

**School of Social Work
Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Competencies and Practice Behaviors
2nd-year MSW Advanced Practice:
Community Partnerships¹**

Competency 1: Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

- Integrate personal reflection, self-correction, and feedback in your professional leadership role in working with organizations and communities
- Identify professional strengths, limitations, and challenges

Competency 2: Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

- Engage in ethical decision-making in working with organizations and communities
- Manage conflicting priorities that emerge from working in community partnerships

Competency 3: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

- Synthesize models of community practice in making professional decisions
- Apply logic, critical thinking, and creativity in oral and written communication in community partnership practice

Competency 4: Engage diversity and difference in practice.

- Engage in community partnership practices that are responsive to diversity and difference
- Engage with others as reciprocal resources for learning in community partnership practice

Competency 5: Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

- Analyze ways in which differential power and privilege shape communities and society
- Advocate for/engage in participatory processes that are inclusive and increase empowerment for those organizations/community groups who have been marginalized or excluded

Competency 6: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

- Advance research that is participatory and inclusive of the community
- Use macro-focused, evidence-informed research to inform community partnership practice

Competency 7: Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

- Synthesize the impact of organizations and communities as complex social systems on community partnership outcomes
- Assess the interconnection between individuals/groups and their environment in developing community partnership intervention strategies

Competency 8: Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

- Engage in community practice that reflects understanding of organizational policies and their impact on the delivery of community services
- Engage in community practice that reflects understanding of social policies and their impact on service delivery

Competency 9: Respond to contexts that shape practice.

- Develop strategies to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging societal trends
- Provide leadership in promoting changes to improve community well-being

Competency 10: Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with groups, organizations, and communities.²**Competency 10a: Engagement**

- Apply a range of written, oral, and electronic modes of communication in relationship-building and interactions among groups, organizations, and communities
- Identify and define community as a client system
- Identify common interests, key stakeholders, and mutual areas of focus

Competency 10b: Assessment

- Identify and assess organizational and community needs and assets
- Contribute to the development of shared goals/outcomes
- Contribute to the development and selection of strategies and tactics for community intervention

Competency 10c: Intervention

- Create a resource development strategy and identify diverse funding sources
- Develop, monitor, and/or strengthen collaborative relationships that focus on building healthy communities
- Evaluate collaborative relationships that focus on building healthy communities
- Engage in leadership behaviors
- Synthesize knowledge and skills in the management of projects, partnerships, and organizations

Competency 10d: Evaluation

- Apply research methods in evaluating work with organizations and communities
- Apply technological processes in evaluating work with organizations and communities

¹Some of the 2nd-year practice behaviors have been adapted from *MSW/ACOSA- EPAS Matrix for core Macro Practice Competencies* [http://www.acosa.org/CO_ACOSA_EPAS_Core_Comps.pdf]

²This core competency has been modified to support the advanced practice curriculum of the MSW program's sole concentration of community partnerships. Direct practice with individuals and families (omitted here) is emphasized in the first-year curriculum.