

Advanced Generalist Perspective and Curriculum

As Jones and Pierce¹ have noted, advanced generalist models such as Grand Valley's are built on a liberal education foundation that promotes the use of critical thinking skills and conscientious application of advanced practice social work knowledge, skills, values and ethics. Here, as in other schools of social work, the advanced generalist serves a dual purpose. First the model integrates the advanced practice skills concentration curriculum to equip graduates to meet the diverse demands presented by unique social service delivery system; second it provides the context (or implicit curriculum) for an effective program students in which the program achieves its goals. The School's advanced generalist model is designed to:

- enhance the depth and breadth of practice in a multi-method, multi-level, and theoretically grounded perspective;
- refine and shape advanced practitioners through acquisition of professional competencies to assess, intervene, and evaluate within all systems and within all practice environments;
- affirm that human problems derive from a complex interplay of psychological, social, cultural, economic, political, biological and physical forces;
- Prepare students to effectively intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities;
- Expand and enhance the foundation of generalist social work core competencies with advanced knowledge and practice behaviors;
- Acquire advanced skills in leadership, collaboration, administration, advocacy, assessment, problem solving, intervention, cultural competency, communication, collaboration, community building, program evaluation, organizational management, policy analysis, and scientific inquiry.

The integration of professional practice skills within this curriculum model results in mastery of social work's core competencies and advanced generalist practitioners are proficient in a wide range of interventions, skills, roles, theories, systems and settings.

¹ Jones, J. B., & Pierce, D. (2006). The medium is the message: Development of a praxis-based comprehensive project model in an advanced generalist MSW program. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work* 26(1/2), 51-72.