

**University of Guam**  
**College of Natural and Applied Sciences**  
**Bachelor of Social Work Degree Program**

**2013 Report on the Achievement of Program Learning Outcomes**

This report provides a summary of the achievement levels of competencies by graduating students of the Bachelor of Social Work Program in 2012. The described competencies are congruent with the accreditation standards of the Council on Social Work Education.

This report lists the two most relevant courses for the achievement of each competency. Additional important pedagogical program elements through which students learn these competencies will be mentioned as appropriate. During field instruction, students have the opportunity to learn, practice, and assess all of the below mentioned competencies. Finally, this report lists the percentage of students who perform the respective competency well or very well; the source for these percentage rates is the annual exit survey of graduating students. The program had 10 graduates, 7 of them responded to the exit survey after their graduation.

**Competency # 1: Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.**

- The two primary courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are *SW301 Generalist Social Work Methods I* and *SW408 Advocacy*.
- All students were actively involved in the public policy development process that led to the licensing of social workers in Guam through Public Law 31-250 The Guam Social Work Practice Act.
- 100 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

**Competency # 2: Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.**

- The two primary courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are *SW403 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods III* and *SW404 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods IV*.
- The program promotes membership of student in the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. All students were actively involved in the 2012 Guam Social Work Conference.
- 100 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

**Competency # 3: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**

- The two focal courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW345 Social Justice and SW406 Social Policy. However, this competency is part of the student learning in every required social work course.
- The program has sponsored several public forums on critical community issues. Students are very much involved in the preparation and conduct of such community events, thus directly experience the value and importance of critical thinking skills as it relates to their own community issues.
- 100 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

**Competency # 4: Engage diversity and difference in practice.**

- The two focal courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW302 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods II and SW410 Social Welfare and Development in Micronesia.
- The program promotes international professional learning experiences. During the past two academic years the program offered field instruction and immersion opportunities in the Philippines and in Chuuk, the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 100 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

**Competency # 5: Advance human rights and social and economic justice.**

- The two focal courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW345 Social Justice and SW410 Social Welfare and Development in Micronesia
- All faculty are directly and personally involved in several human right, social and economic justice projects. Students learn from and with faculty in different forms and varying degrees of participation. These learning activities range from special faculty-student projects to joint lobbying activities and international aid projects.
- 86 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

**Competency # 6: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.**

- The two focal courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW313 Research Methods for Health and Social Services and SW404 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods IV.
- All students participate in Guam's annual count of homeless people. This direct experience of data collection pertaining to Guam's homeless population is used on several occasions to illustrate and critique relations of research-informed practice and practice-informed research.
- 86 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

### **Competency # 7: Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.**

- The two primary courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW250 Human Behavior and the Social Environment and SW403 Generalist Social Work Methods III.
- The program promotes student organizing for students to directly experience and reflect on human behavior and the social environments, as it relates to themselves and to the people they work with in their field instruction placements. The Social Work Student Alliance has served this purpose and engaged in multiple valuable student organizing projects and activities.
- 86 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

### **Competency # 8: Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.**

- The two primary courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW406 Social Policy and SW408 Advocacy. In these classes, all students directly and personally engage in such policy practice on various policy levels; program, agency, community, national and/or international levels.
- All students were actively involved in the public policy development process that lead to the licensing of social workers in Guam through Public Law 31-250 The Guam Social Work Practice Act.
- 71 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

### **Competency # 9: Respond to contexts that shape practice.**

- The two main courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this competency are SW250 Human Behavior and the Social Environment and SW410 Social Welfare and Development in Micronesia.
- During the past two academic years the program offered field instruction and immersion opportunities in the Philippines and in Chuuk, the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 86 percent of graduating students master this competency well or very well.

### **Competency # 10: Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.**

- The four primary courses to teach this competency and assess the mastery of this set of competencies are SW301 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods I, SW302 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods II, SW403 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods III, and SW404 Generalist Social Work Practice Methods IV and SW385 Field Instruction I and SW485 Field Instruction II.
- 71 percent of graduating students master this set of competencies well or very well.