

INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SOCIAL WORK means the application of methods, principles and techniques of case work, group work, community organization, administration, planning, consultation and research to assist persons, groups or communities to enhance or restore their ability to function physically, socially and economically. [NRS 641B.030(2)]

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK means the unsupervised practice of social work, other than for a public employer, for compensation. [NRS 641B.505(2)]

INTERN means an applicant for licensure as an independent or as a clinical social worker who has not yet completed 3000 hours of supervised postgraduate training, but is in the process of doing so under a program of internship approved by the Board. (NAC 641B.035)

Independent Social Worker: Performance of supervised, postgraduate social work in state.

An applicant for licensure as an independent social worker must complete an internship consisting of not less than 3,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate social work. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the required work must be:

- (a) Undertaken in a program that is approved by the board before the applicant begins the program. The program must include, without limitation:
 - (1) An examination, if deemed necessary by the board;
 - (2) An appropriate setting, as determined by the board;
 - (3) Supervision of the applicant by a supervisor who has been approved by the board; and
 - (4) A plan of supervision that has been approved by the board.
- (b) Completed not earlier than 2 years or later than 3 years after the board approves the program. For good cause, the board will grant a specific extension of this period.
- (c) Conducted pursuant to the requirements and standards set forth by the board. For good cause, the board will withdraw its approval of a particular program.

The applicant must be able to demonstrate at an advanced practitioner level:

- A. The ability to assist persons, groups, agencies, organizations or communities to enhance or restore their ability to function physically, socially and economically by the application of methods, principles and techniques of case work, group work, community organization, administration, planning, consultation, research including but not limited to the following:
 - Client centered advocacy
 - Design organizational procedures and policies
 - Plan, implement and evaluate programs
 - Establish and implement organizational goals
 - Develop effective service programs
 - Knowledge of social programs and resources
 - Obtain, manage and be accountable for agency resources including staff
 - Coordinate services
 - Facilitate and interpret and implement policy
 - Formulate and use referral services
 - Resolve or mediate conflict
 - Program consultation
 - Staff development
 - Fiscal management skills
 - Bring about system change
- B. The skills and professional conduct necessary for continuing competency
 - Establish professional relationships – initiating and sustaining a worker/client relationship based in social work standards of professional conduct that strengthens those involved.
 - Appropriate “use of self” with clients and/or colleagues – the separation of personal issues from professional responsibility and relationships
 - Commitment to the social work profession and services to clientele
 - Application of social work values and ethics
 - Knowledge and application of human behavior and the social environment
 - Recognize and reinforce the individual’s prerogative of self-determination
 - Utilize supervision for critical review of practice

Additional Information

The applicant must be able to demonstrate at an advanced practitioner level the ability to assist persons, groups, agencies, organizations, or communities to enhance or restore their ability to function physically, socially and economically by the application of methods, principles and techniques of:

- Casework) both direct treatment, with an individual or several individuals, and intervention in the situation on the client's behalf with the objective of meeting the client's needs, helping the client deal with the problems with which he is confronted, strengthening the client's capacity to function productively, lessening his distress, and enhancing his opportunities and capacities for fulfillment.
- Casework management and supportive services: assessment of presenting problems and perceived needs, referral services, policy interpretations, data gathering, planning, advocacy, and coordination of services
- (Group work) helping people, in the realization of their potential for social functioning, through group experiences in which the members are involved with common concerns and in which there is agreement about the group's purpose, function, and structure.
- (Social work community organization) the process of social interaction and the method of social work concerned with meeting broad needs and bring about and maintaining adjustment between needs and resources in a community or other areas; helping people to deal more effectively with their problems and objectives by helping them develop, strengthen and maintain qualities of participation, self-direction and cooperation; and bringing about changes in community and group relationships and in the distribution of decision-making power. The community that is the primary client may be an organization, neighborhood, city, county, state or national entity.
- (Social work administration) the practice that is concerned primarily with translating laws, technical knowledge and administrative rulings into organizational goals and operational policies to guide organizational behavior; designing organizational structure and procedures or processes through which social work goals can be achieved; and securing resources in the form of material, staff, clients and societal legitimization necessary for goal attainment and organizational survival.
- (Social work planning) specifying future objectives, evaluating the means for achieving them, including identifying appropriate resources, and making deliberate choices about appropriate courses of action in order to enhance social well being.
- (Social work client-centered advocacy) the service in which the social worker functions on behalf of individual clients, groups, or other entities including but not limited to social work and governmental agencies, and specific issues related to those organizations. The purpose of client –centered advocacy is to bring about or influence change to improve the quality of life, enhance empowerment and assure the basic rights of the entity or individual being served by the social worker.
- (Social work research) The formal organization and the methodology of data collection and the analysis and evaluation of data.