

The 12 Competencies Used to Decide Entry into the UWS Social Work Program

The following competencies are used by the Social Work Program as guidelines for assessing student suitability and capacity to enter the profession of social work. Students applying to the Social Work Program at the University of Wisconsin-Superior are expected to have:

1. An ability to relate to people with warmth and empathy, communicating feelings appropriately.
2. An accepting attitude toward their total selves, including responsibility for meeting physical and emotional needs.
3. An openness to change in themselves and others.
4. Recognition of the essential worth and dignity of all human beings.
5. Appreciation of the value of human diversity; an ability to accept differences in people and be accepting in the face of what seems on the surface to be strange and baffling behavior; to know and understand social rules and behaviors.
6. Capacity to develop self-confidence and initiative in working with people and an ability to relate to people without inappropriate over-identification.
7. An ability to handle problems in daily living; to appropriately deal with stress and reality within a framework of emotional and social maturity commensurate with the student's age and life experience.
8. The capacity to recognize injustice when it occurs and a willingness to try to change the situation, procedure, policy or system which created the injustice in order that it might become more just.
9. An ability to accept constructive criticism and suggestions in good faith by persons qualified to provide feedback.
10. Beginning ability to identify personal strengths, limitations, and motivations, especially as related to a decision to work with people.
11. Beginning ability to express thoughts with clarity in both written and verbal form.
12. An ability to discipline self as demonstrated by the consistent completion of individual and group assignments, class attendance, punctuality, and observation of deadlines.

Reviewed by SAC and FAC 4-8-03