Competencies

1) Be able to discuss the historical and current roles of theory in social work research and social work practice.
2) Be able to describe the differences between theories, models and perspectives in social work research and practice.
3) Be able to discuss the history of social work thought and how this thought connects to human sciences traditions.
4) Be able to describe and critically evaluate various theoretical bases of social work research and practice, including grand theories originating in other fields as well as middle range theories and post-modern theories.
5) Be able to describe, critically analyze, compare, and contrast major social work practice models including their historical development, strengths, limitations, theoretical and value assumptions, epistemological assumptions, and ethnic or cultural relevance/competency.
6) Be able to trace the historical evolution of core components of social work thought, such as person-in-the-environment or the strengths perspective.
7) Be able to identify and critically analyze major issues and controversies in the development of knowledge in social work, including issues such as the role of theory in research, evidence based practice, and the science of social work.
8) Be able to explore evolving conceptions of science to determine how dominant conceptions influence theory development and use in both practice and research.
9) Be able to apply content of various knowledge bases and theories for producing change in practice situations involving diverse individuals, groups, families, organizations, communities and policy (including gender, poverty, racial, cultural and political issues).
10) Be able to discuss in depth how theory and theoretical perspectives inform research and knowledge-building within an area of the student’s own choosing.
For Fall 2013 & Spring 2014 Written Preliminary Exam

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Ph.D. WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS
THEORY AND MODELS BIBLIOGRAPHY


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