maximize their potential as graduate social work students and graduate social workers. The Graduate Advisor performs the following:

* assists with registration and program planning
* serves as Faculty Advisor to Track D students during their first year in the Program
* meets with students who are experiencing academic difficulties that may jeopardize their continuation in the Program
* works closely with the College Graduate Advisor if a student is placed on academic probation
* meets with individual students for consultation around planning for employment and post-graduate education.

Note: Students are encouraged to contact the MSW Graduate Advisor as early in the semester as possible if circumstances arise that make it difficult for them to continue in the Program.

## Role of the MSW Faculty Advisor

MSW Faculty Advisors are faculty members teaching Fieldwork and Fieldwork Seminar I-IV (SWK 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777). Faculty Advisors serve as liaisons between students and the professional community including assisting the student to address conflict in practicum and provide academic advisement for those students in their sections of Fieldwork and Fieldwork Seminar. Students remain in the same section of Fieldwork and Fieldwork Seminar for the two or three semesters of each academic year. Faculty Advisors guide students through the course of study for the year, including discussion of issues related to academic performance, and write letters of reference for their advisees. As noted in the section above, the MSW Graduate Advisor serves as Faculty Advisor to Track D students during their first year in the Program.

## Role of the Graduate Studies Advisor

The College’s Graduate Studies Advisor, who supervises the Office of Graduate Studies, is available to clarify policies and procedures related to graduate studies and helps students through the appeals process if they do not meet the grade point average requirements.

## Part 5: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND IN THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAM AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Students play an important role in decision-making and in the formulation of policies of the Social Work Department. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in college-wide student government activities. Students are represented in the following Departmental committees and meetings:

## Social Work Department Meetings

Social Work Department meetings are held monthly to discuss student matters, policies, procedures, curriculum, programmatic and professional issues. All full-time Social Work faculty members, as well as the Director and Assistant Director of Practicum Education, the MSW Admissions Director, and the Undergraduate Program Coordinator are in attendance. Student representatives are invited to attend meetings concerned with policies, procedures, curriculum, and program issues.

## Social Work Department Advisory Committee

The function of the Advisory Committee is to address policy and program issues that bridge the graduate and undergraduate Lehman Social Work Programs with educational and professional institutions in the community. The Advisory Committee meets every Spring semester and may meet at other times as needed. The Social Work Advisory Committee includes student representatives and representatives from:

* social welfare agencies in the public and private sectors
* public and private social work education programs
* professional and government organizations
* undergraduate and graduate students currently in the Lehman College Social Work Programs
* alumnae/i of the undergraduate and graduate Social Work Programs
* faculty and staff of the Social Work Department
* College faculty and administration

## Interviews of Faculty Applicants

Student representatives are also invited to interviews of candidates for faculty positions. Students’ suggestions are highly valued.

## Social Work Club

The Social Work Club serves as a conduit for exchange of ideas between students and faculty. The Social Work Club has a Faculty Advisor; however, it is self-governed. Student representatives participate in various committees including:

* Social Work Department Faculty and Administrative Staff Meetings
* Faculty Search Committee
* Departmental Personnel and Budget Committee
* Social Work Department Advisory Committee
* Annual Evaluation of Retention and Review Procedures
* Common Day Committee
* Celebration Committee
* Alumni Activities

The Social Work Club serves as a bridge between graduate and undergraduate students' needs and interests, and sponsors activities. These may include activities such as sponsoring guest speakers and conferences; holiday toy drives; fundraisers, such as bake sales to raise money for special projects; and other activities.

Student representatives also consult with the MSW Program Director and the Graduate Advisor about programmatic issues.

In addition to the Social Work Club, students are encouraged to form campus-based clubs reflecting their interests, in accordance with the College policies on Extracurricular Activities and Programs, or to join existing clubs on the campus.

## Student Evaluation of Courses, Practicum, and the Program

Evaluation instruments are utilized each semester to inform faculty about students’ responses to the curriculum and the educational experience. This information is continuously used by the faculty to affirm and improve the educational program. Evaluation instruments include:

* In accordance with college policy, all students complete an anonymous university-wide evaluation of each instructor and course taken. Faculty members review these evaluations during the semester following the evaluation.
* At the end of the Spring semester, students evaluate their practicum agency and experience. The Director of Practicum Education considers these recommendations in determining practicum placements for the coming year.

**Part 6: The MSW CURRICULUM**

## Foundation Year Curriculum

With its grounding in the liberal arts, the first year of the two-year program, known as the Foundation Year, offers students entering the program with varied academic backgrounds the opportunity to share in a common academic framework as they are introduced to the profession and develop the knowledge, values, and skills that serve as the foundation of ethical and competent professional social work practice. An understanding of social work values and ethics, of diversity, and of diverse urban populations experiencing oppression and deprivation of social and economic justice is necessary for the assessment of, and intervention with, all client systems. Social service agencies and political and economic systems also are the focus of social workers. Students will be educated to practice with respect for others and value human diversity, including clients’ age, class, perception of physical appearance, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, spirituality and the full spectrum of beliefs, sex, and sexual orientation.

Foundation Year courses in Social Work Practice, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Human Diversity and the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy, Practicum and Practicum Seminar, and Social Work Research combine to offer students content that supports the core competencies of the program and is relevant to the mission and goals, as well as the purposes, values, and ethics of the social work profession. Content related to values and ethics, diversity, and vulnerable urban populations and social and economic justice is integrated in all the courses:

During the Foundation Year, students understand individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in the Generalist Social Work Practice sequence and the two courses in the Human Behavior and Social Environment sequences. Students gain knowledge of the historical and philosophical roots of social welfare and the social work profession, and gain skills in analyzing social welfare policies in the two courses in the Social Welfare Policy sequence. Students are introduced to the importance of research for professional practice and development in Social Work Research, and Practicum and Seminar give students the opportunity to utilize their new skills under supervision, and to integrate their learning with their practice.

The entire curriculum is grounded in liberal arts. For example, courses in HBSE utilize theories from human development, psychology, sociology, biology, and environmental studies; practice courses call on research containing information on psychology, sociology, communication arts; policy courses refer to material from history, political science, and economics; research refers to material from sociology, statistics, and computer technology; administration and supervision refer to content from sociology, political science, economics, and communications arts; Practicum education calls on material from communications arts, sociology, political science, and economics. This allows all students, regardless of whether they share the same academic background, to have a common reference point as they understand the mission and goals of our MSW program and fulfill its objectives.

The broad generalist approach of the Foundation Year prepares students for the more intensive second year, the Concentration Year, where the focus of the Lehman College MSW Program is Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice in the Urban Environment.

## Competencies and Practice Behaviors of the Foundation Year

Program graduates are expected to master the core competencies listed below (left column) and integrate and apply these competencies in their associated professional behaviors (right column). Students will demonstrate the expected knowledge, skills, values, and cognitive and affective processes (dimensions underlying behavior) that inform these behaviors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Competencies  | Behaviors  |
| 1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior       | 1. Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
2. Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
4. Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
5. Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.
 |
| 2. Engage diversity and difference in practice   | 1. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
2. Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
3. Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.
 |
| 3. Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice   | 1. Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and
2. Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.
 |
| 4. Engage in practice informed research and research-informed practice    | 1. Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research;
2. Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings; and
3. Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.
 |
| 5. Engage in policy practice  | 1. Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;
2. Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services; and
3. Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
 |
| 6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities   | 1. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
2. Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.
 |
| 7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities    | 1. Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies;
3. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies; and
4. Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.
 |
| 8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities  | 1. Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies;
3. Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes;
4. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies; and
5. Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.
 |
| 9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities    | 1. Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;
3. Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and
4. Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
 |

## Advanced Year Curriculum

Through the Advanced Generalist Curriculum of the Concentration Year, students become competent in working with diverse urban populations who may face not only personal problems but also a variety of social problems commonly found in the cities. The curriculum prepares students for leadership positions in urban social work agencies and organizations. During the Advanced Year, all students take two courses in Advanced Generalist Practice in the Urban Environment, where they focus on practice with systems of all sizes with greater depth, breadth, and specificity. The course Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis stresses bio-psycho-social-cultural issues of diverse urban populations. In addition, students take the course, Policy Practice; a second course on Social Work Research; a course on Supervision and one on Administration; and an elective. Two semesters of Practicum and Practicum Seminar during the Concentration Year provide all students with opportunities for assignments in direct practice with systems of various sizes, in agency administration and supervision, and in policy practice.

The Policy Practice includes a capstone assignment that requires students to use critical thinking skills as they integrate the learning that has taken place in all their courses, including their Practicum experience.

This comprehensive curriculum provides the scope of professional knowledge, values, and skills necessary for social workers who work in underserved urban areas. Many community agencies in this and other urban areas are understaffed, and supervision is not available for staff. In fact, new MSWs are often expected to provide supervision. Our curriculum is designed to develop students’ abilities to work effectively with a variety of responsibilities and with the spectrum of diverse urban populations, and ultimately to do so with a high degree of autonomy.

Many community agencies also need staff with administrative skills. There is a need in this community to work on a political level to advance policies reflecting social and economic justice, particularly in areas where there are large numbers of new immigrant groups and other vulnerable population groups. The curriculum is designed to provide graduates with the understanding and skills needed to achieve greater social and economic justice for all groups. Research efforts are minimal in many community agencies and the curriculum is designed to facilitate graduates’ abilities to both utilize and conduct research that develops social work knowledge and improves the effectiveness of social work practice, policies, and programs. In sum, students are prepared to assume leadership positions in urban social work agencies.

## Conceptualization of Advanced Generalist Practice

The Lehman College MSW program, located in Bronx, New York, utilizes an Advanced Generalist Practice approach for the Advanced Year. Building on the generalist perspective of the Foundation Year and the liberal arts, the advanced generalist curriculum prepares students for competent and ethical advanced generalist practice in this urban community.

Our MSW Program conceptualizes the advanced generalist practice approach as a synthesis of advanced social work knowledge, advanced skills, and a deeper commitment to the values that underpin the profession. While advanced generalist practice is a universally effective approach, it is uniquely suited for work in the urban community of the Bronx, which, like other urban environments, is complex, diverse, and ever-changing. This approach facilitates the fulfillment of the mission of our program, as it prepares practitioners for leadership in diverse areas of practice, is to utilize the range of practice methodologies, and to intervene with a variety of client systems. This approach fosters both critical thinking and the capacity for creativity in responding to the needs of clients and the complex community.

