

School of Social Work
Alumni Surveys 2010-2011

Distributed twice a year in May and October, alumni surveys enable us to hear directly from our students. Our BSW graduates “complete the loop” by letting us know how well their BSW education has served them in becoming a successful social work practitioner. While survey questions were not specifically geared to address the latest EPAS standards, at least 16 of the 31 survey questions (question numbers 9 – 24) are clearly connected to the practice behaviors outline in the present self-study. The 16 evaluation questions are linked to core competencies as follows:

Table 4.0.2 #16: Alumni Survey Questions and Competency Alignment

Q. 9: Critical thinking skills	AS 2.1.3: Apply critical thinking to inform . . .
Q. 10: Values and ethics	AS 2.1.2: Apply social work ethical principles . . .
Q. 11: Practice without discrimination	AS 2.1.5: Advance human rights, s. & e. j.
Q. 12: Advocate for social & economic justice	AS 2.1.5: Advance human rights, s. & e. j.
Q. 13: History & structure of social work	AS 2.1.9: Respond to contexts that shape
Q. 14: Practice with systems of all sizes	AS 2.1.3: Apply critical thinking to inform . . .
Q. 15: Theoretical frameworks across life span	AS 2.1.7: Apply knowledge of human behavior...
Q. 16: Interaction among all size systems	AS 2.1.3: Apply critical thinking to inform . . .
Q. 17: Analyze, formulate, influence policy	AS 2.1.8: Engage in policy practice . . .
Q. 18: Evaluate research studies & interventions	AS 2.1.6: Engage in research informed practice...
Q. 19: Use communication skills appropriately	AS 2.1.3: Apply critical thinking to inform . . .
Q. 20: Use supervision and consultation	AS 2.1.1: Identify as a s.w. professional
Q. 21: Seek organizational change as needed	AS 2.1.8: Engage in policy practice . . .
Q. 22: Work with Appalach. Latino, African Amer.	SSW 11: Competence with diverse groups
Q. 23: Communicate effectively with Latinos	SSW 12: Use Spanish language skills
Q. 24: Apply person-in-environment theory	AS 2.1.7: Apply knowledge of human behavior...

In Table 4.0.2 #17 (below), scores, on a scale of one (lowest possible) to five (highest possible)* for each of the 16 questions are revealed for fall 2009, spring 2010.

Table 4.0.2 #17: Mean Scores for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 Alumni Evaluations

	Fall, 2009 (n=2)	Fall, 2010 (n=7)	Spring, 2010 (n=10)	Spring, 2011 (n=12)
Q. 9: Critical thinking skills	4.38	4.00	5.00	3.83
Q. 10: Values and ethics	4.38	3.85	5.00	3.92
Q. 11: Practice without discrimination	3.75	4.00	5.00	4.00
Q. 12: Advocate for social & economic justice	4.38	3.85	5.00	4.00
Q. 13: History & structure of social work	3.75	3.85	5.00	3.75
Q. 14: Practice with systems of all sizes	3.75	4.00	5.00	3.75
Q. 15: Theoretical frameworks across life span	3.75	3.71	4.75	3.67
Q. 16: Interaction among all size systems	3.75	4.00	4.75	3.75
Q. 17: Analyze, formulate, influence policy	3.75	3.42	4.27	3.75
Q. 18: Evaluate research studies & interventions	3.75	3.71	4.27	3.83
Q. 19: Use communication skills appropriately	4.38	4.00	5.00	3.67
Q. 20: Use supervision and consultation	4.38	3.85	5.00	3.67
Q. 21: Seek organizational change as needed	4.38	3.71	5.00	3.83
Q. 22: Work with Appalachian, Latino, African American	4.38	3.14	5.00	3.83
Q. 23: Communicate effectively with Latinos	4.38	3.00	4.50	3.50
Q. 24: Apply person-in-environment theory	4.38	3.85	5.00	3.75
Grand Mean	4.10	3.75	4.84	3.78

*Scores have been re-calibrated from a 1-4 scale to fit a 1-5 scale.

Validity and reliability are lacking with a small sample size and a limited time frame. Nevertheless, the data viewed as a whole, suggest the SSW is doing a fine job of teaching core competencies to our students. Especially encouraging, are the positive responses from our alumni, who have know had an opportunity to *apply* their knowledge, skills, and competencies in the *real* world of professional social work. Perhaps our curriculum is just what the doctor ordered.