School Policy, Program Development, & Evaluation

Fall 2026 SOWK 587 Week 11

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Plan for Week 14

In-Class Agenda

Registration

Students’ view of school policy

Needs assessment process

School intervention assessment and plan

In-Class Learning Objectives

Identify students' understanding and engagement with the school policy over the semester.

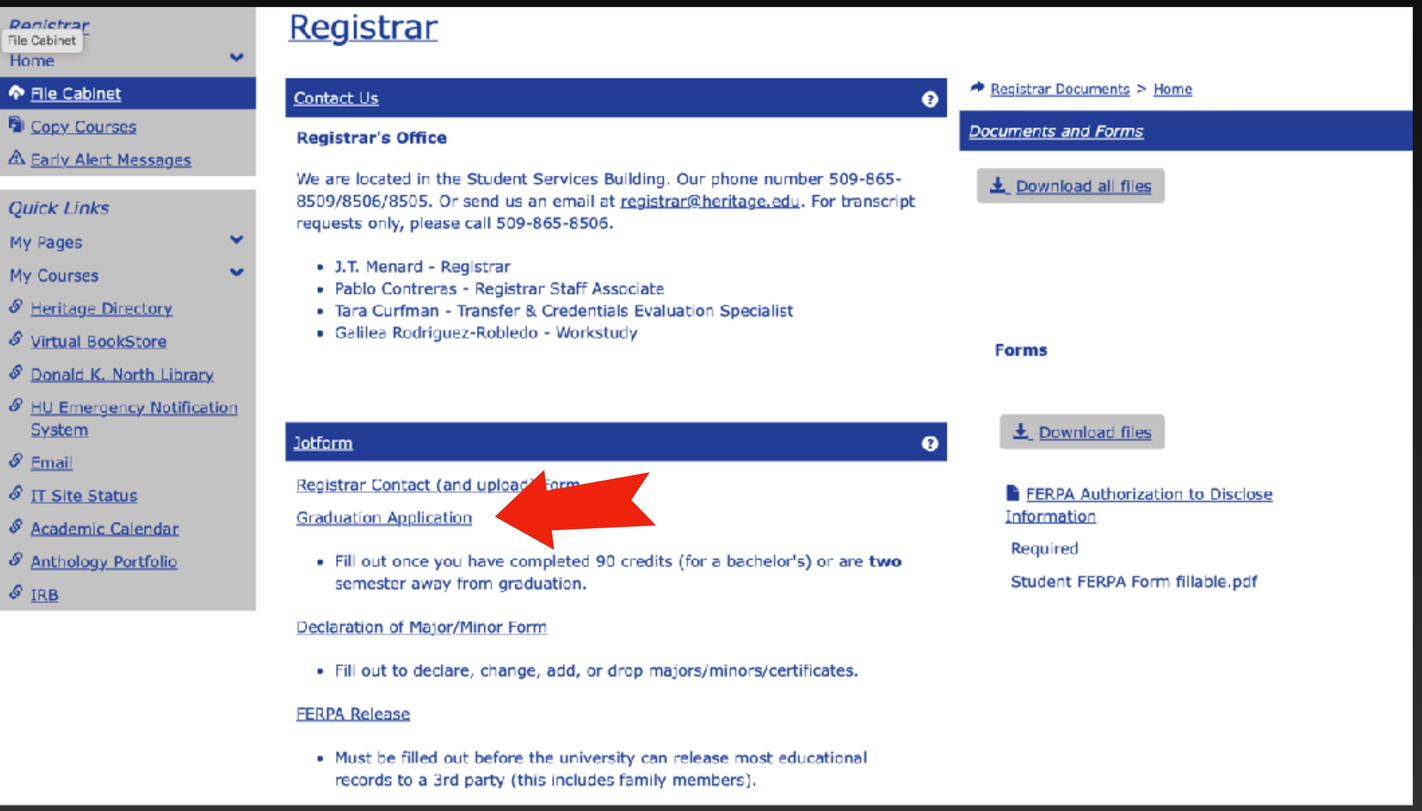
Describe the basic steps needed to complete a needs assessment.

Understand the content of the social policy paper

Provide meaningful feedback on this course.

Applying for Graduation

Yes, it is already time...



https://myheritage.heritage.edu/ICS/Students/Registrar/

Information to Include

Student ID

Legal Name

Name to appear on diploma

Email

Applying for Master's in Social Work

Majors (none)

Minors (none)

Graduation Term (Summer)

Graduation Year 2027

Advisors Name

Advisors Email

Social Work Electives

What Would You All Like

Spring Plan

SOWK 503 Beyond MSW to Clinical Skills

SOWK 587 Social Work in Schools

We’ve Had Interest In

Substance Use Disorder class (even if it doesn’t provide certification)

In fall we also had:
SOWK 583
Evidence-Based
Therapeutic Skills

Spring Semester Registration

Selecting Your Classes

Students -> Registration -> Course Search

Filters: Spring, Graduate, Social Work

Generalist Sequence 2-Year Students

SOWK 531.0

SOWK 538.0

SOWK 536.0

SOWK 541 & 546
Match current faculty

If you have a hold, follow up with us

Specialized Sequence

SOWK 581

SOWK 585

SOWK 591 & 596
Match current faculty

Elective

Midcourse Feedback

Going Well

In-class times and my teaching

Podcast

Different Formats (slides, recorded lectures, videos, textbook, etc)

Forum choice

Not Going Well or Recommendations

Exemplar assignments

Too many big assignments

If no school practicum

Amount of content on weekly page or syllabus description

School Policies and Program Development

- Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Occurrence
- Suicide Prevention
- Truancy and School Failure Prevention
- Violence Prevention Approaches
- Bullying
- Child and Sexual Abuse
- Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Domestic and Partner Violence Prevention
- Adolescents Pregnancy
- Assertiveness
- Special Education Program Development

(Jarolmen & Bautista, 2023)

Small Group Discussion

What policies or practices related to these issues have you observed at your practicum?

