


Theory 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 perspectives, theories, and models in social work research and social work practice.
3) Be able to discuss the history of social work theory and how theory connects to human service 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 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 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.
7) Be able to explore evolving conceptions of science to determine how dominant conceptions influence the use of theory and theory development in both research and practice.
8) 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).
9) 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.