

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Social Work**  
**SOWK 641 - Foundation Practicum and Seminar (3 credits)**

**Course Description:**

This is a practicum experience of 205 hours accompanied by six class meetings designed to integrate the academic curriculum with the practicum experience. This first semester of a two semester foundation field practicum and supporting seminar provides a forum in which students apply the knowledge, skills, and values acquired from the foundation curriculum to direct and macro practice. (2.1.1-2.1.10 (a-d) An emphasis is placed on assessment and practice grounded in theory. (2.1.3) The concepts of person in environment assessment and the generalist perspective are applied with a focus on strengths based practice. (2.1.7) Systems and ecological theory provide a frame for critical analysis and assessment. Social construction and empowerment theories help focus toward a respect for diversity and the use of practice methods that support “client” decision-making. (2.1.2, 2.1.8)

Practice is based on ethical decision making, valuing and respecting diversity, and working toward the dismantling of oppression, and establishing social and economic justice. (2.1.2, 2.1.5)

The focus is placed on assessment/analysis of client needs, client-worker relationships, professional values and ethics, service delivery issues, agency/organizational dynamics, and social work supervision. Practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels is incorporated. (2.1.1-2.1.10 (a-d) This is a practicum experience (205 hours per semester) with 18 hours face-to-face seminar.

SOWK 641 (3 Credits)

Semester I = 205 hours in field + 18 hours seminar

(~14 hours per week in the field for 15 weeks = 205 hours or ~19 hours per week in the field for 11 weeks = 205 hours)

Students are required to intern in the respective agency at least two days per week.

**Prerequisites/co-requisites:** Admission to the graduate program in social work and SOWK 631 as a pre-or co-requisite. SOWK 641 must be completed with a B- or better before SOWK 642 can be taken.

**Educational Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Delineate the values and ethics of the social work profession. (2.1.2)
2. Develop culturally competent techniques for work with diverse cultural contexts. (2.1.4)
3. Use practice knowledge and skill to promote alleviation of poverty, oppression, and other forms of social and economic injustice. (2.1.3, 2.1.5, 2.1.7)
4. Function effectively within the structure of organizations and across service delivery systems. (2.1.1, 2.1.6, 2.1.8, 2.1.9)
5. Demonstrate how the generalist practice model can work with clients systems of all sizes, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. (2.1.10 (a-d)