

**University of Minnesota
School of Social Work
Fall Semester 2003
Course Syllabus**

**SW 8602
Direct Practice Evaluation
2 Credits**

Course Description:

This course teaches students how to evaluate their social work practice. It focuses on subjects as how to specify practice goals, measure changes, obtain reliable and valid measures, specify and monitor interventions, select and implement evaluation designs, collect data, summarize and present findings. Ethic and cultural issues related to practice evaluation will be identified and addressed.

Prerequisite: SW 8901: Social Work Research Methods.

Course Objectives:

1. To instill in students a commitment of evaluating their own social work practice.
2. To increase students' awareness of the current climate for practice accountability.
3. To increase students' sensitivity on their use of practice wisdom, theory, and research findings in their social work practice.
4. To increase students' understanding of the variety of ways in which their practice can be evaluated.
5. To introduce students to the problems and tasks confronting social workers at each stage of practice evaluation, and to explicate methodological strategies for the solution of these problems.
6. To improve students' ability to specify their practice goals and use appropriate evaluation designs, outcome measures, and data analysis methods in their practice evaluation.
7. To improve students' ability to communicate the effectiveness of their practice to their clients, colleagues, employers, and etc.

Course requirements:

This course will be conducted in a seminar format. Students are required to complete all reading assignments before class and participate in a small group project. Students are also required to submit an individual practice evaluation plan on or before the last day of class.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, written in non-sexist language and follow the citation and referencing style described in the American Psychological Association's (APA) Publication Manual (5th Ed.) Late assignments WILL NOT be accepted without prior approval of the instructor.

Activities:

- Attendance Small Group presentation of reading assignment
- Small group project report and presentation
- Individual practice evaluation plan or report

Required Text:

Bloom, M., Fischer, J., & Orme, J.G. (2003). Evaluating practice: Guidelines for the accountable professional (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. (B,F, & O)

Reading Package Required

SAMPLE