Social Work Job Preparation and Career Success

Presented by:
The University of Alabama
School of Social Work
http://socialwork.ua.edu/
and
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* Becky is a proud graduate of The University of Alabama where she received a BS degree in human development and family studies and a MSW with a concentration in planning and management.
Training Goal

Social work students will receive *just-in-time* online training to prepare them for employment. BSW and MSW students will obtain the knowledge, tools, and techniques necessary to be a prepared candidate for employment and to succeed as a viable employee.
Training Modules

Module I: The Preparation Process
Module II: The Interview Process
Module III: Career Growth & Development

There are three modules comprised of 10 segments. Students are encouraged to listen to all of the segments and review resources. Note: The online training was designed for you to obtain just-in-time information; therefore, feel free to listen to each segment in the order most beneficial to you.
Your Trainer

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Becky has 20+ years of national, state and local non-profit executive management experience, including professional and trade membership organizations and the health care industry with community mental health centers and physician practices. Her background in non-profits includes the positions of Chief Operating Officer for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in Washington, DC, and Associate Director of the Indian Rivers Mental Health Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
The University of Alabama
Career Center

The University of Alabama Career Center
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Social Work Job Preparation and Career Success

Module III: Career Growth & Development

Segment 9

Mentor Selection
What is a Mentor?

• Definition
  – a mentor is a trusted counselor, guide, tutor, or teacher

• Mentor roles include:
  – coaching and giving advice
  – providing perspective on a given situation
  – connecting mentee to resources, other professionals, and potential jobs
Why is Mentoring Important?

• A mentor:
  – relationship goes beyond the supervision interaction
  – is personally invested in your growth and development

• A mentor can:
  – identify your strengths and areas of improvement
  – give you guidance in a specific area of specialization
  – help you acquire vital understanding and talents
  – pass on skills, knowledge, and wisdom

By establishing multiple mentor relationships, you will increase your access to seasoned professionals.
Where Do I Find A Mentor?

- Professional and personal network
- Often times, the long-term relationship is naturally established through professional or personal contacts
- Trusted colleague who may or may not have served as your supervisor
- Your employer or professional/volunteer organization may have a formal mentor program
Questions to Consider When Selecting a Mentor

• Do the individual’s personal values match your values?
• Do you respect the individual?
• Do you admire the individual?
• Is the relationship reciprocal? Meaning: Is it a two-way street and is there give and take in the communication?
• Can you identify what you can learn from this individual?
• Is the individual interested in your career growth, development, and enhancement?
Additional Training Segments

Please visit [http://socialwork.ua.edu/](http://socialwork.ua.edu/) to access more trainings

- **Segment 1** Resume Development & Cover Letter
- **Segment 2** Professional Networking
- **Segment 3** Essential Skills for Employment
- **Segment 4** Interview Research, Questions, & Answers
- **Segment 5** Interview Follow-up
- **Segment 6** Salary & Benefits Negotiation
- **Segment 7** Licensure
- **Segment 8** Supervision Preparation
- **Segment 9** Mentor Selection
- **Segment 10** Career Enhancement
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