Course Description
Advanced field instruction (SW691) builds on the prerequisite SW515 Foundation field instruction course. Students can enroll in advanced field instruction with a grade of Satisfactory ("S") or a grade of Marginal ("M") in SW515 Foundation field instruction. Students choose the practice method concentration of Community Organization and also choose a practice area in which to apply this method (Aging in Families & Society-AG, Children & Youth and Families in Society-C & Y, Communities & Social Systems-CSS, Health-H, and Mental Health-MH).

In advanced field instruction, students will engage in tasks and assignments that reflect a higher level mastery of knowledge and increased independence in functioning which is designed to facilitate growth as a social work practitioner while strengthening professional identity. Students in this course will focus on learning Community Organization skills through experiential learning opportunities, professional, credentialed supervision, supplemental readings, case-based discussions/conferences, meetings, and other learning opportunities available in the assigned fieldwork setting. These field-based assignments are designed to help students become proficient in the established social work competencies by developing professional practice behaviors (a blend of activities, knowledge and skills), focusing on the Community Organization method.

Students will acquire and develop skills and practice behaviors that exhibit the attainment/proficiency of each social work competency in the Community Organization method through direct service responsibilities with individuals, families, groups and the service environment. These will be evaluated through the development of specific field-based assignments focusing on the Community Organization method and practice behaviors related to each social work competency found on the Community Organization Education Agreement form. These assignments will be rated at the end of each term using the established scale. A developmentally focused narrative is also required by the field instructor and the student at the end of the term using the established guidelines.

Students in advanced field instruction have opportunities to apply their skills in a greater variety of circumstances, with greater depth and breadth over a sustained period of time with the goal of increasing the rigor and complexity in the assignments as well as independence. The social work competencies for advanced field instruction are indicated below and are found on the Community Organization Educational Agreement form. The goal is for students to achieve proficiency in each competency indicated below and to find ways to integrate classroom knowledge with practice experiences.
1. Professional Identity
2. Values & Ethics
3. Critical Thinking
4. Diversity
5. Social & Economic Justice
6. Research
7. Human Behavior & The Social Environment
8. Social Policy
9. Organizational Context
10a. Engagement
10b. Assessment
10c. Intervention
10d. Evaluation

**Course Content**
This course will build on the generalist practice skills learned in the foundation level field instruction course. Field instruction is intended to develop mastery of practice skills through advanced responsibilities and supervised experiential learning in: a) organizing individuals and groups for social and political action; b) planning programs at the local level in accordance with social justice values; c) developing community-based resources/services for and by underserved areas or groups; and/or d) motivating people to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. This course will present the major approaches to community organization. Each of the approaches will include skills that students will use to: a) prepare for practice; b) analyze community conditions; c) build structure and organization; d) formulate plans and strategies; e) implement plans, programs or actions; and f) monitor and evaluate activities.

Specific assignments will increase students’ knowledge about the ways in which mechanisms of oppression and privilege affect community organization practice for various groups in culturally diverse communities. Differences to be taken into account will consist of the diversity dimensions; ability, age, culture, economic class, ethnicity, family structure, gender, gender identity and expression, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, as appropriate. By applying knowledge about privilege, oppression, and strengths-based perspectives, students will have an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate competence in responding to community needs and strengths.

The field curriculum utilizes Bloom’s taxonomy of cognitive development as a reference tool in the development of competent social work professionals. Students will become familiar with these stages of development as they relate to the identification and creation of field-based assignments that allow them to participate in a beginning, middle and end stage approach to their learning.

**Course Objectives**
Upon successful completion of a field placement in the *Community Organization* method, the overall competencies students are expected to become proficient in are as follows:

**COMPETENCY #1 – PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY**
*Definition:* Identifies as a professional social worker and conducts oneself as a representative of the profession, its mission and core values.
*Action:* Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).
Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Readily identifies as a social work professional and understands how social identities overlap and affect others
- Demonstrates professional use of self with client groups and maintains professional relationships
- Understands and identifies professional strengths, limitations, and challenges
- Consistently maintains professional boundaries

**COMPETENCY #2 – VALUES & ETHICS**

*Definition:* Demonstrates how the value base, ethical standards and principles of the social work profession are applied to social work practice.

