

**VIRGINIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
WORK**  
**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK  
PROGRAM**



**FIELD  
INSTRUCTOR  
ORIENTATION  
TRAINING**

Online Module 9  
Training 2022+

# **MODULE 9**

## Resolving Problems in the Field





## • ***OBJECTIVES***

- ❖ Identify typical issues and potential problems in Field
- ❖ Clarify roles in Field Education
- ❖ Identify resources for support and resolution of problems in the field practicum

# YOU ARE SUPPORTED DURING TIMES OF STUDENT ISSUES IN FIELD EDUCATION

- When making the decision to become a Field Instructor, most individuals see an opportunity to impact and mentor the next generation of social workers.
- Agreeing to mentor a student is a great task and responsibility due to the time and effort involved in insuring that the student receives the best learning opportunity available in an agency setting. Usually, things go smoothly, but occasionally problems arise.
- While dealing with problems in field can be difficult, the Department of Social work and the Office of Field Education (OFE) are always available to support the process.
- Experience and research indicate problems are likely to arise in a number of areas: **professionalism, personal circumstances, performance, and relationships with others including the Field Instructor, clients, co-workers, or fellow interns**



# STUDENT ISSUES IN THE FIELD: PROFESSIONALISM



- **Student's dress and personal appearance**

Students' dress and grooming should conform to agency expectations and should not interfere with their ability to intervene with clients or be taken seriously by clients and co-workers.

- **Attendance**

Students should arrive at the placement site on time and should not have excessive absences.

- **Behavior and attitude**

Students should have a positive attitude about the agency, field instructor, coworkers, fellow interns, and clients.

- **Identity with social work as a profession**

Students should embody the 6 values of the social work profession and should demonstrate their commitment to those values through their performance and attitude.

- **Use of time**

Students should make good use of their time by managing it in a manner that is conducive to completing tasks and assignments on time and by established deadlines.

- **Adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics**

Students should have knowledge of, and a complete understanding of the standards outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics and should demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through their conduct and performance.

# STUDENT ISSUES IN FIELD: PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- **Past Personal Experiences**

Students should be aware of how their past personal experiences may impact their relationships at their placement site, as well as their interactions with clients.

- **Current Family Issues**

Students should be aware of how their current family situation may impact their performance at their placement site.

- **Other Commitments**

Students should ensure that any other commitments outside of the internship do not interfere with their commitment to the agency and clients at their placement site.

- **Ability to Balance School and Work**

Students should make the necessary arrangements to ensure that they are able to effectively handle school and work in such a manner that neither is adversely affected by the other.



# STUDENT ISSUES IN FIELD: PERFORMANCE



## **Professional etiquette**

Students should know how to communicate in a professional manner, demonstrate office etiquette, and conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing the agency and its clients.

## **Time Management**

Students should manage time wisely to ensure that they arrive to work on time, meet with clients when scheduled, complete paperwork on time, and meet all established deadlines, as well as being flexible when unforeseen situations arise.

## **Quality of Work Product**

Students should produce work products that reflect the guidelines set forth by the agency and that demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained from their social work education.

## **Workplace Behavior**

Students should conduct themselves in such a manner as to promote the dignity and respect of all individuals they come into contact with while carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the agency.

## **Skill Level**

Students should demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession gained from their social work education through their behavior, actions, and work product.

# STUDENT ISSUES IN FIELD: RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

## ❖ FIELD INSTRUCTOR

Teaching Style Versus Learning Style - Students should work with the Field Instructor to ensure that the Field Instructor's teaching style and their student learning style complement each other and should discuss any issues or concerns with the Field Instructor.

### **Supervisory Meetings**

Students should work with the Field instructor to ensure that the supervisory meetings occur on a consistent basis, and that they are prepared for the meetings with questions, client issues, and concerns.

## CLIENT SYSTEMS

**Establishing Rapport** - Students should work with the Field Instructor to build on the knowledge and skills necessary to build and maintain rapport with clients.

**Maintaining Therapeutic Relationships** - Students should work with the Field Instructor to build on the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a healthy, therapeutic relationship with clients.

**Utilizing Appropriate Treatment Techniques** - Students should work with the Field Instructor to build on the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to effectively intervene with clients.

**Managing Client Case Effectively** - Students should work with the field instructor to build on the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively



# STUDENT ISSUES IN FIELD: RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS



## **CO-WORKERS/FELLOW STUDENTS**

### **Teamwork**

Students should demonstrate an ability to work well with others.

### **Carrying own Weight**

Students should demonstrate an ability to carry their own workload.