Where do you see gaps or opportunities for improvement in how your placement addresses this issue?

A-04:

Social Policy Macro Issue Paper

Due Monday Morning 11/16/26

Students will apply their understanding of social welfare policy to a school-related problem researched for their fact sheet. They will create a policy brief aimed at governmental decision-makers that presents the issue, analyzes its relationship to school culture, and recommends evidence-informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive policy solutions grounded in cultural humility.

Needed Content

Title Page: Include a title page following APA 7 formatting.

Problem Description: Clearly describe your school-related problem and explain its impact on students and school systems. Support your analysis with credible sources. Explore how intersectionality affects students and/or staff, and examine how school culture influences or sustains the problem.

Policy Analysis: Examine the current policies related to your school-related problem at local, state, tribal, and/or federal levels. Summarize at least one of these policies and assess the impact on school systems and students. Include an analysis of how these policies address or fall short of meeting the needs of diverse client populations. Make connections to a theory applicable to social policy.

Recommendations for Policy Change: Identify how change can be implemented across at least two system levels (micro, mezzo, macro). Describe the types of collaboration needed, such as partnerships with policymakers, schools, or community organizations.

Change Strategy and Collaboration: Propose specific, actionable policy changes grounded in your analysis. Ensure your recommendations are rooted in anti-racist and anti-oppressive frameworks. Explain how cultural humility informs your understanding of the issue and shapes your policy recommendations.

Reference List: All sources should be cited appropriately in APA style throughout. A reference list using APA formatting should be included.

Social Policy Theories

Potential Frameworks Connected to Policy

In your paper, you will want to connect your analysis of the policy (e.g., law) to a theory that can be applied to a social policy. Consider finding a source about a theory, explaining some of the aspects of the theory, and talking about how they relate to the policy you are discussing. The following are some examples of theories you might explore

Critical Race Theory (CRT)

Critical Theory

Feminist Theory

Systems Theory

Social constructionism

Social Policy Macro Issue Rubric

Competency 5
Practice Behaviors

Description	Highly Developed
Policy Examination and Best Practice Recommendations	Provides a clear and accurate review of a relevant social policy demonstrating a strong understanding of its impact on diverse populations; offers specific, evidence-based, and actionable policy recommendations rooted in best practices and anti-oppressive considerations.
Policy Theory Assessment	Thoughtfully applies relevant social policy theory to analyze the issue, demonstrating deep understanding of how the theory relates to the experiences and needs of diverse client populations.
Problem Description and School Culture Analysis	The problem is clearly and comprehensively described, supported with evidence; provides a meaningful and insightful analysis of how school culture influences or sustains the issue.
Intersectionality and Population Focus	Strongly integrates intersectionality concepts to offer a nuanced analysis of how overlapping identities influence experiences related to the problem and population; analysis demonstrates depth and insight.
Change Strategy and Collaboration	Presents a clear, realistic, and well-supported plan for implementing policy change across multiple levels; thoughtfully identifies and explains the roles of key partners needed for successful collaboration.
Organization, Clarity, and APA Formatting	The brief is clearly and logically organized with a consistently professional, action-oriented tone; APA citations and references are accurate and properly formatted throughout.
Following assignment requirements	Closely follows the assignment description and requirements.

School-Related Problem Fact Sheets & Social Policy Macro Issue

Policy Landscape: What existing policy(ies) could you analyze?

Equity & Access: Ideas related to unintentional harm or gaps in protection?

Theory in Practice: Which social policy theory might you apply?

Needs assessments can be very helpful in eliciting the support of the administration for many of these policies and programs … to use this information to reinforce your case for the need in your school.

(Jarolmen & Bautista, 2023 p. 259)

School-Based Planning Policy Planning

Steps in a Need Assessment



Clarify why you're doing the assessment and who should be involved

Use surveys, records, interviews, focus groups, etc.

Identify themes from the data (strengths and needs)

Decide what needs are most urgent and feasible to address

Turn findings into actionable steps, with accountability

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Toolkit (Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2023)

SPRC 2021

Tribal Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment: Aggregate Technical Report

http://www.sprc.org/library_resources/sprc

Review the results, and discuss how you interpret the information.



Data Collection

Data Category	Examples to Review
Demographics	Student ethnicity, gender, special programs, staff diversity
Student Achievement	Academic growth, disaggregated by subgroups
Climate & Culture	Vision/mission alignment, feelings of safety, respect, belonging
Family/Community Engagement	Involvement in activities, communication responsiveness, partnership networks
Staff Quality/Retention	Qualifications, diversity, support systems, PD effectiveness
Curriculum & Instruction	Equity audits, cultural relevance of materials, alignment with best practices

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Toolkit (Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2023)

How would a needs assessment look at your school?

Working as a small group, make a plan for what a needs assessment at your school would look like and the planning stage of the process.

- What areas would you think could be helpful to assess, and why
- Who should be involved, and how would you get buy-in
- What data would you collect, and how would you get it