

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL WORK

The University of Tasmania Safe to Practice Policy 2010 and Work Health and Safety Policy 2013, requires students to declare their capacity to safely undertake placement and be able to meet the Functional Requirements for Social Work for the course as follows:

1. The capacity to read, write, comprehend, and evaluate at a level that enables the student to participate in a professional and competent manner within an organisational context. This includes:
 - i. participation at meetings
 - ii. adherence to policies and procedures
 - iii. maintenance of accurate records
 - iv. maintenance of client notes
 - v. appropriate report writing skills
2. The capacity to undertake critical thinking and reflective analysis. This includes the ability to:
 - i. self-evaluate and reflect upon one's own practice, feelings and beliefs
 - ii. reflect on the consequences of one's own practice, feelings and beliefs for other individuals or groups
 - iii. adjust one's behaviour accordingly
3. The capacity to use appropriate communication skills and use of self that enables the student to:
 - i. interact with clients and colleagues in a professional manner (i.e. with self-awareness and respect)
 - ii. accept instruction and professional feedback
 - iii. respond appropriately to and adjust attitudes or behaviour accordingly in response to instruction and professional feedback
 - iv. clarify instructions or feedback which may be unclear
 - v. negotiate collaboratively with professional colleagues and clients.
4. The psychological capacity to;
 - i. understand the importance of and demonstrate the professional attributes of honesty, integrity, critical judgment, insight and empathy
 - ii. interact with clients, and others in a caring, respectful manner
 - iii. provide appropriate services and referrals
 - iv. maintain professional attitudes and behaviours in challenging situations

Declaring a medical, physical and/or psychological condition will not automatically exclude a student from undertaking placement. If a student either answers 'yes' to any of the questions in the disclosure (or does not disclose any conditions but their professional progress through the course is of concern), the student will undertake a health or psychological assessment regarding their safety to practice. UTAS is committed to anti-discrimination practices and will provide reasonable adjustments to enable students to participate in placements as long as safety requirements are not compromised.

A student's health information will only be used for the direct purpose for which it is collected. The information provided by a student in their Safety in Practice Agreement may be disclosed to the agency at which the student undertakes placement, in which case that agency will be informed that they are bound by the privacy provisions of the University and that they are required to contact the student in relation to the use, storage and disclosure of a student's health information.

Prior to any information being disclosed to the agency, it will be discussed and negotiated with the student beforehand as to why, how, when and to whom this information will be disclosed.