This community is a multidimensional environment consisting of often conflicting priorities, values, and mandates. It is therefore essential that social workers in this urban community are prepared to practice effectively, creatively, and with an ever-increasing degree of confidence and autonomy in a variety of contexts while reflecting on one’s power, positionality, and privilege.

Advanced generalist social workers perform the full range of social work activities and master the knowledge, values, and skills that enable them to assume leadership roles in the community. They seamlessly navigate the various levels of practice and assume multiple roles simultaneously, including roles as clinicians, supervisors, administrators, policy practitioners, and researchers. Advanced generalist practitioners are aware of the critical linkages between practice and policy, and as policy practitioners, they are prepared to advocate for policies promoting social justice. They are aware that the role of the social worker is always a process of learning, exploration, and continuing analysis in an often-challenging environment.

## Competencies and Practice Behaviors of the Advanced Year

Program graduates are expected to master the core competencies listed below (left column) and integrate and apply these competencies in their associated professional behaviors (right column). Students will be able to demonstrate the expected knowledge, skills, values, and cognitive and affective processes (dimensions underlying behavior) that inform these behaviors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Competencies  | Behaviors   |
| 1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior     | 1. Recognizing the ambiguity and complexity of ethical dilemmas within micro, mezzo, and macro practice and managing such inherent conflicts in the best interest of client systems;
2. Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice and leadership situations;
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication commensurate with leadership positions within organizations;
4. Use technology ethically and appropriately in a leadership role to facilitate practice outcomes in complex urban organizations at all levels of practice; and
5. Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior as an advanced generalist practitioner.
 |
| 2. Engage diversity and difference in practice   | 1. Apply and communicate the importance of intersectionality in understanding diverse and complex urban environments;
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|    | 1. Use critical race theory to understand and engage diverse clients and constituencies in complex urban environments, as experts of their own experiences; and
2. Identify and challenge personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies, and in a leadership, role encouraging an organizational culture that facilitates this process among all personnel.
 |
| 3. Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice   | 1. Demonstrate an understanding of structural inequalities and provide a leadership role to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and
2. Engage in practices, advocacy, and policy formation that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.
 |
| 4. Engage in practice informed research and research-informed practice    | 1. Use practice experience and understanding of theory to inform scientific inquiry with diverse underserved urban populations impacted by trauma and structural inequalities;
2. Demonstrate leadership in applying critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings in order to enhance services in organizations serving complex urban populations; and
3. Use and translate research evidence in a leadership role to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery in complex urban environments.
 |
| 5. Engage in policy practice  | 1. Identify and critically analyze social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services for underserved urban populations;
2. Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services in complex urban environments with underserved populations; and
3. Taking an organizational leadership role in applying critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
 |
| 6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities   | 1. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with underserved clients and constituencies impacted by trauma in complex urban environments; and
2. Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse underserved clients and constituencies impacted by trauma in complex urban environments.
 |
| 7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities     | 1. Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments from a strengths-based trauma-informed perspective;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks, including trauma-informed practice in the analysis of
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | assessment data from underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments; 1. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges from a trauma-informed perspective with underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments; and
2. Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments from a strengths-based trauma-informed perspective.
 |
| 8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities    | 1. Critically choose and implement strengths-based trauma-informed interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks such as critical race theory and intersectionality in interventions with underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments;
3. Use inter-professional collaboration and leadership skills as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes for underserved populations in complex urban environments;
4. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments; and
5. Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals with underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments from a strengths-based trauma-informed perspective.
 |
| 9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities    | 1. Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes with underserved clients and constituencies in complex urban environments;
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks, including intersectionality, in the evaluation of outcomes in complex urban environments;
3. Taking a leadership role to critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes in organizations serving clients and constituencies in complex urban environments; and
4. Taking a leadership role in organizational settings to apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

  |
| 10. Demonstrate the ability to provide direct services to diverse client systems within complex urban environments.    | 1. Apply an understanding of the concept of intersectionality as it relates to national origin, religion, abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, and poverty, among others, to provide services effectively;
2. Using the value of cultural humility, provide culturally sensitive services in urban settings;
3. Apply knowledge of multi-dimensional trauma-informed perspectives when providing services to diverse client systems;
4. Navigate complex social service delivery systems to secure effective resources for diverse client systems;
5. Demonstrate the ability to challenge social, economic, and environmental injustices when providing services to diverse client systems.
 |
| 11. Demonstrate the ability to provide agency-based supervision and assume the role of an agency administrator in diverse urban settings.   | 1. Apply knowledge of theoretical approaches in order to effectively perform in a supervisory role in agency settings;
2. Use reflection and self-awareness in the supervisory role in order to manage the influence of personal biases and provide ethical supervision;
3. Demonstrate the ability to choose and implement strategies to promote effective administration policies;
4. Model ethical decision-making for agency administration based on social work values and ethics;
 |
| 12. Assume leadership roles as an Advanced Generalist social work practitioner within the context of diverse urban environments.   | 1. Demonstrate the ability to engage in the process of creating change related to promoting social, economic, and environmental justice within agencies, diverse urban environments, and the broader society.
2. Develop knowledge to seamlessly navigate the various levels of practice and assume multiple roles simultaneously, including direct practice worker, supervisor, administrator, member of community coalition and governing body, researcher, and policy practitioner; 43. Use reflection and self-awareness to contemplate possible leadership roles to pursue.
 |

## Optional Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC)Certification

Preparation for Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) Certificate.

