

## SUPERVISION TOPICS

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Supervision provides the opportunity for you to develop a professional, supportive relationship with your field instructor. This meeting time provides monitoring and support of your learning and progress. Use the time to learn about social work in your agency; challenge yourself to think critically; review ethical considerations and provide evaluation and feedback.

Coming prepared to supervision, ready to discuss concerning issues demonstrates your engagement in the process. To prepare, it is recommended that students choose a topic to discuss or issue to explore. Examples of topics and issues are included below.

1. Identify the differences between volunteer, student and employee roles in the agency.
2. Review agency policies and procedures that need further clarification, i.e. confidentiality.
3. Identify methods of communication/feedback that are most helpful.
4. Student's first impression of the agency and the impact it had/has on them.
5. Discuss techniques to process what has been learned in the classroom and applying it to student's micro, mezzo and macro practice.
6. Negotiate learning experience based on student's style of learning, confidence level and abilities to learn about client groups, and target populations the agency serves.
7. Discuss what to learn and what not to learn at the agency.
8. Address strengths and vulnerabilities.
9. Issues related to policies and procedures
10. Reflect on the highs and lows of the practicum experience
11. Clarify expectations.
12. Explore value differences.
13. Professional role behavior/ethics.
14. How to get the most out of the supervision experience
15. Confidentiality, release of information and other sensitive issues
16. Understanding the differences between ethical problem vs. ethical dilemma
17. Identify on-going learning opportunities and challenges.
18. How to work with difficult clients
19. Understanding the organization – limitations, politics, fiscal, change
20. Address issues of diversity – examine challenges, barriers and benefits.
21. Identify stressors and learn techniques to cope with stressful situations – self-care.
22. Use/misuse of authority and power with clients, staff
23. Identifying types of supervision that are effective and ineffective
24. Importance of using consultation to problem solve
25. Review learning contract – negotiate additional experiences and/or eliminate certain activities.
26. Transference/counter-transference
27. Resistance to self-awareness and change
28. Ethical analysis and decision making
29. Practice issues – how personal style affects practice.
30. Techniques to evaluate practice
31. Evaluating practice as an active learner and practitioner in micro, mezzo and macro practice
32. Demonstration of independence and accountability in practice
33. Discuss understanding of social and organization change.
34. Utilizing culturally sensitive intervention approaches
35. Discuss projects/activities that can contribute to the agency.
36. Importance of collaboration and team building
37. Improving inter-professional relationships
38. Preparing for termination – clients, staff, supervisor, agency
39. Potential problems in termination process
40. Life after field experience
41. Workplace skills learned from practicum
42. Importance of developing networking skills
43. Reviewing progress and areas for future growth
44. Concluding the supervisory relationship
45. Review frustrations, lessons and joys of experience.