SUPERVISION TOPICS

Supervision provides the opportunity for you to develop a professional, supportive relationship with your field instructor. This meeting time provides monitoring and support of your learning and progress. Use the time to learn about social work in your agency; challenge yourself to think critically; review ethical considerations and provide evaluation and feedback.

Coming prepared to supervision, ready to discuss concerning issues demonstrates your engagement in the process. To prepare, it is recommended that students choose a topic to discuss or issue to explore. Examples of topics and issues are included below.

1. Identify the differences between volunteer, student and employee roles in the agency.
2. Review agency policies and procedures that need further clarification, i.e. confidentiality.
3. Identify methods of communication/feedback that are most helpful.
4. Student’s first impression of the agency and the impact it had/has on them.
5. Discuss techniques to process what has been learned in the classroom and applying it to student’s micro, mezzo and macro practice.
6. Negotiate learning experience based on student’s style of learning, confidence level and abilities to learn about client groups, and target populations the agency serves.
7. Discuss what to learn and what not to learn at the agency.
8. Address strengths and vulnerabilities.
9. Issues related to policies and procedures.
10. Reflect on the highs and lows of the practicum experience.
11. Clarify expectations.
12. Explore value differences.
13. Professional role behavior/ethics.
14. How to get the most out of the supervision experience.
15. Confidentiality, release of information and other sensitive issues.
16. Understanding the differences between ethical problems vs. ethical dilemmas.
17. Identify on-going learning opportunities and challenges.
18. How to work with difficult clients.
19. Understanding the organization – limitations, politics, fiscal, change.
20. Address issues of diversity – examine challenges, barriers and benefits.
21. Identify stressors and learn techniques to cope with stressful situations – self-care.
22. Use/misuse of authority and power with clients, staff.
23. Identifying types of supervision that are effective and ineffective.
24. Importance of using consultation to problem solve.
25. Review learning contract – negotiate additional experiences and/or eliminate certain activities.
27. Resistance to self-awareness and change.
28. Ethical analysis and decision making.
30. Techniques to evaluate practice.
31. Evaluating practice as an active learner and practitioner in micro, mezzo and macro practice.
32. Demonstration of independence and accountability in practice.
33. Discuss understanding of social and organization change.
34. Utilizing culturally sensitive intervention approaches.
35. Discuss projects/activities that can contribute to the agency.
36. Importance of collaboration and team building.
37. Improving inter-professional relationships.
38. Preparing for termination – clients, staff, supervisor, agency.
39. Potential problems in termination process.
40. Life after field experience.
41. Workplace skills learned from practicum.
42. Importance of developing networking skills.
43. Reviewing progress and areas for future growth.
44. Concluding the supervisory relationship.
45. Review frustrations, lessons and joys of experience.