ADVANCED GENERALIST CURRICULUM PROPOSAL
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Mission
The Advanced Generalist Concentration in the Indiana University School of Social Work prepares students to master multi-faceted roles for practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities and within diverse systems and settings.

Rationale
Our current five concentrations focus on fields of practice. An advanced generalist curriculum focuses on strengths and problem analysis, role choice and multiple systems interventions. This concentration is compatible with the mission of the program which is to educate students to be critical thinking, research informed, continuously learning, ethical, and effective social workers prepared for practice.

The Advanced Generalist Concentration is the most rapidly growing one in graduate-level social work education, currently offered by more than 40 programs. Advanced Generalist is most suitable for students who will work in rural and micropolitan areas where services are more limited, as well as students who will work in urban settings that address complex needs and diverse populations. An advanced generalist curriculum focuses on more advanced and complex role choices for multi-system interventions that often cut across diverse population groups and fields of practice. Given that 80% of Indiana is rural-suburban, this is a most appropriate choice for students who live in these areas and will practice in them.

Goals
The Advanced Generalist curriculum will prepare students to:

1. demonstrate advanced dimensions of practice through roles such as the broker, advocate, evaluator, outreach worker, teacher, behavior changer, consultant, caregiver, data manager, administrator, mediator, and community planner (Gibbs, Locke, and Lohman, 1990; Hernandez, Jorgensen, Judd, Gould, and Parsons, 1985; Lavitt, 2009; Lewandowski GlenMaye, Bolin, 2004; Schatz, Jenkins, and Sheafor, 1990). (Addresses EPAS 2.1.1, 2.1.7, 2.1.10 a-d)

2. engage in multi-dimensional strengths and problem analysis, self-reflective leadership, and ethical advocacy in multiple practice settings. (Jones and Pierce, 2006; Lavitt, 2009; Vecchiolla et. al, 2001). (Addresses EPAS 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.8)


4. adapt practice interventions to the local dimensions of services in justice, cultural, diversity, social, economic and political contexts. (Lewandowski, GlenMaye, and Bolin, 2004). (Addresses EPAS 2.1.9)
Curriculum/Courses

The foundation and intermediate courses are identical to the current MSW curriculum.

Seven courses will be required for the Advanced Generalist concentration. These include three that are currently offered and completely developed:

**S618 Social Policy and Services II (3 credits)**
A group of courses covering topics or content including social problems, special populations, particular social service delivery areas, and social indicators that predict areas of future social policy transformations.

- The online sections of this course will focus on Advanced Generalist issues in policy and services. This will include in-depth analysis and skills in legislative policy implementation and monitoring and also agency-level policy practice.

**S623 Practice Research Integrative Seminar I (3 credits)**
This course furthers the knowledge, skills, and values students develop in the foundation-year research course. Students will apply their knowledge and skills in research to evaluate practice or program effectiveness in their concentrations, using research methods that are sensitive to consumers’ needs and clients’ race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and additional aspects important to effective and ethnicity research.

- The course will be offered concurrently with the second field practicum, S651/S652.

**S661 Executive Leadership Practice (3 credits)**
This course addresses administrative, management, leadership, and supervisory skills necessary for leadership practice. Included are staff hiring, supervision, evaluation, and termination; working with boards and volunteers, leadership styles, strategic planning, and current best practices in administration.

- No change in course contents.

Four additional courses will be made available. Two will be new:

**S6X1 Advanced Generalist Practice I**
Advanced Generalist Practice I
Building on the foundation/intermediate curriculum and its focus on systems and ecological theories, the advanced generalist course sequence engages students to focus on systems interactions as the basis for designing and implementing complex interventions for simultaneous change at multiple-system levels. The enhanced theoretical basis for advanced generalist practice includes the introduction to chaos and complexity theory (GlenMaye, Lewandowski, & Bolin, 2004). Recognizing that basic practice skills are very similar across fields of practice, the advanced generalist practitioner may begin intervention at micro, mezzo and macro levels. Advanced Generalist Practice I concentrates on the skills associated with entry, engagement and assessment that enable
the practitioner to ascertain the dynamic interactions of systems relevant to the change effort, including the differential rates of acceptance of change at each systems level. Students learn to make critical judgments regarding the selection of assessment tools, the timing of assessment relative to different systems, and the ethical implications of simultaneously working at micro, mezzo and macro levels.

**S6X2 Advanced Generalist Practice II**

This course engages the student to critically analyze and select appropriate interventions relative to the systems engaged in the change effort. Advanced generalist practitioners have a breadth of intervention skills and acquire depth over time as dictated by their immediate practice environments. Thus the course will build on micro, mezzo, and macro interventions mastered in the generalist intermediate curriculum with emphasis on identifying and collaborating with specialists and interdisciplinary teams; monitoring the interactive effects of simultaneous, multi-level interventions; and, expanding knowledge and skills to address unmet needs. Recommended co-requisite is S623 Practice Evaluation.

Two additional **S600 Electives (3 credits)** that examine special topics of interest to advanced generalist students will be made available.
References


