

Advocacy in Human Services

Advanced Level, Non-Liberal, 4 credits

Advocacy in Human Services is considered to be an advanced level knowledge that is non-liberal. It represents higher level skills and concepts that human service workers have acquired through applied practice. Advanced level knowledge indicates that you are able to use terminology, skills, and theory in an applied way. Advocacy in Human Services is more often about how we do things (i.e., non-liberal) and not necessarily why we do things (i.e., liberal). At Empire State College, the Advocacy in Human Services course is offered at the advanced level.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Advocacy in Human Services. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Advocacy in Human Services, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Advanced and Non-Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Advocacy PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Advocacy in Human Services

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Advanced, Non-Liberal

1. Briefly describe your experiences with advocacy in the human services field. For example, summarize the different types of advocacy that you have conducted.

2. Advocacy in Human Services is conducted in many different ways. The terms micro, mezzo, and macro levels of advocacy are utilized to highlight the different types of work that is conducted at different levels. Please describe and give an example of what micro advocacy, mezzo advocacy, and macro advocacy are.

3. Compare and contrast the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of advocacy in human services. Please feel free to use examples to illustrate your point.

4. You are a case worker at an agency that provides home care services to elderly in their homes. You assess what each individual needs to remain safe in their home. The 81-year old Hispanic woman living in the country, Jane, has 2 children who live nearby, one of whom helps her on the weekends. She likes to attend church services on the weekend and is considered to be low income. Jane has type 2 diabetes and hypertension; she is receptive to receiving services. In the assessment, you identified that the individual is food insecure, lacks transportation, and needs help with activities of daily living.

- How would you advocate for this individual for services?
- What type of resources would you need?
- What type of education would you conduct for Jane and her family?
- What challenges or barriers would you expect to see in this case?
- How would you implement your advocacy plan for Jane?
- What kind of ethical issues may arise?

5. You are a case worker at an agency that provides a wide range of services to individuals with a disability. Through your work, you have identified that the program you work in is receiving more clients who are children. Yourself and the other case workers feel that they need additional training to provide effective services to them.

- How would you advocate for yourself and coworkers to receive additional training? Who would you advocate to?
- What type of resources would you need?
- What type of education is needed?
- Describe how you would research who provides trainings in this area?
- What type of challenges or barriers would you expect to see?
- How would you recommend your agency implement a training plan?
- What kind of ethical issues may arise?

6. You are a director of an agency that provides services to victims of domestic violence. In your area, you recognize that legislation and awareness is needed on the issues that your community faces.

- What do you do to advocate?
- What type of information would you need to be successful in advocating for your clients and others?
- What type of resources would you need?
- What type of challenges or barriers would you expect to see?
- What kind of ethical issues may arise?
- What type of education is needed and for whom?
- How would you address issues of diversity in your advocacy efforts?