The Department of Social Work has been designated by the New York State Office of

Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) as an Education and Training Provider for

MSW students who wish to obtain credentialing as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance

Abuse Counselor. Lehman College MSW students in Tracks A and D who complete the full MSW curriculum plus the following requirements will have completed all educational requirements for the CASAC-T in New York State and will be issued the OASAS CASAC 350- Hour Standardized Certificate of Completion by the Lehman College Social Work Department:

1. Successful completion of the following 2 social work elective courses at Lehman College

SWK 688: Social Work Practice with Substance Abusing Clients in the Urban

Environment SWK 692: Social Work and Substance Abuse: Theories and Interventions

1. Completion of the New York State mandated two-hour training, “Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment.” A certificate of completion must be presented to the Lehman College Social Work Department.

Other requirements for the CASAC will include:

* Work experience in the field of substance abuse;
* Successful completion of the N.Y. State CASAC credentialing examination;
* Submission of an application and required fee to OASAS Credentialing Unit staff.

Arrangements to meet those requirements will be made individually by the student with the N.Y. State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

Track C students who completed the undergraduate Social Work major at Lehman College after 2008 and who did not complete SWK 251: Introduction to Social Work Practice with Substance

Abusing Clients and SWK 351: Theories and Social Work Practice Interventions with Substance

Abusing Clients will be eligible for the CASAC-T after completing SWK 688 and SWK 692 in the

MSW program. Track C students who completed the undergraduate Social Work major at

Lehman College after 2008 and who did complete SWK 251: Introduction to Social Work

Practice with Substance Abusing Clients and SWK 351: Theories and Social Work Practice Interventions with Substance Abusing Clients can receive the CASAC-T through the undergraduate program.

The arrangement between the Lehman College Social Work Program and OASAS is based on the curriculum provided to students in our undergraduate and graduate programs. Track C students who completed the undergraduate Social Work major in another college will not have had the full curriculum at Lehman and will not be eligible for the CASAC-T through the Social Work Department.

## Part 7: COLLEGE RESOURCES

The College provides a range of resources that may be helpful to students. Additional information about these and other resources are available on the College website at lehman.cuny.edu. The resources that are briefly described here include:

* APEX
* Career Counseling
* Childcare Center
* Counseling Center
* Student Disability Services
* Information Technology Center
* Library
* MSW Academic Support Center
* Parking
* Health Center
* Student Life
* Alumni Activities

## APEX

The APEX, the Athletics and Physical Education Complex at Lehman College, is a state-of-the- art physical education/athletics and recreational facility. It features a fully equipped fitness center, an extensive free weight room supervised by an exercise physiologist, an auxiliary gym, a swimming pool, four racquetball courts, an indoor track, an aerobics/dance studio, a ballet studio for teaching and performances, and five outdoor tennis courts. The APEX is free of charge to all currently registered students (except students participating in the Continuing Education Program). Call (718) 960-1117 for further information.

## Career Counseling

Individuals can discuss career planning issues, resumes and cover letters, search strategies, and other career-related topics. All personal information will be kept confidential. Workshops are also offered. Call (718) 960-8366 for more information.

## Childcare Center

The Childcare Center is committed to providing an environment where a child’s growth is supported and stimulated in all areas of development. It is rich with experiences in Art, Music, Movement, Science, Language Arts, and Math, with plenty of room for nurturing individual interests. Eligibility to use the Childcare Center is contingent upon the parent’s current enrollment as a matriculated student at Lehman College. The Childcare Center offers rates designed for students attending college and below the market rate. There is a Federal Grant (based on family size and income) available for qualifying students which will help with tuition; however, it will not cover the entire amount and is not a guaranteed grant.

## Counseling Center

The Lehman College Counseling Center offers a variety of services in English and Spanish, including confidential individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, and referrals to campus services and outside mental health agencies. Screening evaluations for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorder and alcohol abuse are also offered. Services are free to all Lehman College students and are provided by qualified professionals. In addition, personal development workshops and educational support groups for students are offered: The Counseling Center is in the Old Gym Building, next to the library; phone number is 718-960-8761**.**

## Student Disability Services

Students with disabilities may register with the Office of Student Disability Services, located in Shuster Hall, Room 238. The main entrance on Goulden Avenue is equipped with a ramp that enables the wheelchair assisted and others with mobility impairments to gain access to all offices. The elevator is equipped with keypads that contain Braille coding. The Office of Student Disability Services provides a broad range of assistive technology for students who provide documentation of a disability. Services include advocacy; advisement; assistance during registration; individual test administration, both timed and unlimited; tutoring, note-taking, provision of technical equipment, and referrals to outside agencies. The Office of Student Disability Services also arranges for the hiring of trained specialists, such as sign language interpreters, note-takers, proctors, and learning disability specialists.

