

SWK304 Direct Practice 1

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Session 5

UniSC Moreton Bay
UniSC Fraser Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course orientates students to undertake social work practice in various settings and supports their development of professional practice frameworks. Students will develop skills for professional communication, practicing in a manner consistent with being an emerging practitioner, and practicing constructively in a student role within the host agency and community. The course involves assessment to ensure students have the skills and capacity to reflect and develop their capabilities as outlined in the AASW Practice Standards and AASW Code of Ethics prior to being placed in the field.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Content required for workshop discussion and assessment preparation	4hrs	Week 2	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Workshops Completed in intensive week	35hrs	Week 2	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

- Organisation models, frameworks and approaches to practice
- Giving and receiving appreciative and constructive feedback
- Professional Practice Frameworks
- Understanding appropriate professional practice expectations including professional boundaries and self advocacy
- Understanding social work values and principles

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Sex/Sexual references, Violence, Coarse Language, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Understand the values, principles and guidelines described in the Code of Ethics, while recognising and managing personal values and bias	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged Communication	1
2 Advocate, promote, protect and uphold the rights, dignity and autonomy of people served	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Problem solving	2, 3
3 Work inclusively and respectfully with regard to culture and diversity of clients and service users while promoting client involvement in decision-making	Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Collaboration	2, 4
4 Work from a clearly articulated framework for reflective practice informed by a critical understanding of contemporary social work theory, professional knowledge, skills and evidenced-based research	Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration	4, 5
5 Transfer, adapt and apply knowledge and skills in diverse contexts	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication	5
6 Actively contribute to strengthening and promoting the identify and standing of the profession	Knowledgeable Ethical Communication	7
7 Articulate and promote the unique scope and contribution of social work to the people served using professional oral and written skills.	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged Communication	7
8 Monitor, evaluate and review skills, knowledge and expertise	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Problem solving	9
9 Identify current and future professional learning needs	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Problem solving	9

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Association of Social Workers
10 Be an active learner, open to new and emerging knowledge informing practice.	Knowledgeable Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration	9

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
2	Practice Standard 2: Working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
3	Practice Standard 3: Human rights and social justice
4	Practice Standard 4: Culture, identity and intersectionality
5	Practice Standard 5: Critical thinking in practice
7	Practice Standard 7: Professional identity
9	Practice Standard 9: Professional growth

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

132 units and SWK278 and enrolled in program AR362 or AR363

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback will be provided to students verbally in group discussions and practice skill demonstrations.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	500-1000 words	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Oral	Individual	10 mins	Refer to Format	In Class
All	3	Activity Participation	Individual	Workshops	Refer to Format	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Mapping the Agency Context

GOAL:	<p>The goal of this assessment task is to identify and demonstrate an understanding of your placement agency's practice context, purpose and scope of practice.</p> <p>You will also need to identify your professional practice framework with reference to the practice setting.</p>															
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece															
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																
FORMAT:	<p>Submit: During intensive workshop.</p> <p>This requires you to research and map your placement agency's organisational and practice contexts, and articulate your professional practice framework.</p> <p>The map will identify the practice contexts of your placement agency (for example: the field of practice, the organisational mission, values and purpose; client or consumer services provided by the agency, and social work skills utilised). Also included will be the need to highlight the social issues addressed by the agency, provide understanding of how social work relates to the practice context and any gaps associated in service.</p> <p>The information collected is to be delivered creatively in a PebblePad portfolio. A template will be provided.</p> <p>Students will have an opportunity to share this information with other students in class to acquire critical and supportive feedback before uploading the final portfolio in Canvas.</p> <p>Work is completed in the scheduled workshops.</p>															
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation															

All - Assessment Task 2: Professional Skills Analysis

GOAL:	<p>The goal of this task is to apply your cumulative understanding of your professional practice framework (knowledge, skills and values) to a context of social work practice (eg your placement). You will be required to reflect on your chosen practice field while articulating a proposal for professional growth in practice.</p> <p>This task further requires you to demonstrate your oral communication and presentation skills in accordance with the inherent academic requirements of this degree.</p>																
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Oral																
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																	
FORMAT:	<p>The format of the assignment task is an oral presentation on a professional social work analysis on a context of practice.</p> <p>Undertaken in workshops.</p>																
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy																

All - Assessment Task 3: Tutorial Attendance and Participation

GOAL:	<p>AASW external accreditation requires mandatory attendance for skills based tutorials. Students must attend workshops and actively participate in all activities.</p>							
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation							
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:								
FORMAT:	<p>Course attendance will be recorded to meet external AASW accreditation requirements. Student participation and engagement in course activities assessed based upon attendance and participation across course workshop format.</p> <p>You are required to attend all days to meet the attendance requirements.</p>							
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving							

6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (ASWEAS)				
All delivery modes	Activity Participation	Tutorial Attendance and Participation	1	Taught, Practiced
			7	Taught, Practiced
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Artefact - Creative, and Oral	Professional Skills Analysis	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			2	Taught, Practiced
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			8	Taught, Practiced
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Oral and Written Piece	Mapping the Agency Context	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			2	Taught, Practiced
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
9			Taught, Practiced, Assessed	

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Academic Policy.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

Refer to the Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs – Procedures.

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)