

On your first day of Internship, what was your expectation and did the first day meet your expectations of the internship?

On my first day of internship, I expected to feel out of place and nervous. I am interning within the organization that I work for but, for a different department. Often time people from this department looks down upon those that work in the field. I am glad that I was proven wrong on that day. My field instruction is such an inspirational person. Ms. Simpson always make sure I understand my task, our supervision meeting is very informative, in addition she makes me feel valued, and confident in my work and always inspires me to do my best and motivates me to keep reaching for my end goal.

2. Journal 2 Question

What skill set do you bring to your internship

The skill set that I bring to my internship are active listening, cultural competencies, and advocacy skills. I love to listen to clients in order to figure out what brings them to me, what are their needs, and how I can assist them in empowering themselves. I work with a very large African American and Hispanic population and they are appreciative that I am understanding of their cultural needs. I am also bilingual Portuguese and Spanish which makes my Latin/ Hispanic clients with language barriers feel comfortable when they speak with me. In addition, I find a passion in advocating for my clients. I will find all the resources that they need and connect the dots for them. All while teaching them to advocate for themselves.

3. Journal 3 Question

Have you ever become unsafe in a professional setting? If so, how was it handled?

In my place of employment, I work mainly with the homeless population. I am in constant contact with male clients that have chemical and alcohol dependencies. Some days they come into my office and they love me and want all the help I have to offer them. Other times they are angry, aggressive, and verbally abusive. I remember one particular day I was in my office alone with a client, at the time I was about 8 months pregnant. The client and I were in the middle of completing an intake application for a chemical dependency program. Within a few minutes of being in my office the client decides that he wants to tell me that I am pretty and that being pregnant is sexy. I immediately asked the client to focus at the task at hand and that his behavior was very appropriate and disrespectful to me. The client then stands up and tries to rub my belly while I am still talking to him. I once more asked him to please not violate my space as I wouldn't do that to him. This upsets him and he starts called me every name in the book. I immediately got up, walked out of my office and came back with my supervisor. My supervisor tried to have a conversation with him to no avail. The result was shaving the police escort him out of the building. The client was physically and verbally abusive to everyone within the perimeter of my office that asked him to please leave the building. Situations like these have been few and far and I don't let them detour me from the reason I want to become a social worker.