

S632 Course Description

This course is designed to build individual and group practice skills for work with children and families impacted by child physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and/or family violence. Emphasis will be placed on practice skills with children. Students will practice assessment and intervention skills guided by theories of child development, attachment and bonding, grief, and trauma. The goals of safety, permanency and well-being will be emphasized when assessing risk and trauma and intervening within the child welfare and school systems. Students will explore cultural differences and issues impacting particular oppressed and underserved populations.

Objectives

Through active participation in the learning experiences and completion of the readings, assignments, and learning projects offered throughout this seminar, learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify characteristics and dynamics of child maltreatment and corresponding treatment issues as they relate to the child's age and stage of development.
2. Assess information about families and children and to be able to design appropriate treatment plans that build on strengths.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how children and adults experiencing separation and the impact of separation on family reunification and child placement.
4. Identify individual and group interventions that can be used to help children and families cope with separation experiences.
5. Assess the service needs of children from diverse backgrounds with consideration to family structure, race and ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation.
6. Understand the court system and develop effective skills for case advocacy and testimony.
7. Assess the impact of trauma on children and demonstrate ways in which systemic traumatization of children and families may be reduced or mitigated.
8. Identify the unique needs of adolescents transitioning to independence.