Specialized technical equipment is available for students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, visually impaired and those with learning disabilities. The equipment includes computers with specialized software, such as JAWS, LP Windows, and Windows Eyes. When indicated, students are referred to agencies such as the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, the

International Center for the Disabled, and the New York State Reader’s Aid Program. The student registered with the Office of Student Disability Services is responsible for notifying instructors about each course taken at the start of each semester so that accommodation can be planned. Notification must include a letter from the Disability Services Office, which was given to the instructor by the student.

## Information Technology Center

Located in Carman Hall, the Information Technology Center has over 100 freestanding computers for students to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Other computers available for student use on a first-come, first-served basis can be found in the library and in the Student Life Building.

## Instructional Support Services Program (ISSP)

The Instructional Support Services Program (ISSP) provides tutoring, workshops, and additional resources to support classroom learning. The Academic Support Center for Excellence (ACE) offers workshops and tutoring for students who seek to improve their proficiency in writing, reading, and research. ACE’s staff of peer tutors and skills specialists work with students at all academic levels. PLATO learning software is also available at ACE’s computer center for students who want to improve their writing and language skills. ACE is in the Old Gym Building (next to the library), Room 205. The phone number is 718-960-8175.

## Library

The Leonard Lief Library is housed in a modern four-story building adjacent to the Concert Hall. Named for the first President of Lehman College, the Library is equipped with a fully automated CUNY-wide catalog and circulation system, electronic databases, and Internet workstations. The open stack book collection now contains 530,000 books and is supplemented by 500,000 microform items. The library subscribes to 1,500 periodicals and is a designated depository for state and federal government documents. The library is open to all currently enrolled students, faculty and staff of Lehman College and any currently enrolled student in any of the other CUNY Colleges. Lehman alumni can also enter the library with the appropriate ID cards. Government Publications may be viewed by the public. Copy machines are in the café, directly to the left of the entrance to the library.

The Center also provides Lehman College MSW students with preparation for the New York State Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) exam. Small groups, and weekend and evening workshops are available to students in all Tracks. All students are encouraged to sign up for workshops during their final year in the Program.

## Parking

Parking facilities are available for students in the Student Lot on Goulden Avenue, along the Reservoir. Parking permits may be purchased in Shuster Hall, Room 080.

## Health Center

The Student Health Center is a primary health care facility available to all Lehman College students with a valid ID. Most of the services are free of charge due to the student activity fee included in your tuition. Other services are available for a small fee. The team of providers is experienced in treating common medical problems, offering initial diagnosis and treatment for a broad spectrum of illnesses and injuries with appropriate follow-up care. The Medical Director provides clinical leadership for the staff. The Health Center Director is a Physician's Assistant and the Women's Health provider is a Nurse Practitioner. A Health Educator offers health education and counseling to students in one-to-one sessions, class lectures, workshops and on- campus outreach events. The Medical Administrative Assistant is trained in the health-service needs of the adult population.

## Student Life

Student life at Lehman College is enriched by its many student clubs and organizations, which celebrate the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual diversity of Lehman College. Joining or forming a club or organization gives all students the opportunity to become involved in campus life, to develop leadership potential, and to interact with fellow students and faculty members. Students interested in starting a new campus organization are encouraged to discuss this with the staff of the Student Activities Office. Clubs provide a forum for their members and help create an awareness of the diversity of Lehman's student body. Each year, the college Club Fair, organized by the Office of Student Activities, gives all students the opportunity to get to know, join, and interact with the various clubs and organizations, to appreciate differences, and to find common ground. Directories of current organizations are available in the Student Activities Office.

## Alumni Activities

Graduates of our program are encouraged to participate in the Alumni activities sponsored by Lehman College. This provides a vehicle for renewing friendships and for networking. In addition, the faculty is always eager to know how and what you are doing. We would also like to know how we can reach you. Follow-up questionnaires are sent out periodically, and since many of our graduates move after becoming social workers, we would appreciate it if you could let us know your address and keep in touch with us!

**Part 8: ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR MSW STUDENTS**

## Training for Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment

As part of the registration of the Lehman College MSW Program with the Office of the

Professions of the New York State Education Department, prior to beginning Practicum, all MSW students must complete the State-mandated two-hour training in identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. A Certificate of Completion for this training is also required for application to the New York State Department of Education for the LMSW license. This training is free and available online with New York State at the following link:

https://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/TrainingCourses.aspx

Students’ transcripts will include information indicating completion of the training.

The Certificate of Completion must be given to the student’s Practicum seminar instructor prior to beginning his or her Practicum placement. Students who already have a valid Certificate of

Completion is not required to repeat the training but must provide a copy of their Certificate to their seminar instructor. Students may choose to repeat the training.

**SECTION III: Practicum Education Manual**

## Part 1: Practicum Education Overview

## The Lehman College Department of Social Work has undertaken a process of revising its curriculum to align with an anti-racist framework. Part of this process has been to change the wording we use. The words “field” and “fieldwork” are a reminder of the racist institution of slavery to some people. We have therefore replaced the word “field” with the more precise word “Practicum” throughout this document except in cases where we are directly quoting other sources.

All students in the MSW Program must complete a Practicum providing a range of social work services under the supervision of a qualified Practicum instructor. This Practicum has been called the “signature pedagogy” of social work education.

