

WHAT IS SOCIAL WORK?

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation (National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 1996).

What Makes Social Work Unique?

The person-in-environment perspective:

A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living. (National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 1996). As such, social workers are uniquely trained to help their clients function optimally within their environments.

Social work also has its own body of knowledge, professional values and code of ethics that act as the core of the profession and guide the person's conduct and decision making while they execute their job.

WHAT IS PRACTICUM?

Practicum is an integral part of the JTS BSW programme. It provides an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real life situations. Hence it helps students expand their knowledge, develop their

skills, and discover more about themselves and their areas of interest in the social work field.

Students are usually assigned to a social organization where they are supervised by an agency-based social worker with BSW qualifications. Every effort is made to place persons at an agency whose client population (e.g. children, youth, family services, corrections, substance abuse, community work, etc.) best meets their interests and educational needs. If requested, we also try to place students in their geographical area of residence. Practicum classes run concurrently with field placement. Compulsory attendance is expected of all students during entire the semester they are at the agency.

PRACTICUM STRUCTURE

Students are required to complete **600 hours** of practicum. This consists of the Minor Practicum (240 hours) and Major Practicum (360 hours).

Minor Practicum

Prerequisites:

* Pass in Orientation to Soc Wrk, SW Theory & Practice I & II, Human Behaviour & Soc Env, Theories & Tech in Counselling I, Dev Psychology, and Intro to Psychology & Sociology.

* Pass in Fundamentals of English/Academic Writing/Academic Writing I (for those who started BSW before Jan 2015) and College English I & II (for those who started BSW from Jan 2015 onwards)

Hours: 240 - you must complete all of the 240 hours at the same agency to pass the Minor Practicum

Credits: 4

Eligible Students:

Full Time – Year 3 (Sem II or Summer)

Part Time – Year 3 (Sem II or Summer before Year 4 begins)

Major Practicum

Prerequisites:

* Pass in Minor Practicum and all Prerequisite courses for Minor Practicum.

* Pass in Soc Wrk Theory & Prac. III, Theories & Techs in Counselling II, Abnormal Psychology, Legal & Ethical Issues in the Helping Profession, and College English III/Academic Writing II.

Hours: 360 - completed at the same agency

Credits: 6

Eligible Students:

Full Time – Year 4 (Sem I or Summer before Year 4 begins)

Part Time – Year 4 (Sem I or Summer before Year 5 begins)

(N.B. If you are Full Time you will only have one (Summer available to do the practicum).

(Also, students (FT/PT) who start in Sem I will be (able to complete the remaining hours in Sem II)

Other Practicum Information

Time Preference: You will gain more out of the field experience if you are able to do a block placement of 5 days (40 hours) per week at the agency. If that is not possible we recommend at least 2 full days per week.

Practicum at Your Place of Employment:

After obtaining the JTS Practicum Coordinator's permission, students may do the practicum at their current place of employment if they will be assigned to a department and area of work that is different from their normal course of duties.

Procedure:

1. Fill out and submit a BSW Practicum Application Form (usually done a few months before registration– notification occurs via JTS Website)
2. Register and pay for the course at Registry and Accounts Dept.

Examples of Types of Clinical or Direct Practice

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| • Assessment and diagnosis | • Aging or gerontology |
| • Case management | ○ Nursing home |
| • Clinical supervision | ○ Hospice |
| • Counselling or psychotherapy | ○ Reminiscence therapy |
| • Psychoanalysis | • Anti-poverty |
| • Crisis intervention | ○ Income assistance |
| • Family therapy/
Family interventions | ○ Job training/
placement |
| • Group therapy or
other group work | ○ Food bank
programmes |
| • Child welfare | ○ Housing and
homelessness |
| ○ Adoption | • Violence prevention |
| ○ Child abuse | • Person-centered
planning |
| ○ Foster care | • Play therapy |
| • Disability services | • Psychosocial and
psychoeducational
interventions |
| • Domestic violence | • Relationship
counselling and
interpersonal
counselling |
| • Family planning | • Relationship
education |
| • Employee assistance
programmes | • Substance abuse |
| • Medical social work | |
| • Forensic social work | |
| • School social worker | |

Examples of Types of Community Practice

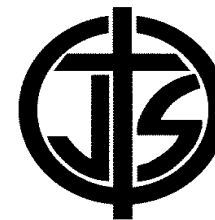
- Academic
- Management
- Community development
- Community economic development
- Community education
- Community organizing
- Critical social work
- Mediation
- Neighbourhood development
- Policy advocacy
- Policy analysis
- Political participation
- Programme development
- Programme evaluation
 - Research
 - International development
 - Social action
 - Social movement
 - Social planning

Source (for examples):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_services

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Jamaica Theological Seminary

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Practicum



“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:10)