

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements

National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS)

Master of Social Work (MSW)

Key Assessment Findings

2011-2012

Comprehensive Exams

Comprehensive exams are required for all MSW students at the end of the foundation year. The exam covers the core knowledge base of each required course. Beginning this academic year the comprehensive exam is completed online over a five day period, no longer an on campus 4-hour exam.

Foundation Year Comprehensive Exams

The foundation year comprehensive exam consists of five sections: policy, macro practice, research, diversity and oppression, and assessment and intervention. All questions refer to a case example that is common across all students. In order to pass, a minimum of 75% for each section, and an overall minimum of 80% must be achieved. If these two criteria are not achieved the student has the option of taking an oral exam in which each student is offered the opportunity to show their grasp of the content areas they did not pass. If the oral exam is not a pass, the student can retake the written exam during the summer and must pass in order to move into the advanced year.

For the academic year 2011-2012, 94 students took the foundation year comprehensive exam. The pass rate at the written exam was 90.47%. There were 9.6% of the students who did not meet the criteria of passing a section at 75% and were offered the oral exam. All students offered the oral exam passed it. Please see Table 1 for results. Table 2 provides further detail about the comprehensive exams.

Table 1

Foundation Year Comprehensive Exam Pass Rate by Section and Overall (n = 94)

	Failed 1 Written Exam	Passed Written Exam	Passed Oral Exam	Passed second Written Exam
Foundation Year Comprehensive Exam	9	85	9	n/a

Table 2:

Foundation Year Comprehensive Exam Pass Rate by Section and Overall (n = 94)

Name of Section		Points	Mean (S.D.)	Below Expectations less than 75% on one or less than 80% on Total	Meets or Exceeds Expectations
Section I	Macro Practice	20	18.2 (1.6)	0%	100%
Section II	Policy	25	23.1 (1.8)	0%	100%
Section III	Research	10	8.2 (0.9)	6.3%	93.7%
Section IV	Diversity and Oppression	15	14.3 (1.1)	2.2%	98.8%
Section V	Assessment and Intervention	30	25.7 (2.5)	1.1%	98.9%
Overall		100	89.5 (3.6)	9.6%	90.4%

Field Evaluation Findings**Foundation Year**

In 2011-2012, we had a total of 96 foundation year MSW students begin their field internships. We had four students withdrawal from field for a variety. Four students withdrew from field for a variety of reasons. A total of 92 students successfully completed their internships.

Advanced Year

In 2011-2012, we had a total of 98 advanced year MSW students begin their field internships. Over the course of the year two students withdrew from field. A total of 96 advanced year students completed field, 98% of 98.

Curricular Improvements

For the upcoming year our curriculum improvements include the offering of a new clinical specialization, entitled Military, Veterans, and their Families.

Military, Veterans, and their Families Specialization: Students placed in settings that include veterans' hospitals, military medical centers, and vet centers may select this specialization, which includes all clinical concentration requirements, along with a Health Care Field Integrative Seminar and two-semester field internship (877/878), three required elective courses, Applied Theory for Social Work with Military, Veterans, and Families (593), Policy to Support Practice with Troops, Veterans, and Their Families (669), and Military Culture: Implications for Practice (539) along with an additional elective course selected from the following: Social Work Responses to Trauma, Attachment Theory and Neurobiology, Death, Treatment for Chemical Dependency, Drug Abuse Policy: The Conflict Between Individual and Societal Rights, Drug Abuse Policy: Treatment and Its Effectiveness, Drug Abuse Policy: Current Policy Issues and the National Debate, and Homelessness: Individual and Social Concerns (655, 653, 662, 663, 560, 561, 652, and 554. This Specialization requires completion of 31 credits in the advanced year.