

FIELD JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

Students may be asked to complete journals or reports during the internship – consult Faculty to confirm requirements. All Agency Supervisors should be informed by the intern if they are completing a journal.

Format: Each journal entry should be at least 500 words (approximately 2 double-spaced pages) unless instructed otherwise by your advisor/instructor. Quality of content is very important.

Content: Evaluate your field experience. Focus on your experience with clients and agencies. Each entry should contain a brief summary of activities, and either: (1) Integration of fieldwork and curriculum; or (2) Self awareness, reflection, and exploration. Be aware of confidentiality issues – do not write a client’s / agency’s real name or details that would reveal their identity, and do not include confidential information about the agency you are working with or their clients/activities.

- Integration of fieldwork and curriculum: Write about how the field experiences related to any material reviewed in program classes, discussions, and readings. Be thoughtful about this and think in terms of the following, for example:
 - Working with different populations
 - Agency policy and impact
 - Resiliency in the client/community
 - Agency documentation requirements
 - Multi-agency collaborations: what works/not
 - Cultural competence
 - Leadership models in the agency
 - Ecological/theoretical framework
 - Impact of anth studies on clients/services
- Self-Awareness, reflection, and exploration: Journals tend to be the most meaningful when they are used as a place to think about what your experiences have meant to you, rather than just detailing your day to day activities. Ideas:
 - Feelings about the difficult problems/circumstances people face.
 - Observations of staff and their use of skills, how they manage their time, your time.
 - Thoughts about ethical behavior, value conflicts, and ethical dilemmas.
 - Reactions to your role, engaging in relational processes, troubling or powerful experiences.
 - Questions and thoughts about how your activities relate to the profession, how you reconcile differences, and how do you value your experience.
 - How your own background/experiences influences you.

Example: This week I had an ethical dilemma when I overheard one of my clients telling her friend how stressed out she was and how she “lost it and hit” her kid the night before. I wanted to pretend I hadn’t heard her but she was talking loud enough for other clients to hear. I know she was given program information on the limits of confidentiality – specifically that the agency legally must follow up on any reports of child abuse. Was this child abuse? I reported the incident to my supervisor and we planned an intervention strategy that involved me “gently confronting” the client. After her initial anger, tears, and lots of rationalization, the client eventually called CWS herself. While she cooperated with me, the client now seems distrustful of me. I need more help on how to work on our ongoing relationship. There are so many issues involved in this one incident: my fear of “snitching” on the client and “getting her in trouble” and maybe making her situation worse; my legal obligation to report suspected abuse; and my supervisor’s “reframe” that we use this as an opportunity to support the client, talk about childhood abuse issues, and ultimately help strengthen her parenting awareness/skills. I want to support this parent in helping her to identify her strengths and to acknowledge my own strength in this uncomfortable process.