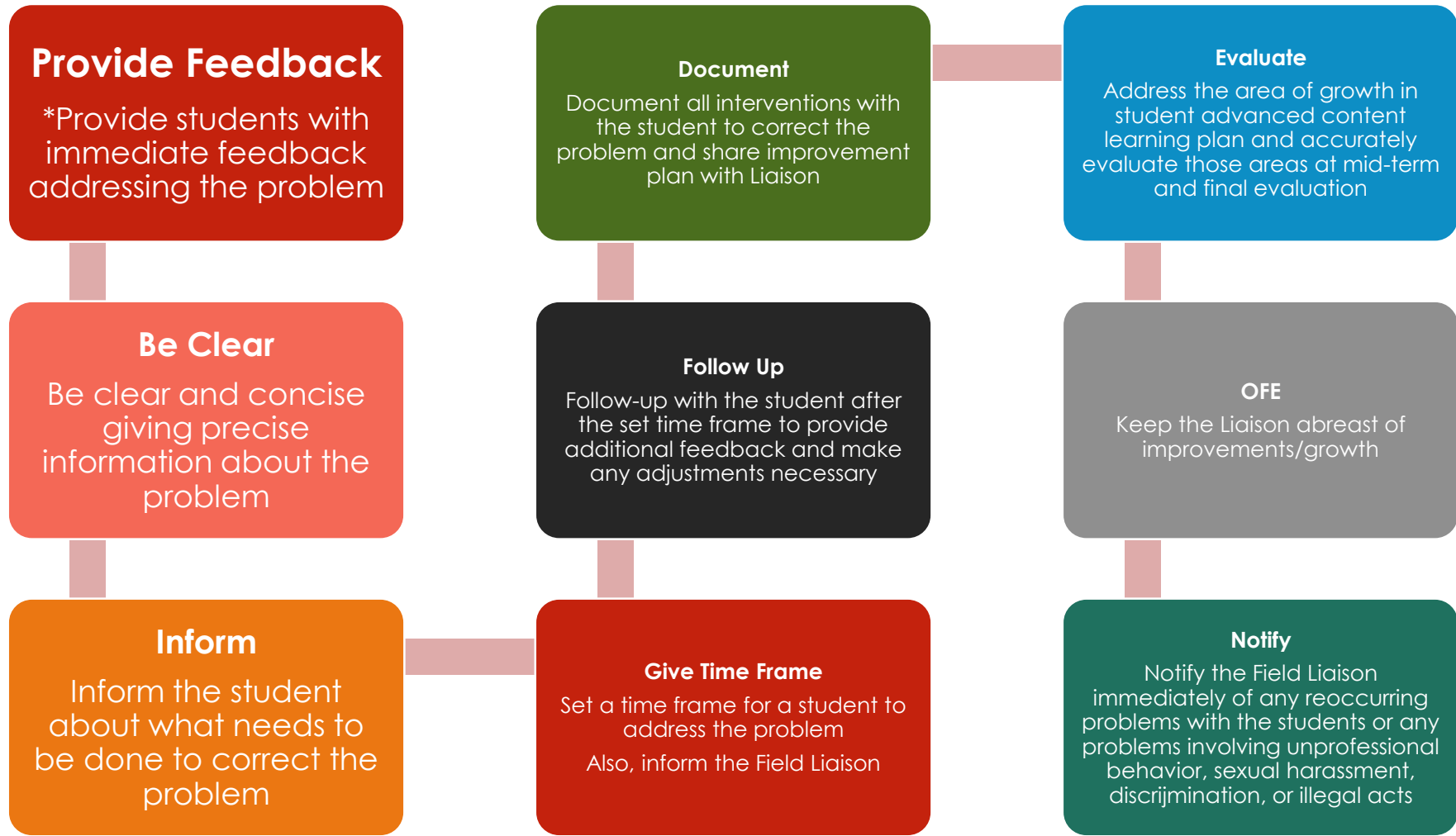
### **Consultation**

Students should consult with their field instructor and others to ensure they receive proper supervision and support during their internship.

### **Collaboration**

Students should collaborate with their field instructor and others to ensure they receive relevant information, appropriate instructions, and necessary resources to work with clients.

# PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING STUDENT ISSUES



# ROLES REVIEW

- Field Liaison:

The seminar instructor meets weekly with students; reviews all logs and assignments; conducts site visits each semester; assigns final grades.

- Field Education Director and Office of Field Education:

Oversees the Field Program, Team members assist with the coordination of placements and Field Instructor training. Oversees curriculum and tracks student progress through the MSW program.

- MSW Program Director and Chair: Responsible for the leadership and organization of the Department of Social Work.



# REFERENCES

- California State Field Instructor Training ◦ Cross Denney, B. Et al. ( 2013) Social Attitudes of Field Instructors Field Educator, Simmons School of Social Work, 3.2.
- The University of Maine, School of Social Work
- And Numerous Tedtalks





**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR  
STUDENTS SAFE**

**THIS ENDS MODULE 9**  
YOU CAN PRINT THIS INFORMATION  
TO REFER TO, AS NEEDED