

WORKSHOP TOPIC:

The Rotational Model of Field Education: A Signature Pedagogy Exemplar

WORKSHOP SPEAKER:

Virginia Cooke Robbins, LMSW-AP
Clinical Professor
Director of Field Education
University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work
Houston, Texas

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the opportunities and responsibilities for field education inherent in the designation, “signature pedagogy”.
2. Describe variations of a rotational model of field education.
3. Discuss the rationale for and benefits of developing a rotational model of field education.
4. Delineate ways to ensure the success of a rotational model of field education.

ABSTRACT:

The Counsel on Social Work Education in the United States recently approved a new set of educational policies and accreditation standards (CSWE, April 2008). Field education was officially designated as the signature pedagogy of social work. Lee Schulman labels a profession's characteristic form of teaching and learning as its signature pedagogy (Glassman, 2008). This concept represents an integration of the three dimensions of professional practice: thinking, performing, and acting with integrity or knowledge, skills, and values. The designation of field education as social work's signature pedagogy positions it as the focal point of curriculum design, the basis of which is the feedback exchange between the academy's knowledge and research efforts and the community's practice realities.

Those involved in the development and administration of field education, now recognized as social work's signature pedagogy, have a responsibility to create and test new and innovative models for the delivery of field education. Rotational field placement, defined

as the planned and systematic movement of students between two or more practicum sites, is one such model (Ivry, J, et. al. 2005). This workshop will describe the rotational model, review the rationale for its use, delineate the variations in design, and discuss the outcomes for students and practitioners.

ABSTRACT REFERENCES:

Glassman, U. (2008). Field education as the signature pedagogy of social work. Paper presented at CSWE/Annual Program Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., 10/31/08.

Ivry, J., Lawrance, F.P., Damon-Rodriguez, J., and Robbins, V.C. (2005). Fieldwork rotation: A model for educating social work students for geriatric practice. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 41 (3), 407-425.