WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Social Policy, Advocacy and Human Services

COURSE NUMBER: AHS 7640

BLACKBOARD TECHNOLOGY WILL BE UTILIZED FOR THIS COURSE

I. RATIONALE:

Human service professionals play an integral role in advocating on behalf of populations affected by issues that social policies attempt to address. This course is designed to equip human service professionals with skills to effectively analyze social policies and legislation, as well as lobby on behalf of the populations they serve.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

GOAL A:
Students will be able to define Advocacy and will understand the role of human service professionals in affecting change and influencing social policy.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Research the roles that human service professionals and organizations have played in influencing social policy; including becoming familiar with major social programs in the U.S. that attempt to address certain social policy issues.
A-2 Create their own human service organizations and programs to address social policy issues.
A-3 Complete projects that will give them practical experience in serving as advocates for populations that are served by human service organizations.

GOAL B:
Students will be able to critically examine social policy issues that affect populations served by human service organizations.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Learn specific models of political advocacy used to form and analyze social policies.
B-2 Complete a PowerPoint presentation and a Professional Poster Collage that analyzes a social policy issue that is of interest to the student.
B-3 Complete two (2) policy reviews using information from professional media outlets.

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GOAL C:
Students will learn the legislative process and the importance of lobbying as a way to affect system change.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1 Learn various techniques of lobbying on behalf of populations served by human service organizations.
C-2 Complete a Testimony Memorandum to addresses a specific piece of legislation that addresses a specific social policy issue.
C-3 Complete worksheets included in The Lobbying and Advocacy Handbook that outlines the steps used in a plan of action that supports the decision making process that goes into developing social policies.

GOAL D:
Students will be able to communicate effectively orally and in writing for professional audiences.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

D-1 Complete various writing assignments and oral presentation projects targeted for a professional audience.
D-2 Learn the techniques involved in effective communication
D-3 Complete writing assignments using the appropriate APA format.