According to the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for social work education:

*Signature pedagogy represents the central form of instruction and learning in which a profession socializes its students to perform the role of practitioner. Professionals have pedagogical norms with which they connect and integrate theory and practice. In social work, the signature pedagogy is Field education. The intent of Field education is to connect the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting. It is a basic precept of social work education that the two interrelated components of the curriculum – classroom and Field—are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on the criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of Program competencies. (2008)*

The Lehman College Department of Social Work provides students with practicum opportunities in social service agencies and organizations in the greater New York City area and neighboring counties. Practicum placements are arranged through the Practicum Education office of the Social Work Department.

**Contact Information:**

Mr. Peter Niedt, M.S.W., Director of Practicum Education

Carman Hall, Room B-16

718.960.7749

peter.niedt@lehman.cuny.edu

Rebecca Chun L.M.S.W., Assistant Director of Practicum Education

Carman Hall, Room B-16

718.960.7249

Rebecca.chun@lehman.cuny.edu

**Part 2: THE STUDENT IN THE PRACTICUM AGENCY**

## Assignment of Students to Practicum Agencies

The Director of Practicum Education, in consultation with the Social Work faculty, assigns students to practicum agencies. Students do not find their own practicum sites.

## MSW Practicum Educational Plan

Students and Practicum Instructors complete the Educational Plan during the first week of practicum. The student gives a copy of the Plan to the Seminar instructor. The Practicum Educational Plan serves several purposes for the school, student, and practicum instructor. It should help the student discover the agency’s mission, services, and functions and aid the Practicum instructor in formulating the student’s learning objectives and goals. It should outline both the student’s and Practicum instructor’s expectations, however, it should also be considered a fluid document. While the plan should be first constructed collaboratively from the first meeting between student and agency, it should be discussed throughout the first and subsequent supervision sessions.

## Student Responsibilities

The student must assume responsibility for participating in the educational experience provided at the practicum placement. This requires receptivity to the learning process and an openness to suggestions and directions. Students are expected to inform their Faculty Advisor, who is also their Practicum Seminar instructor, of any problems they may be experiencing in the Practicum placement. The Faculty Advisor will work with the student to navigate the problems in consultation with the Director of Practicum Education.

All students must complete at least 600 hours per year of field placement. Each track, A, C, and D have specific requirements:

**Track A** 2-year Fulltime students must complete 600 practicum hours each year.

* Students do their practicum 21 hours per week for three days per week.
* To allow Fall grades for Practicum to be submitted on time, students must complete 280 hours of Practicum during the Fall semester and 320 hours during the Spring semester.
* Practicum placements begin about the second week of September and continue through mid-May.
* At minimum students must have 2 days (7 hours each day) of practicum during the Monday through Friday workweek that they are available for practicum between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM. There are a limited number of placements that have some weekend and/or evening hours.
* The Program does not guarantee any student a placement that includes weekend or evening hours.

**Track C** Advanced Standing students must complete 600 hours in their 1 year in the Program.

* Students do their practicum 21 hours per week for three days per week.
* To allow Fall grades for Practicum to be submitted on time, students must complete 280 hours (about 1 and a half weeks) of Practicum during the Fall semester and 320 hours (about 2 weeks) during the Spring semester.
* Practicum placements begin about the second week of September and continue through mid-May.
* At minimum students must have 2 days (7 hours each day) of practicum during the Monday through Friday workweek that they are available for practicum between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM. There are a limited number of placements that have some weekend and/or evening hours.
* The Program does not guarantee any student a placement that includes weekend or evening hours.

**Track D** 3-year Extended students must complete 600 practicum hours in both their 2nd and 3rd years in the Program.

* Students do their practicum 15 hours per week for two days per week.
* Students are required to complete 225 hours of Practicum during the Fall semester, 270 hours during the Spring semester, and 105 hours during the Summer semester.
* Practicum placements begin about the first week of September and continue through the end of June.
* At minimum students must have 1 day (7.5 hours) of practicum during the Monday through Friday workweek that they are available for practicum between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM. There are a limited number of placements that have some weekend and/or evening hours.
* The Program does not guarantee any student a placement that includes weekend or evening hours.

**Students in all tracks must be in Practicum the entire month of January.** Students are required to attend continually through this month, both to accumulate the required hours and to provide for continuity of the practicum experience. All students are required to meet the following requirements for Practicum:

1. Regular attendance at the practicum placement is expected of all students. The student is expected to be prompt in arriving at work. Chronic lateness (or leaving early) is unacceptable. The student must notify the agency if he/she is unable to report on a given day. In a personal emergency, students must consult their Practicum Instructor to make up the time. Students who need to be out for religious observance must notify their Practicum Instructors in advance. All hours and days missed must be made up.

1. The student and Practicum Instructor must meet at a regularly scheduled time each week for at least one hour of supervision. Students are responsible for raising issues of concern. The student must prepare written supervisory agendas.

1. The syllabus for the seminar class will indicate how many process-recordings that the student must submit to their seminar instructor. The practicum instructor can ask that the student submit additional process-recordings. The student is responsible for providing the Practicum Instructor with process recordings sufficiently in advance of his/her weekly supervisory meeting so that the Practicum Instructor can review them prior to the supervisory meeting. The Program expects that students will be given reasonable time to write their process recordings during their scheduled hours at the practicum agency.

