

## ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

**Social Work Undergraduate**  
(Instructional Degree Program)

**BSW**  
(Degree Level)

### **Program Mission:**

Consistent with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the Mission of the School of Social Work is to educate students to practice social work competently with the diverse, multicultural populations of New Mexico and the Southwest. The School has a primary commitment to Hispanic and Native American people. The Social Work curriculum at NMHU strives to ground students in core professional social work values, skills and ethical principles, with a focus on promoting awareness and respect for cultural and gender differences and how poverty affects the well-being of people in the region.

### **Student Learning Outcome 1:**

Identify and conduct oneself as a professional social worker guided by ethical practice principles.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1**

Mastery of content knowledge and skills  
Effective communication skills

### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

This outcome will be demonstrated by successful completion of the community intervention assignment required of BSW students in conjunction with SW433 (Law, Ethics & Social Work Practice). This assignment is worth twenty percent of the final grade and is evaluated in terms of writing style, organization, scholarly sources, community problem analysis, and conclusion.

### **Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	59	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	6
Total Number of Students Assessed:	65	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	90.8%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:** Students' performance on this learning outcome increased slightly from the previous year. We are well above our benchmark for this outcome. The assignment used to measure these outcomes is very challenging, which suggests students are receiving better than adequate instruction.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Apply theoretically grounded critical thinking skills to contextual knowledge of person-in-environment transactions in practice engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluation.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2**

Mastery of content and knowledge  
Critical and reflective thinking skills

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

This outcome will be demonstrated by successful completion of the SW468 (Theories of Social Work Practice) Signature Assignment. This assignment is comprised of two parts—an “Ecological Assessment” worth 50 points, and a “Theory to Case Application” requirement likewise worth 50 points. The grade earned on this assignment constitutes 20% of the final grade for the course.

**Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	48	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	9
Total Number of Students Assessed:	57	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	84.2%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:** A drop of 13.9 percentage points from previous year is noted. Students' performance on this learning outcome is above the benchmark. Faculty will meet during the Fall 2015 semester, to discuss possible reasons for the drop in scores.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Engage diversity in practice in the service of human rights and social and economic justice.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3**

Mastery of content knowledge and skills  
Critical and reflective thinking

#### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:**

This outcome will be demonstrated by successful completion of the SW485 (Human Behavior in the Social Environment III) Signature Assignment with a “B” or higher. This assignment consists of four sections. Section One entitled “critical self-examination,” is worth 30 points. Section Two, “the application of theory & literature” is worth 35 points. Section Three calls for “an in-depth analysis.” Section three is worth up to 25 points. Finally, use of APA format, written clarity, and grammar are worth up to ten points.

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	64	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	10
Total Number of Students Assessed:	74	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	86.5%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:** There was a decrease in performance on this learning outcome, compared to previous year (100%). Students continue to perform satisfactorily on this outcome. Discussion with faculty suggests this assignment is an adequate measure of this outcome.

### **Student Learning Outcome 4:**

Engage in research-informed practice, practice-informed research, and policy practice to advance well-being.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4**

Mastery of content and knowledge  
Critical and reflective thinking skills  
Effective use of technology

#### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:**

This outcome will be demonstrated by successful completion of the Signature Assignment required in SW330 (Social Work Research Methods I). The purpose of this assignment is to assess “student ability to apply critical thinking to inform and

communicate professional judgments.” This assignment is worth 100 points or 20% of the final grade for the course.

### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	66	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	3
Total Number of Students Assessed:	69	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	95.7%

### **Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:**

The signature assignment in sw 330 requires the student to use internet search engines to locate an experimental research article related to a social work topic. Students summarize and critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the article, evaluating the extent to which they can trust the findings and apply them to practice. The results suggest we have a good percentage of students meeting or exceeding the score of B for the assignment. Instructors from Main campus (Las Vegas) and other campuses such as: Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Farmington and Santa Fe grade this assignment. It may be time to attempt to increase the interrater reliability of this score. Research instructors will meet to discuss this possibility.