

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

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 SW331 (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:	126	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	9
Total Number of Students Assessed:	135	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	93.2%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

Students' performance on this learning outcome increased from 91% to approximately 93 %, from the previous year. We also assessed a larger number of student scores, suggesting instructors are more involved in the assessment process. 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:	98	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	4
Total Number of Students Assessed:	102	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	96.1%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

In this course, SW 468, 98 of 102 students meet the criterion for achieving this outcome. More analysis would have to be done to determine reason that 4 students failed to meet this criterion. The reasons for not meeting the criteria could range from student life situations that prevented them from handing in their paper to instructor teaching strategies and styles that did not meet the student’s learning needs. However with such a high percentage of success, it is clear that, given both student and professor variability, most students did achieve this outcome. The signature assignment in this course requires that student demonstrate the ability to critically analyze the contextual information about the biopsychosocial situation of client who is from an oppressed sector of society and then to sufficiently engage with the client to develop an integrative intervention plan that draws upon the four standard conceptual categories of human develop and practice which are psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic/transpersonal. The written student treatment plan includes client engagement using the core conditions and critical use of social work communication skills, assessment of the client through the application of practice theory, intervention with client that focuses on collaboration and goal setting and an evaluation of the intervention that is guided by goal attainment strategies and measurements. Ninety six percent of students met the benchmark which indicates that in the last semester of the 2-year BSW program in social work, students able to apply critical thinking skills to work with the biopsychosocial realities of their clients’ lives.

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 SW383 (Human Diversity and Multicultural Theory) 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:	95	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	3
Total Number of Students Assessed:	98	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	97.0%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

There was a significant increase in performance on this learning outcome, compared to previous year. Last year the percentage of students meeting the passing criterion was 86.5%, while this year it was 97%. The number of students also increased from 74 students to 98 students. Students continue to performance 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 practice 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:	114	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	7
Total Number of Students Assessed:	121	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	94.2%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:

We are currently only using one means to assess this outcome. The assignment requires students to clearly define concepts, challenge assumptions and assess evidence. Students are also required to evaluate the research paper from several perspectives and identify limitations as well as strengths. Based on the current data, students are performing adequately in the area of critical thinking.

Assessment of Center Students:

The assessment activities describe above apply to classes taught at the centers.

Use of Data

We met to discuss these results and decided that we would no longer group the assessment scores NMHU traits into one score. We formed an assessment committee which is in the process of evaluating each NMHU trait, with several outcome measures. In the future we will be able to know which of the NMHU traits requires our attention. In addition, based on the aggregated scores we are doing very well on all four traits.