



Detailed Information regarding Specific Modules and Assessments

Consolidation

The first module of study undertaken is 'Consolidation of Practice'. This module is designed to enable students to consolidate and extend initial competence. They will be supported during the module to identify their proposed 'pathway' through the award and the types of practice and evidence material required.

The module is based on the National Occupational Standards and has been mapped to the requirements for Newly Qualified Social Workers.

The aims of the module are:

- To develop students' ability to reflect on, analyse and evaluate both their progression and development since qualification and their ability to apply consistent, skilled and effective evidence based practice across a range of social work interventions
- To enable students to consolidate and assess their current level of competence with a particular focus on service users' perceptions of this
- To develop an understanding of what they need to learn to achieve the outcomes for their chosen pathway and how they plan to achieve this

Four half day workshops followed by four afternoons of independent study will provide a focus on learning to learn, requirements of direct observation, the core knowledge and skills for each specialist area, the understanding and collection of evidence based practice and the integration of meaningful service user feedback.

Participants on all Specialist Awards will share the workshops and this will offer the potential for stimulating debate and exchange.

Specialist practice trainers (assessors), knowledgeable and experienced in either work with adults or children and families will participate in the workshops to ensure that students on the specific pathways are supported in understanding the requirements and developing evidence for assessment. Information, resources, exercises and debates using the 'Blackboard' virtual learning environment will underpin learning.

All students will have two further sessions in the work place with a practice assessor who support them through the module and carry out a direct observation of their practice.

The assessment for the Consolidation module will require students to submit:

- An initial formative reflective analysis of their professional development and learning needs. (this is submitted for feedback and support purposes and is not formally marked)
- A Case Study in relation to a piece of practice demonstrating key requirements.
- A final analysis of professional development and an action plan for their continuing development. Including service user feedback on their own practice together with justification of the process and methods used to gain feedback
- Direct observation of practice report by practice assessor.
- A schedule (chart) of evidence showing how the National Occupational Standards and Code of Practice, together with the Specialist outcomes for Consolidation for either Adults or Children, Young People their Families and Carers have been met

The Two Themed Specialist Modules

Once students have completed the Consolidation module, they will study two modules that reflect two main themes. 'Professionals in a Changing World' and 'Theories and Values: Changing Practice'.

1) Professionals in a Changing World

This module is designed to consider the students role as an individual and increasingly experienced and knowledgeable practitioner within the context of practice. The module will examine and analyse the impact and inherent tensions and possibilities within:

- Inter-professional and multi-disciplinary practice
- Organisational structure, policy and practice
- Regional, national and international policies and processes
- Service user perspectives set within an organisational context
- Individual development set within the context of the historical development, current and future trends and issues in social work

This module will make use of current issues and debates and will utilise the knowledge, experience and specific issues raised by participants within an action-learning model to ensure currency and relevance.

The Assessment for this module will require students to submit:

- A critical analysis of a range of the student's own practice that illustrates their understanding and ability to apply their learning from the module that identifies issues, tensions and dilemmas and makes recommendations for improved practice.
- A selection of practice material that illustrates the above. This will include anonymised examples of practice, line manager's report and feedback from another professional.

2) Theories and Values: Changing Practice

This module provides an in-depth examination of values and the theoretical and evidence bases of social work practice. It offers students the opportunity to critically reflect on develop and deepen their knowledge and skills and increase the effectiveness and quality of their individual practice in relation to:

- Social work values
- Managing self and professional issues
- key theoretical, research and practice perspectives
- Tools and frameworks including the assessment of risk and need
- Safeguarding, risks and rights
- Advanced skills development and effective use of strategies, including advanced communication skills and with particular reference to working with those with complex need
- Managing change and finding creative solutions

This module will make specific use of the learning group as a resource, enabling creative use of best practice from across specific areas of children and families work.

The assessment for this module will consist of:

- An in-depth critical analysis of a substantial piece of practice that examines the application of legislation, theory, research and evidence base, models, methods and values
- Practice evidence to support the analysis. This will include anonymised examples of the student's practice, a direct observation of practice, a manager's report, service user and carer feedback.
- A direct observation of practice

Introduction to Enabling Learning and Mentoring or Enabling Learning and Mentoring

As part of professional development, it is important that competent practitioners make use of their knowledge and skills in enabling the learning of others.

Although these will be delivered as a module in its own right they should be seen very clearly as an intrinsic part of learning and assessment at the specialist level and part of the specialist award and students will be expected to identify how they have made use of their own knowledge, skills and learning in enabling and assessing others.

'Introduction to Enabling Learning and Mentoring' is a short module of 15 credits and students take partial responsibility for a pre-qualifying social work degree student, acting as their verifier (on-site supervisor).

'Enabling Learning and Mentoring' is a longer module at 30 credits and students take on full responsibility for a pre-qualifying student as a practice assessor.

These modules are where possible taught on an inter-professional basis enabling learning and an exchange of ideas and experiences with students from other professions.

These modules provide an opportunity for students to study and demonstrate competence in:

- Auditing and managing the learning environment and process
- Adult learning theories
- Models and methods of enabling the learning of others
- Theories and principles of assessment
- Values and power issues in practice learning
- Service user involvement
- Reflective practice

The assessment for this module will consist of:

- An audit of the learning environment
- A direct observation of supervision practice
- A selection of practice evidence covering aspects of managing, teaching and assessment
- A reflective essay

‘Optional Module’

This module will only be available to those who choose to take ‘Enabling Others’ as a 15 credit module. Students can choose another relevant 15-credit module from across the range of modules within the B.A practice Development or M.A Practice Development in discussion with the course or award leader. It is important that the module chosen is relevant to the student’s practice and that the outcomes can be clearly mapped to the specialist requirements for each award. For example students may choose to study ‘Mental health and Ill-health’ to gain understanding, knowledge and skills in working with issues of mental health within their specialist area of practice. It is also possible for students to submit previous accredited certificated learning or experience for consideration by the University. This may include in-house courses taken previously.

Research Project: Changing Practice

This module aims to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to undertake a practitioner research project that contributes to the improvement of services in their specialist area of practice. The module will include study of:

- Taught research methodology
- The role of action research in improving practice
- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research
- Ethics and research
- Presentation of findings

Where possible the taught element of research methods will be provided on an inter-professional basis. Students will then choose their own project, which must have relevance to their specialist area of practice and the agency in which they are working. It could consist of an evaluation or improvement of an existing service or a contribution to the development of a new service.

Assessment for the module will consist of:

- A research proposal
- A research project (including an analysis and reflection of their own learning and the implications for their own practice)