

SoWo 500, 505, 510, and 530 Course Objectives

Course Objectives SoWo 500: Human Development in Context: Infancy to Adolescence

1. Analyze and evaluate major theoretical frameworks (e.g., bioecological, psychosocial, risk and resilience, person-in-environment, systems) that explain individual development during childhood and adolescence in the context of family, community, culture and the larger environment
2. Describe the typical development of individuals from conception to adolescence, as well as divergent developmental trajectories that may occur in response to a range of biopsychosocial problems and social injustices
3. Describe typical family development, including structure, functioning and processes, that occur from conception to adolescence, as well as divergent family development that may occur from conception to adolescence in response to biopsychosocial problems and social injustices
4. Explain the impact of gender, sexual orientation, culture/heritage, spirituality, race-ethnicity, and socioeconomic status on child and adolescent development, including both typical and divergent trajectories
5. Explain the impact of family, community, sociocultural, and socioeconomic context on child and adolescent development, including both typical and divergent trajectories
6. Recognize and describe major health and mental health disorders and the comorbidity among these disorders that occurs during childhood and adolescence
7. Articulate key ethical issues for social workers related to child and adolescent health and mental health (e.g., access to treatment based on diagnosis, health disparities)

Course Objectives SoWo 505: Human Development in Context II: Adulthood

1. Analyze and evaluate major theoretical frameworks (e.g., bioecological, psychosocial, life span, life course, risk and resilience, person-in-environment, systems) for examining adult development in context;
2. Describe the development of individuals from early adulthood to old age, as well as divergent developmental trajectories that may occur in response to a range of socio-cultural-historical influences, personal decisions, biopsychosocial problems and social injustices (e.g., illness, disability, deprivation, discrimination);
3. Explain the impact of gender, sexual orientation, culture/heritage, spirituality, race-ethnicity, and socioeconomic status on typical and divergent trajectories of adult development;
4. Articulate how the family serves as the primary social context for adult development, including the implications of variations in family structure, development, and process in both the family of origin and the family of choice.
5. Recognize and describe major health and mental health disorders and the comorbidity among these disorders that occurs during adulthood;
6. Articulate key ethical issues for social workers related to adult health and mental health (e.g., access to treatment based on diagnosis, health disparities, end of life decisions)

Course Objectives SoWo 510: Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation

1. Knowledge of evaluation models and methodologies available to implement evidence-based social work practices;
2. Skills in accessing and assessing public databases and research literature as a foundation for evidence-based practice;
3. Skill in applying the findings of social intervention research to social work practice and policy;

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4. Skills to develop and implement intervention evaluations that promote evidence-based social work practice and policy, including skills related to qualitative and quantitative evaluation design, measurement, data analysis, and knowledge dissemination;
5. Ability to apply knowledge of social work ethics and values to the design of practice intervention evaluations;
6. Skill in designing social interventions that are sensitive to and address ethnic, economic, gender, racial, religious, sexual orientation, and other issues of difference, culture, and descent; and
7. Knowledge of the practical, political, and economic issues related to the evaluation of social interventions.

Course Objectives SoWo 530: Foundations of Social Welfare Policy

1. Demonstrate familiarity with existing public welfare structures in the U.S. and the ideals which shaped existing public welfare structures;
2. Identify and describe the social concerns which those structures have or have not been able to address successfully. Special attention will be given to their impact on various family types.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of social work and effects of social policy on historic and contemporary patterns of social welfare service provision;
4. Identify and describe the analytic issues involved in the development of contemporary social welfare policy;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the values and ethics of social work that guide professional behavior in the conduct of public policy activities;
6. Demonstrate a working knowledge of social policies that address contemporary public welfare issues and the way these policies impact families' health and well-being;
7. Identify conditions that promote or deter equal access to resources for minorities and women and be able to discuss concerns related to race, disability, gender and sexual orientation.