

Interpreting the Spread Sheet

Oral Roberts University Social Work Program Assessment

Assessment Period: August 1, 2014 – August 31, 2016 (2-years)

Oral Roberts University utilizes an ePortfolio system (contracted with Chalk and Wire) to assist with assessment throughout the university. Students upload specific assignments into the ePortfolio system according to specific classes designated to be included. The ORU Social Work Program assigns one or more items (or artifacts) for evaluation per course in the curriculum.

The time period for this ePortfolio assessment is from August 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015 and August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016. Assessment is based on rubrics for each artifact where faculty reassesses each item designated as an assessment artifact. When examining the spread sheet, one can see the courses listed vertically and the assessment listed horizontally: students assessed in a particular class, assessment mean, standard deviation, and assessment scoring which runs from Not Attempted (0); Unacceptable (1) – below 70% or “D” grade level; Acceptable (2) – 70-79% or “C” grade level; Competent (3) – 80-89% or “B” grade level; to Exemplary (4) – 90% and above or “A” grade level.

The ORU Social Work Program has the following benchmarks: 1) 100% of social work students must register at least a 70% (Acceptable (2) or “C” grade level; 2) 80% of social work students must score 80% or higher.

Current assessment for the Social Work Program covers the two-year time span from August 1, 2014 through Aug 31, 2016.

When examining the data according to the two-year mean for each assessment, the first benchmark is accomplished: all social work students score acceptable or 70-79% on the 28 artifacts listed. For the second benchmark, five of the 28 assessment means (17.8) fall less than the 80% or higher, with 82.2% of students scoring in this category where 80% of students score above 80% or at least on the “B” level. Not meeting the 80% benchmark in five assessment areas is found in all junior level courses, but with all senior students in their course work and practicums the benchmark is reached. Additionally, further analysis reveals that students entering their junior years have considerable stress with the workload and newness to the study and practice of social work. For this reason, further benchmarks have been modified to reflect revised program policies that include a requirement of 2.25 GPA in all university coursework to enter the program, and 2.5 GPA to remain including a 2.5 GPA to enter the Senior Practicum (SWK 443/444).

Of particular note for the program is that two courses considered capstone experiences, Senior Practicum (SWK 443/444) and Senior Paper (SWK 499), both score high (Senior Practicum with field instructors scoring students at a mean 3.80) and Senior Paper at a two year mean of 3.61. These two items, practicum and senior paper, are vital to gauge the progress of the program: students must be competent to practice social work on a variety of levels, and must be critical thinkers, researchers, and writers in social work as well – hence, the need for two capstone student experiences.

Two other evaluation tools are used to assess the ORU Social Work Program: 1) the Final Written Exam, a comprehensive document covering student performance for all competencies during their education at the university, followed by an interview between student two faculty members and a social worker in the Tulsa Community, and 2) follow-up after graduation regarding where these students are on their social work career paths (i.e., employment and/or graduate school, etc.). Data from the written exam shows the mean at 3.65 with a range from 3.10 to 4.0 out of a maximum of 4.0 points. The Final Exam revealed about a ten point increase in the mean, or a core of 3.75 on a scale from 0-4.

Finally, the Social Work Program seeks to stay in touch with its graduates. To this end, social work graduates totaled 38 over the two year period from 2015 (22) to 2016 (17). The chart below indicates what most students are doing following graduation.

SWK Employment	SWK Grad Edu	Employ & Grad Edu	Homemaker	Unsure	Total
17 45%	4 11%	10 26%	2 5%	5 13%	38 100%

As noted above, most social work graduates enter social work employment, with the second highest category employed and part-time graduate education. The program is unsure of 5 graduates; two have adopted homemaker roles or were married following graduation. Most of those employed only indicated an interest in pursuing graduate education.

Regarding employment, the following were mentioned:

OK Department of Human Services Child Welfare
 Catholic Social Services
 Kaiser Rehabilitation Center of Hillcrest Hospital
 Brookhaven Hospital
 Youth Services of Tulsa
 Shadow Mountain Institute
 CREEKS Mental Health
 Juvenile Bureau

Among graduate school planning to attend:

University of Oklahoma School of Social Work – Tulsa Campus (highest percentage of students go to OU)
 Columbia University (New York)
 University of Southern California (Los Angeles)
 University of Denver
 Arizona State University
 University of Toronto

Improvements:

The overall response rate for students putting selected artifacts is around 60%. Social work faculty will be making a concerted effort to push students to submit all 28 artifacts into the ePortfolio system.

Based on data from the ePortfolio system, both benchmarks are met for students during their senior. Benchmarks indicate that 100% of students are acceptable (score of 2 or 70% and above), with 80% exemplary with a score of 3 or 80% and above.