1. Students must complete the Practicum Attendance Sheet each week; the form is to be Initialed by the Practicum Instructor weekly. The form is given to the student’s Faculty Advisor at the end of each semester.

1. The student is responsible for adhering to all policies and customary practices (including dress code) of the practicum agency. Students are expected to discuss any issues of concern with the Practicum Instructor and, if necessary, with the Faculty Advisor.
2. Students may be required to make home and community visits as part of their practicum assignment. The student and Practicum Instructor must discuss home and community visiting before the first visit. See “Guidelines for Home and Community Visits” in Part 3 of this Practicum Manual. Agencies are expected to reimburse students for travel expenses associated with home and community visits.
3. The student must function at the agency in a way accountable to the agency, the school, and the profession. Students are required to demonstrate professional behavior consistent with the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. The NASW Code of Ethics, can be found in the link printed in Appendix 1.
4. Students who request reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238, (718) 960-8441.

**Part 3: THE PRACTICUM AGENCY AND THE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR**

## Criteria for Selection of Practicum Agencies

Practicum agencies participating with the Lehman College MSW Social Work Program are expected to have a strong commitment to the education of social work students in urban areas. Participating agencies must reflect a commitment to social justice and to issues related to human diversity. They are selected based on their potential to:

* Fulfill the mission of and goals of the MSW Social Work Program as reflected in the program’s competencies and operationalized in the practice behaviors;
* Apply the knowledge, values, and skills acquired in the classroom with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations in the urban environment;
* Meet the learning needs of our students through structured learning opportunities, including 1 hour of weekly individual supervision and review of process recordings; and
* Enter into a Practicum education plan and agreement with the Lehman Program and the student that assures the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate the core competencies.

The Director or Assistant Director of Practicum Education visits all agencies being considered as new practicum sites to determine the agency's capacity to meet the above criteria. The Director or Assistant Director of Practicum Education also orients the Educational Coordinator and the Practicum Instructor to the mission and goals of the Lehman College MSW Social Work Program and to our specific requirements. Together, they determine the agency’s potential to fulfill our program’s mission and meet the needs of its clients.

## Criteria for Employment-Based Placements

Agencies offering employment-based placements for their employees must meet all the criteria described above in “Selection of Agencies” and, in addition, they must enter into an agreement with the Lehman College Social Work Program, specifying that:

* The student will conform to all the requirements and procedures of Practicum, including hours, supervision, and process recording requirements;
* Assignments for the student placement will be different than his/her ongoing assignment;
* The student will work with a different Practicum Instructor for their practicum assignment than the supervisor he/she works with as an employee;
* The student cannot be on probation at his/her place of employment, including new hire probation;
* As of the first day of Practicum, the student must have been working in his/her current position for a minimum of nine months;
* Employment-based agreements between the Lehman College Department of Social Work, the agency, and the student will be in effect for one academic year.

The Program retains the right to reject any employment-based arrangement that it does not deem academically sound.

## Criteria for Practicum Instructors

Agencies must be able to provide a Practicum Instructor who has an MSW degree from a CSWE- accredited Social Work Program, has experience as an MSW social worker for a minimum of 2 years, a license to practice social work, and who subscribes to the mission and goals as described in the previous section. Practicum Instructors must have completed or be taking the Seminar in Practicum Instruction (SIPI). If the Practicum instructor has taken the SIPI at another social work school in the greater New York City area, he or she does not need to repeat the course. The Practicum Instructor is responsible for helping students integrate and apply the knowledge, values, and skills of the core competencies acquired in their classes to their work in the agency.

## Task Supervision

In addition to their regular supervision, students may receive part of their supervision from a task supervisor who will assist the Practicum Instructor for specific assignments.

## Ongoing Professional Opportunities for Practicum Instructors

The Lehman College Social Work Department offers programs for Practicum Instructors:

1. Before the Fall semester starts, an Orientation for Practicum Instructors is held at Lehman College. All Practicum Instructors supervising Lehman students for the first time are expected to attend this orientation to become familiar with the Program and the expectations of the Practicum placement. Practicum Instructors who have been with the Program are also invited to refresh their understanding of the Program, learn about any changes in the Program, renew acquaintances, and assist new Practicum Instructors.

1. A Seminar in Practicum Instruction (SIPI) course is required for all new Practicum Instructors. The twelve social work programs in the greater New York City area have created a standardized curriculum that all schools use. A committee with representatives from all the schools meets on an ongoing basis to revise the curriculum as needed. The SIPI includes 12 sessions spread out over the academic year. A calendar of these sessions is e-mailed to all Practicum Instructors and Educational Coordinators each summer and is included on the Department website.

1. Throughout the academic year, workshops are held for Practicum Instructors and Educational Coordinators. These workshops provide an opportunity for integration of classroom learning and the practicum experience as faculty members present on topics of their specialization. These workshops offer participants continuing education hours that may be used towards the renewal of their social work license.

