

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SWK511
Module Title	Exploring Skills for Practice
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100503
Cost Code	GASW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status	Core
BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	16/08/23
With effect from date	01/09/23
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

Building on the theoretical base established at Level 4, this module explores the more specialist skills that may emerge from specific areas of practice in Wales and building on the wider skills that social workers need such as communication; active listening; integrating theory and knowledge and critical thinking. Students will have the opportunity to work in small groups to develop these communication skills and observing other students doing the same with a critical feedback loop. Students will identify and develop an understanding of skills including observation, assessment and direct intervention skills as required by the Social Work role. Other skills covered will be interviewing, empowerment, negotiation and working in partnership.

Finally, the students will apply practical skills such as an ability to prioritise and justify decision making and rationalising the processing they use.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Understand and apply a range of different theoretical perspectives of social work practice
2	Demonstrate a range of oral communication skills required for collaborative working
3	Demonstrate the critical knowledge base required to justify decision making processes
4	Outline different processes of assessment within social work practice and demonstrate how they can be undertaken
5	Demonstrate the written skills required for practice to present information accurately in a clear and structured format

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: The “inbox” exercise – working in groups, students will receive a series of case studies/practical tasks that they must organise into an order of priority and reach a consensus opinion about the importance of different tasks/issues.

Assessment 2: A report outlining a range of skills that could be utilised by a social worker during the assessment process.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	2, 3	Practical	40%
2	1, 4, 5	Written Assignment	60%

Derogations

Only two attempts at the assignment.

This module must achieve at least 40% pass mark for each assessment, and is not eligible for compensation.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Range of face to face teaching, utilising some recorded material and wider reading.

Use of multi-disciplinary teaching where possible and appropriate (health, policing and youth work) to break down barriers between agencies.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Development of interpersonal skills established at Level 4

Presenting information e.g. meetings, supervision, Court etc.

Development of theoretical perspectives established at Level 4

Formation of decisions and judgements from assessment

Managing group dynamics

Emotional resilience and reflection

Self-care and Well-being

Understanding intersectionality and oppression

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Rogers, M., Whitaker, D., Edmondson, D. and Peach, D., (eds.) (2020), *Developing skills and knowledge for social work practice* (2nd), London: SAGE

Other indicative reading

Beesley, P., Watts, M. and Harrison, M. (2018), *Developing your communication skills in social work*, London: SAGE

Healy, K. and Mulholland, J. (2019), *Writing Skills for Social Workers* (3rd), London: SAGE

Killick, C. and Taylor, B.J. (2020) *Assessment, Risk and Decision making in Social Work*, Exeter: Learning Matters.

Rogers, M and Allen, D (2019), *Applying Critical Thinking and Analysis in Social Work*, London: SAGE

Teater, B. (2020) *An Introduction to Applying Social Work Theories and Methods* (3rd edn), Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Koprowska, J. (2020) *Communication and Interpersonal Skills in Social Work* (5th edn), Exeter: Learning Matters

Horner, N. (2018) *What is Social Work?*, Exeter: Learning Matters

Livingston, W.; Redcliffe, J and Quinn Aziz, A. (2023) *Social Work in Wales*, Policy Press, Bristol.

Maclean, S. & Harrison, R. (2015) *Social Work Theory: A Straightforward Guide for Social Work Students* (3rd edn), Lichfield: Kirwin Maclean Associates

Maclean, S., Finch, J. and Tedam, P. (2018) *SHARE, a new model for social work*, Lichfield: Kirwin Maclean Associates

Parker, J, (2020), *Social Work Practice* (6th edn), Exeter: Learning Matters

Thompson, N. (2021), *People Skills* (5th edn) Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Thompson, N. (2020) *Anti-discriminatory Practice: Equality, Diversity and Social Justice* (7th edn), Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan

Employability – the University Framework

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Graduate attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave the University having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication