

PPA Process

(ONLY FOR BACHELOR OF SW & MASTERS OF SW-PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING STUDENTS)

1. Professional Practice Assessment (PPA)

PPA is a strand of the first Social Work Field Education subject. It can be completed in place of the Placement strand and replaces the original Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). In this strand students complete a series of assessments reflecting on their work experience, how they meet the AASW practice standards and are developing their professional identity as beginning social workers.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for the PPA strand students need to have 3 years full time equivalent (FTE) work experience in a relevant context in the last 7 years of which one year FTE has to be in the last 3 years. Where:

- “relevant context” is defined as a position that either manages, or directly provides, what social workers consider to be social work or social welfare services to clients of the agency involving activities that the University regards as suitable for a field education placement and involve familiarity with and use of a range of social work practice skills and methods, such as assessment, counselling, casework, group work and community work
- if the clients include the staff of the agency, the applicant must occupy a designated counselling position

Please note: students must meet this requirement to undertake the PPA strand.

To establish eligibility a copy of your CV and job descriptions for the relevant period (see above) need to be sent to the Workplace Learning Office:

HumanServices-WPL@csu.edu.au for forwarding to the assessor. This can be done prior to session commencing and it is advised to do so as soon as possible.

3. Registration

Field Education is a yearlong subject and students need to enrol in both sessions. This is the same for the PPA strand as the assessment is spread throughout the year. Once your enrolment is correct you will be sent a registration form which must be completed, and returned with a copy of your resume, indicating you are completing the PPA strand. If you have not already done so please send the required documents, as set out above, to HumanServices-WPL@csu.edu.au to establish eligibility.

4. PPA Assessment

Assessment will involve your:

- demonstration of how you have met the outcomes of the first Field Education subject

- understanding of the relationship of theory and practice
- understanding of self

This will be assessed by:

- a) Completion of assignments requiring you to provide evidence that you have met the standards and performance outcomes for the first placement, including
 - a critical reflection on your work experience (referenced)
 - your understanding of the theories informing your practice (referenced)

Due end of May

- b) PPA presentation to a panel of Social Work Academics
June/July

- c) Preparation of worksheets and orientation plan for next placement.

Due September

For more information contact:

Workplace Learning Office

02 6933 2784 or email HumanServices-WPL@csu.edu.au

Workplace Learning Website:

<http://arts-ed.csu.edu.au/schools/humss/social-work-and-human-services>