



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW407 - CAPACITY BUILDING

Prepared: Nicole Falldien, MSW, RSW

Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	SSW407: SSW COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course introduces students to community development and community capacity building as foundational approaches to social service work. Using a strengths-based and anti-oppressive framework, students will critically examine models of community development, asset-based community engagement, and participatory approaches that challenge traditional deficit-focused practices. Emphasis will be placed on building collaborative relationships, mobilizing resources, and advocating for systemic change in diverse community settings. Through participation in community needs assessments, proposals, and simulated grant/funding applications, students will develop practical skills in facilitation, community mapping, partnership development, and project planning. The course prepares students to work effectively with marginalized populations, including Indigenous communities, newcomers, youth, and individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	SSW404
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	1203 - SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Develop respectful and collaborative professional and interpersonal relationships that adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.
	VLO 2 Record information accurately and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways, in adherence to privacy and freedom of information legislation, in accordance with professional and workplace standards.
	VLO 3 Integrate a practice framework within a service delivery continuum, addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities at micro, mezzo, macro and global levels, and work with them in achieving their goals.
	VLO 4 Plan and implement accessible and responsive programs and services, recognizing the diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families and communities, and meeting these needs.
	VLO 5 Examine current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, historical, and/or economic systems and their impacts for individuals and communities when delivering services to the user/client.



	<p>VLO 6 Develop strategies and approaches that support individual clients, groups, families and communities in building the capacity for self-advocacy, while affirming their dignity and self-worth.</p> <p>VLO 7 Work from an anti-oppressive, strengths-based practice, recognizing the capacity for resilience and growth of individuals and communities when responding to the diverse needs of marginalized or vulnerable populations to act as allies and advocates.</p> <p>VLO 9 Work with individuals, groups, families and their communities to ensure that service provider strategies promote social and economic justice, and challenge patterns of oppression, discrimination and harassment, and sexual violence with clients, coworkers and communities.</p> <p>VLO 10 Develop the capacity to work with the Indigenous individual, families, groups and communities while respecting their inherent rights to self-determine, and to identify and address systemic barriers that produce ill-effects, developing appropriate responses using approaches such as trauma informed care practice.</p>				
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>EES 3 Execute mathematical operations accurately.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p> <p>EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.</p> <p>EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.</p> <p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p>				
Course Evaluation:	<p>Passing Grade: 50%, D</p> <p>A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>				
Books and Required Resources:	<p>Community Development in Canada by Jason Brown Publisher: Pearson Canada Edition: 3rd ISBN: 9780136621928 eText</p> <p>The Community Toolbox by University of Kansas Publisher: Available at: http://ctb.ku.edu/en/default.aspx</p>				
Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Define and apply key concepts related to community and community capacity building.</td> <td> 1.1 Identify and discuss various definitions and concepts of community and the basic characteristics of communities 1.2 Reframe the concept of client to include community as a client in the context of social service work 1.3 Gain an understanding of how to engage and assess a community's needs, strengths, and assets 1.4 Identify the strengths/resiliencies within natural support </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Define and apply key concepts related to community and community capacity building.	1.1 Identify and discuss various definitions and concepts of community and the basic characteristics of communities 1.2 Reframe the concept of client to include community as a client in the context of social service work 1.3 Gain an understanding of how to engage and assess a community's needs, strengths, and assets 1.4 Identify the strengths/resiliencies within natural support
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	systems and networks within communities
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Understand the history of and various influences that have shaped community development in Canada.	<p>2.1 Describe historical events that illustrate community development</p> <p>2.2 Recognize the role of government and local communities in community development during Canada's postwar period</p> <p>2.3 Understand the roles played by international figures in contemporary community development</p> <p>2.4 Understand the part played by Indigenous and Western figures in Canadian community development practice</p> <p>2.5 Compare and contrast the styles, circumstances, approaches, and effects of key influences on Canadian community development</p>
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Develop understanding of contemporary community change strategies and processes.	<p>3.1 Identify, discuss, and apply knowledge of community development principles</p> <p>3.2 Describe and apply community development as a process of 10 steps</p> <p>3.3 Identify strengths, resources, and challenges within diverse communities using asset-based approaches and the ABCD model approach to sustainable community-driven development</p> <p>3.4 Incorporate the OCSWSSW Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice into work with/within communities</p> <p>3.5 Obtain an understanding of client/community empowerment as a necessary component of community capacity building work using a strengths-based and anti-oppressive practice framework</p> <p>3.6 Identify change strategies that empower communities to promote economic and/or social justice efforts</p> <p>3.7 Obtain an understanding of sustainability as it relates to community change strategy</p>
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate community empowerment skills through completion of a community capacity building research/needs analysis project, a grant/funding proposal project, and a final community capacity building report.	<p>4.1 Develop entry-level SSW abilities to assess, plan, and deliver change strategies that promote social and/or economic justice and development</p> <p>4.2 Recognize the characteristics of bureaucracies and understand the challenges, as well as the opportunities, that they present for community work.</p> <p>4.3 Demonstrate understanding and application of community needs assessments and community building tools with course projects</p> <p>4.4 Describe a variety of fundraising approaches and strategies, including the qualities of a competitive grant proposal</p> <p>4.5 Use methods of data collection and research skills relevant to social service work to develop proposals and grant/funding applications</p> <p>4.6 Identify appropriate resources of funding for a new service or program and generate a proposal/funding application that</p>

meets the requirements of the funding body
4.7 Identify and apply advocacy skills learned at individual, family, societal, and community level

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Chapter Discussion Questions	25%
Community Capacity Building - Final Project	20%
Community Capacity Building - Grant/Funding Proposal	20%
Community Capacity Building Research/Needs Analysis	20%
Skill Acquisition, Participation, and Professional Development	15%

Date:

June 20, 2025

Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

