Module Descriptor

Title	Professional Practice (GA)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	GASW09002	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	60	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	30
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	S Grant		

Summary of Module

This module represents the first assessed practice learning opportunity for the GA qualifying award in social work. Students are required to demonstrate competency across a range of learning domains prescribed within the Standards in Social Work Education (SSSC, 2019). This will require students to demonstrate an ability to coherently and systematically integrate relevant skills and knowledge within a framework of critical analysis and reflection in both their practice setting and academic coursework.

The placement will be of a duration period of 80 days. Students will work under the supervision of a practice educator, or a person undertaking training as a practice educator who will be supervised by a practice assessor. The practice educator, placement tutor, and any link worker will constitute the learning team.

Key aspects of the module:

• 85 days of practice placement within a professional social work or associated context to provide the student with an opportunity to meet the Standards in Social Work Education (SiSWE) as prescribed by the Scottish Social Services Council (2019).

• Professional learning, support, supervision and assessment on placement from accredited practice teaching staff.

• Classroom sessions to support learning on placement and to prepare students for assessment.

• UWS staff support throughout the duration of the placement (placement tutors).

• As a practice learning module, the pedagogical approach will be that of inquiry-based learning.

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)	

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 an emerging professional competence in social work practice by meeting all domains of learning identified within the Standards in Social Work Education (SSSC, 2019) at level 9
L2	Demonstrate professional and academic competence in social work practice at level 9 through the critical application of theory to social work practice.
L3	Produce work in accordance with academic and professional conventions
L4	
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 9** Students will be required to develop a comprehensive understanding of social work knowledge, theory and practice, including an understanding of international and global perspectives on social work. Students will be required to critically reflect upon the ethical dilemmas that they are likely to encounter in practice, together with the range of theoretical and practical approaches availablefrom which to base particular assessments, interventions and evaluation. Students will be required to demonstrate a generic understanding of social work practice.

[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

	Students will be required to demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to apply research findings in order to promote evidence based practice.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Students will be required to develop a comprehensive range of social work skills in order to facilitate effective and ethical practice. Students will be required to undertake a comprehensive practice study, which will require reflection and critical analysis on the part of the student regarding their ability to work in accordance with the social work process. Students will require to demonstrate the application of a range of theories to inform their understanding of people, their situations and their own practice.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Students will be given the opportunity and required to demonstrate the ability to purposefully engage in reflection and critical analysis using a range of tools to apply their learning to practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Students will be expected to demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills in their practice with a range of service users and with colleagues and other professionals. Students will be required to draw upon a range of ICT skills including accessing electronic databases in order to search for and retrieve relevant research. Students will be required to use appropriate computer software to produce their written submissions to a high standard.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Students will be required to demonstrate that they have reached a sufficient level to be regarded as competent practitioners at level 9. This will necessitate that students can demonstrate the ability to use their initiative in making judgments in complex and challenging situations, while also making appropriate use of available resources such as supervision both formal and informal. Students will be required to demonstrate a clear understanding of their role and purpose within their particular practice learning setting and relate this to the broader aims and purpose of social work practice. Students will demonstrate that they have been able to effectively assess, intervene and then evaluate their work with service users in order to promote effective processes of change based on the assessment of need, rights, strengths and risk. Students will need to show an awareness of an ability to work within complex ethical dilemmas, whilst at all times working in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Scottish Social Services Council

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following: Completion of all previous modules within this programme, in order to comply with the Readiness for Assessed Practice Requirements of the Scottish Social Services Council.	

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. Each student will receive professional learning, support, supervision and assessment on placement from accredited practice learning staff. Students will engage in classroom sessions (workshops) to support learning on placement and to prepare students for assessment. UWS staff will provide support throughout the duration of the placement (placement tutors). As a practice learning module, the pedagogical approach will be that of inquiry-based / work-based learning.

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)
Practice-based Learning	637.5
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
n/a	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	649.5

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Lishman, J. (2015) Handbook for Practice Learning in Social Work and Social Care: Knowledge and Theory (3rd ed.). London: Jessica Kingsley Lomax, R. and Jones, K. (2014) Surviving Your Social Work Placement. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Milner J. and O'Byrne, P. (2009) Assessment in Social Work. (3rd ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan Payne, M. (2020) How to Use Social Work Theory in Practice and Essential Guide. Policy Press.
(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. 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. Attending all placement days and workshops.

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	TBC
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Summative Assessment 1: The outcome of placement is determined by the Practice Educator, based on evidencing the Standards in Social Work Education (SSSC, 2019). This is pass/fail only.
Assessment 2
Written assessment. 100% of module grading.
Assessment 3
(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**
Placement	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	0 (Pass/Fail)	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Written Assignment	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	100	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Adapted for GA delivery	31-03-26	Scott Grant