

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM  
 ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES  
 August 2016**

**Columbia University School of Social Work Competency Benchmark**

The Council on Social Work Education requires that all accredited schools of social work ensure that their students develop competency in 13 specific areas of professional practice. Each competency is further broken down into a set of related "advanced practice behaviors," established independently by each accredited school, which students in a given concentration are expected to master. Schools are required to assess their students' proficiency in the advanced practice behaviors and publicly report the percentage of advanced concentration students achieving a benchmark level of proficiency in each of the 13 competency areas. Each school is free to develop its own unique assessment methodology.

The faculty of CUSSW has set rigorous measurement benchmarks for the 13 competencies that comprise the accreditation standards of the Council. Each student is assessed on each of the advanced practice behaviors by academic and field instructors based on course and field internship assignments. Instructors provide ratings of each student's performance on each practice behavior. A student is determined to have "achieved benchmark" for a practice behavior if both their academic and field performance on that practice behavior was assessed as "Good — performance generally meets expectations for students at this level" or better (i.e., a score of 3 or higher). If a student meets the benchmark for all the practice behaviors for a given competency area, the student is said to have achieved the benchmark for the competency itself. Below, we report the percentage of students achieving our benchmark for each of the 13 areas of competency set by the Council.

COMPETENCY	COMPETENCY BENCHMARK	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK (2014-2015)			
		Advanced Clinical Practice	Advanced Generalist Practice & Programming	Policy Practice	Social Enterprise Administration
Identify as a Professional Social Worker	<i>Interpolated median field assessments AND interpolated median academic assessments greater than or equal to "Good— performance generally meets expectations for students at this level" (3)</i>	98%	97%	100%	93%
Apply Ethical Principles		100%	97%	100%	99%
Apply Critical Thinking		100%	98%	100%	100%
Engage Diversity in Practice		100%	98%	100%	100%
Advance Human Rights/ Social and Economic Justice		100%	93%	100%	100%
Engage Research Informed Practice/Practice Informed Research		99%	100%	100%	97%
Apply Human Behavior Knowledge		99%	98%	100%	98%
Engage Policy Practice to Advance Well-Being and Deliver Services		100%	99%	100%	98%
Respond to Practice Contexts		100%	97%	100%	100%
Practice Engagement		100%	100%	100%	100%
Practice Assessment		98%	98%	100%	100%
Practice Intervention		96%	98%	100%	100%
Practice Transition and Termination		99%	97%	n/a	n/a
Practice Evaluation	94%	88%	100%	100%	