



Student Learning Log

The Learning Log is a journal of your field placement experience. One of the most important aspects of developing a clinical persona is self-awareness. In a clinical setting this is known as countertransference. By journaling experiences in field and related feelings, the emerging social worker becomes more aware of where they are personally, intellectually, and professionally.

The purpose of the Learning Log is to assist the beginning social worker in identifying self-awareness and developing a set of coping skills and resources need to be an effective practitioner. Ideally the Log should have entries each week while in field and contain the following reflections:

- Social work ethics/values and your thoughts about ethical behavior, value conflicts, and ethical dilemmas
- Working with different populations
- Agency policy and its impact on clients
- Resiliency in your clients/community
- Multi-agency collaborations: what's working, what's not
- Social justice issues
- Cultural competence
- Empowerment practices
- Leadership models in your agency
- Feelings about the difficult problems/circumstances people face
- Observations of staff and their use of skill, how they manage their time, your time
- Reactions to your role, engaging in relational processes, troubling or powerful experiences
- Questions and thoughts about how your activities relate to the profession of social work, how are you reconciling differences? How do you value your experience?
- How your own background/experiences influences your role as a helper/advocate

While it is not expected that the weekly entry contain all of those listed, these are common issues that arise in field and should be reflected in the entries throughout the field year.

Field faculty will provide students with the details on how and where to turn in your weekly entries.