Module Descriptor

Title	Professional Communication (GA)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	GASW08004	**SCQF Level**	Level 8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	TBC		

Summary of Module

This module develops core communication skills for professional social work practice. Skills to fully engage service users, their families and to facilitate partnership working are developed. Relationship based practice informs the content of the module. Professional identity and the use of critical reflection are central module themes.

• Development of core communication and engagement skills for professional practice.

• Development of effective written communication skills for professional practice.

• Management of challenging conversations, recognising professional safety and boundaries.

• Enhancement of critical reflective skills to maximise effective professional practice.

The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☐	**Hybrid[2]** ☒	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☒
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional formal written communication skills.
L2	Demonstrate ability to apply knowledge of communication models and approaches relevant to professional social work practice.
L3	Convey the outcomes of academic inquiry in appropriate academic and professional formats.
L4	Demonstrate evidence of applied knowledge of the importance of reflective and reflexive practice.
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 8** Students will develop knowledge and understanding of a range of specialist communication skills relevant for professional social work practice.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge to a range of professional practice contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Students will develop a range of critical skills relevant to professional social work practice and to higher-level academic study, including reflexivity in practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Students will develop a range of ICT skills from engagement in this module. These will include developing competence in for case recording in professional social work practice.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Students will take responsibility for significant elements of their own learning as well as working in groups and teams, to promote shared learning.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching

In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	36
Work-based Learning	100
Independent Study	64
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200 hours.

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Beesley, P. Watts, M. and Harrison, M. (2023) Developing your Communication Skills in Social Work.

Gibbs, G. (1988) Learning by Doing: A guide to teaching and learning methods. Oxford: Oxford Polytechnic Further Education Unit.

Healy, K. and Mullholland, J. (2019) Writing Skills for Social Workers.

Rogers, M. Whitaker, D. Edmondson, D. and Peach, D. (2017) Developing Skills for Social Work Practice.

Trotter, C. (2022) Working with Involuntary Clients: A guide to practice.

Woodcock Ross, J. (2016) Specialist Communication Skills for Social Workers: Developing professional capability.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

This module is subject to SSSC requirements regarding student attendance for scheduled teaching. Students are required to attend 80% of all timetabled activity to meet programme specific SSSC requirements. Engaging in all learning tasks as directed, being prepared for all scheduled learning, including module reading, engaging in all module learning materials, submitting academic assessment within the specified deadlines.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustments made for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessments will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustments as necessary.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Psychology Social Work**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	UG & PG Social Work
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	R Sen
Accreditation Details	SSSC
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written assessment - 50%
Assessment 2
Reflective assessment - 50%
Assessment 3
Critical Reflection - Pass/Fail

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Written assessment	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Reflective assessment	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Critical Reflection - Pass/Fail	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Adapted for GA delivery	13-07-25	Scott Grant
Critical reflection and new module code added	03-03-26	Scott Grant