

## Bridging Class and Field: Fact Sheet for Field Instructors and Year 1 MSW Students

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Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) uses a Holistic Competence Model as a framework for teaching, learning, and assessment/evaluation of student performance. In the **fall semester** of Year 1, all students are enrolled in the companion courses *Elements of Social Work Practice (Elements)* and *Social Work Practice Laboratory (Lab)*. The courses include various learning strategies to develop competencies and identify areas for development in Practicum I:

- written assignments
- self-assessment exercises
- role-playing with classmates and analysis
- a performance-based interview with a simulated client / actor followed immediately by a written structured reflection. This Objective Standardized Clinical Examination (OSCE) enables raters (members of the teaching team who are not the student's direct course instructor) to assess student interview behaviour and the way concepts are used to reflect on and analyze the interview.

Employing the same framework as the Practicum evaluation, the student's cumulative performance in the Lab course, including areas requiring further development, are included in the final Lab Evaluation Summary (LES).



### Practicum Team Relationships

In the **winter semester** of Year 1, all students are enrolled in Practicum I during which the critical student / field instructor dyad has the support of:

- the faculty-field liaison (monitors the practicum)
- the educational coordinator (where applicable)  
*and*
- the Practicum Office (recruitments field instructors, administers matches with students and Practicum I and II evaluations.)



## Bridging the Lab Evaluation Summary and Practicum I

Practicum I provides the opportunity to transfer theoretical knowledge and skills learned in simulated situations to authentic practice experiences. This transfer is achieved in the following manner:

- The student brings the LES, identifying areas for development, to the field instructor (FI) and faculty-field liaison (FFL).
- Employing the same framework as the Practicum evaluation, the student addresses areas for development with complementary learning objectives in the learning contract (See Table 1), with the support of their FI. The FFL approves the learning contract.

This process forms the foundation for the Practicum I experience. Progress is monitored via the mid-term and final evaluations.

*Table 1: Competencies for Direct Practice*

Elements and Lab	Practicum I
Self-direction in Professional Learning and Development	Learning and Growth
Work Productively with Colleagues	Behaviour in the Organization
Conceptualization of Practice	Conceptualizing Practice
Develop and use a Collaborative Relationship	Clinical Relationships
Conduct an Eco-Systemic Assessment	Assessment and Intervention
Non-verbal Communication Use of Interviewing Skills Focused and Responsive Communication	Professional Communication

### Practicum 1 Process



For more information on the practicum, please refer to the Practicum Manual at:

<http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/practicum/practicum-manual-2/>

For more information on the integration of the LES and practicum, please refer to:

<https://media.library.utoronto.ca/play.php?jbRrmfNib7y5&id=22838&access=public>

July 2018