## Process Recordings

Process recordings are viewed as essential learning tools for students. It is important that the Practicum Instructor returns process recordings to the student with written comments within the week they are submitted so they may be reviewed during the supervisory meeting. Process recordings are the property of the student and should not contain identifying information. Students share a sampling of their process recordings, with the comments of the Practicum Instructor; with their Seminar instructor, who is also their Faculty Advisor; and with their Practice instructors. This makes it possible for the Seminar and Practice instructors to monitor the progress the student is making in the practicum placement and to ensure that integration of theory and practice is maximized.

## Supervisory Agendas

Students must submit supervisory agendas to the Practicum Instructor before each supervisory meeting. The agenda serves as a tool that helps the student to think through and take responsibility for her/his learning needs and informs the Practicum Instructor of issues the student wants to discuss during the supervisory meeting.

## Classroom Assignments Related to Practicum Placement

Students will have assignments in their courses related to their practicum agencies. Practicum Instructors are encouraged to provide guidance for students in their efforts to integrate empirical and practice-based knowledge in their assignments, as well as in their practice in the agency.

## Maintaining Practicum Liaison Contacts

Practicum liaison contacts are maintained by the Practicum Faculty Advisor, who is also the student’s Practicum Seminar instructor. Each student’s Practicum Faculty Advisor visits the agency during the Fall semester to meet with the Practicum Instructor, the student, and Task Supervisor (if applicable). Additional onsite visits are made if needed, as in the case of a student who is performing marginally in practicum. Practicum Instructors also contact the student’s Practicum Faculty Advisor if questions or problems arise.

## Guidelines for Home and Community Visits

Students may be required to make home visits as part of their practicum. These visits are a valuable Practicum learning experience and can be extremely beneficial to the client and the social work relationship. Community visits may include accompanying clients to schools, courts, medical appointments, public assistance, etc. In addition to the preparations necessary for the delivery of services to the clients and organizations to be visited, the agency and the student need to consider and make provisions for issues relating to the student’s safety on such visits.

These provisions include, but are not limited to:

* Appropriate time of day for home visits.
* Appropriate dress for visits, care in carrying purses and avoiding expensive jewelry.
* Selection of transportation mode, including routing of safest streets if walking.
* Traveling with official agency identification.
* Using caution in entering elevators, stairwells, and buildings.
* Making certain that the agency is aware of the date, time, location, purpose of the visit.
* Informing the person they are visiting of the expected time of arrival.

Students should be accompanied by an agency staff member during their first (at a minimum) home visit or community visit so that the student is familiarized with the process and assisted in mastering the requisite skills and overcoming related fears and uneasiness.

All students must be provided with carfare associated with the visit, and with any other exceptional expenses prior to making the visit.

## The Practicum Seminar and the Faculty Advisor

Students remain in the same section of Fieldwork and Seminar for the two semesters of the academic year (tracks A and C) or three semesters (track D), allowing for continuity in the learning and advisement processes throughout the year. The faculty member teaching the

Practicum Seminar serves as the student’s Faculty Advisor. The Faculty Advisor visits the practicum agency to meet with the Practicum Instructor and the student together. These visits assess the students’ progress and ensure that they have Practicum experience that meets the Program requirements. If problems occur in the Practicum that the student or the Practicum Instructor are not able to resolve, they should be brought to the attention of the Faculty Advisor.

## Part 4: EVALUATIONS

**Practicum Instructors’ Evaluation of Students’ Performance**

It is the responsibility of the Practicum Instructor to evaluate the student’s performance throughout the year of Practicum. During the Fall semester the Practicum Instructor completes a

Mid-Semester Evaluation which provides a “snapshot” of the student’s beginning performance at the practicum agency. This mid-semester evaluation, done for 1st and 2nd year students, helps clarify expectations of future performance and allows for identification of serious concerns. The Practicum Instructor completes End-of-Semester Evaluations at the close of the Fall and Spring semesters. There are separate evaluation forms for each semester of the 1st and 2nd year Practicum placements.

All evaluations must be signed by the Practicum Instructor and the student. The student’s signature indicates it was read by the student, but not necessarily agreed to. A student who disagrees with the final written evaluation may also write an addendum to the evaluation.

## Grading Procedures

The Faculty Advisor, in consultation with the Social Work Program faculty, gives the grade for Practicum, based on the following:

* Written evaluations of the Practicum Instructor.
* Agency contacts, including visits and discussions with the Practicum Instructor.
* Review of process recordings.
* Contacts with the student throughout the semester.
* Demonstrated professional behavior consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics.

**Students’ Evaluation of Practicum Agencies**

At the end of the Spring semester of Practicum, students evaluate their practicum agency and experience. The Director of Practicum Education considers these recommendations in determining practicum placements for the coming year.

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1**

## About the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 153,000 members and has chapters in 50 states. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

**Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers**

**https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English**

 **Appendix 2**

## Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles International Federation of Social Workers

**(IFSW) International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)** https://www.ifsw.org/global-social-work-statement-of-ethical-principles/

 **Appendix 3**

## Council on Social Work Education, 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS)

https://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015EPAS/2015EPAS\_Web\_FINAL.pdf.aspx

**Appendix 4**

**Lehman College/CUNY Policies**

http://lehman.smartcatalogiq.com/2019-2021/Graduate-Bulletin

**Appendix 5**

## Practicum Education Documents

<https://lehman.edu/academics/health-human-services-nursing/social-work/Practicum-Education-/>