*Action:* Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Uses the NASW Code of Ethics when applying strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions while tolerating ambiguity
- Recognizes and manages personal bias consequently allowing professional values to guide practice decisions
- Investigates and applies social work professional values and ethics demonstrating understanding of individual, group, organizational, and community differences in order to promote socially just practice

**COMPETENCY #3 – CRITICAL THINKING**

*Definition:* The intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning or communication.

*Action:* Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Applies critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments in the micro and macro practice arenas
- Identifies, appraises, and integrates multiple sources of knowledge including research into fieldwork site assignments
- Raises and formulates issues, questions, and problems clearly and precisely and engages in consultation
- Cultivates and uses a “critical 3rd eye” which is the ability to observe and evaluate one’s own actions and consequences

**COMPETENCY #4—DIVERSITY**

*Definition:* Demonstrates knowledge, skill, sensitivity, self-awareness and respect when working with client groups across all dimensions of diversity (i.e.: clients’ abilities, age, culture, economic class, ethnicity, family structure, gender, gender expression, race, religion, and sexual orientation).

*Action:* Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Considers, explores, and evaluates the life experiences of client groups and colleagues
- Identifies special concerns related to diversity within the fieldwork setting and openly engages in professional discussions exploring personal bias
- Engages respectfully with client groups around issues of difference and recognizes the impact of one’s own cultural identity on practice
- Recognizes and discusses critically, thoughtfully, and professionally unfamiliar cultural practices to enhance practice decisions
COMPETENCY #5 – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
Definition: Identifies strategies and advocates advancement of social and economic justice within the context of the fieldwork setting.
Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).
Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:
- Recognizes that all people have basic human rights and advocates for these
- Engages in reflection related activities regarding social justice issues utilizing the PODS (privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice) lens
- Uses knowledge of the effects of oppression, discrimination, and historical trauma on client groups to guide practice decisions
- Designs and implements community organizing strategies raising awareness with disenfranchised, oppressed communities

COMPETENCY #6 – RESEARCH
Definition: Research practices to improve and/or increase knowledge relevant to the fieldwork setting and populations served.
Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).
Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:
- Takes initiative to locate, research, and apply, where applicable, practices and resources relevant to the fieldwork setting and population served
- Critically analyzes and evaluates current research studies and trends to inform practice decisions
- Demonstrates the ability to express and present appropriate professional opinions and participates in and shares findings by means of appropriate consultation or case presentations with fieldwork colleagues

COMPETENCY #7 – HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
Definition: Explores and identifies the theoretical frameworks utilized in the fieldwork setting to understand individual and organizational behavior.
Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).
Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:
- Demonstrates appropriate knowledge and theoretical frameworks when working with organizations, communities, groups, families, and individuals across the life span
- Synthesizes and differentially applies theories of human behavior and the social environment to guide practice decisions

COMPETENCY #8 – SOCIAL POLICY
Definition: Demonstrates awareness and understanding of social policy’s impact on practice by identifying policies that impact the fieldwork setting and the populations served.
Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).
Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:
- Communicates and advocates with stakeholders the implications of policies and policy changes and the affect on the lives of client groups
- Effectively advocates for social policies that advance social and economic well-being of client groups
COMPETENCY #9 – ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

Definition: Demonstrates an understanding of the organizational structure of the field placement setting, how it operates, the services offered, and its service delivery system.

Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Effectively identifies their role(s) and demonstrates the ability to practice within the organizational structure
- Demonstrates an understanding of the organizational structure of the field placement setting, how it operates, the services offered, and its service delivery system
- Able to articulate the mandate, purpose, and organizational structure of the fieldwork site and identify the formal and informal decision-making process within the setting
- Able to describe the relationship of this fieldwork site to other community organizations

COMPETENCY #10 – ENGAGEMENT

Definition: Communicates effectively and establishes collaborative relationships, rapport and alliances with individuals, families, groups, communities and other professionals while setting aside personal biases, values and beliefs to achieve the mission of the fieldwork site.

Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Engages respectfully and expresses empathy with client groups around issues of power
- Effectively communicates and establishes culturally collaborative relationships with groups, communities, and other professionals to strengthen capacity while setting aside personal biases, values and beliefs to achieve the mission of the fieldwork site
- Engages various groups in efforts to set goals, generate program ideas, make organizational decisions, respect differences in communication and conflict styles and take steps for collective action by formulating plans and strategies
- Builds constituency support, collaborates, and negotiates with diverse groups

COMPETENCY #10b – ASSESSMENT

Definition: Demonstrates the ability to apply assessment strategies and other data collection methods used in the fieldwork setting.

Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Identifies and applies appropriate assessment models and techniques utilized in community practice relevant to the fieldwork site
- Demonstrates skills in applying analytical techniques in assessing the strengths, needs and capacities of individuals, groups, organizations and communities that are best suited to meet the needs of the fieldwork setting
COMPETENCY #10c – INTERVENTION

Definition: Demonstrates the ability to apply goal-based, culturally competent, developmentally appropriate intervention strategies that reflect fieldwork site protocol and practice informed research, which are best suited to meet the needs of the fieldwork setting and population served.

Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Demonstrates knowledge of strategies and interventions for creating change within the scope of the mission of the fieldwork site and mobilizes constituencies around relevant issues
- Designs and implements asset-based intervention models which are best suited to meet the needs of the fieldwork setting that build on and strengthen the capacities of individuals, groups, organizations, communities and the larger society in order to promote socially just practice
- Demonstrates skills in negotiating differences and conflicts

COMPETENCY #10d – EVALUATION

Definition: Demonstrates the ability to critically analyze, monitor and effectively evaluate specific interventions which were applied within the fieldwork setting and develop a revised intervention strategy.

Action: Identifies a specific fieldwork site assignment that focuses on the chosen practice area (AG, C&Y, H, MH or CSS).

Demonstrates the Following Community Organization Practice Behaviors:

- Demonstrates and utilizes appropriate community evaluation techniques and tools to monitor community outcomes
- Demonstrates the ability to use evaluative strategies to critique and monitor community-based practice in an all inclusive and participatory way that is best suited to meet the needs of the fieldwork setting
- Understands how people inspire social and community change

Course Design

The course will use structured, experiential learning which is outlined in the student’s individualized Educational Agreement form and assigned based on the student’s chosen practice method concentration and practice area. Field placement learning experiences are developed in concert with the field instructor and are linked to the competencies outlined on the student’s assigned Educational Agreement form. Students strive to develop field-based assignments which will exhibit that they have become proficient in the social work competencies. The field placement hours are logged at a fieldwork site and all student related activities are supervised by an approved, credentialed field instructor. The field placement is facilitated and monitored by the Office of Field Instruction Field Liaison who assigns the final grade. If a student elects a specialization or minor, these will be established during the placement phase. Each credit hour of field placement at the advanced level is 57 clock hours of work. Advanced students are required to log a total of 684 hours. Students electing a minor will complete a total of 171 clock hours out of the 684 total in their minor area and complete the required documentation for the minor field-based assignments related to the assigned competencies.
Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes

- **Multiculturalism and Diversity**: Students will be able to assess similarities and differences between themselves and the people represented in the community organization arena as well as set specific objectives which incorporate these factors into their practice at the community organization level. Differences to be taken into account will include gender, race, ethnicity, social class, age and other forms of social stratification and disenfranchisement.

- **Social Justice and Social Change**: Students will demonstrate competence in: a) assessing the causes and consequences of social and economic oppression on people represented in the community organization; b) analyzing, developing, implementing, and evaluating community organization to alter the situation(s); and c) building on the resources and strengths of socially and economically oppressed groups and working with them to strengthen their circumstances through community organization.

- **Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation**: Students will be exposed to experiences that evaluate and incorporate promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation principles at the community level.

- **Social Science Theory and Research**: Students will be expected to incorporate social science and research findings in the field placement, whenever possible.

Relationship of the course to Social Work Ethics and Values

Ethical standards of social work practice (as presented in the NASW Code of Ethics) will be used to address ethical issues commonly confronted in community organizing. The ethical standards of client confidentiality and appropriate roles, conduct and behavior of social workers and their colleagues, inter-professional/disciplinary collaboration, advocacy for oppressed individuals, and social justice will be particularly relevant to this course. The ethical themes of autonomy, beneficence, non-malfeasance [do no harm], fidelity, and justice will also be addressed.