

Group Work

Advanced, Liberal, 4 credits

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

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Group Work. 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 Group Work, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Advanced and 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 Group Work PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Group Work

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Advanced, Liberal

1. Please describe your experiences working with groups in human services.
2. There are many different types of groups that are utilized in human services. Compare and contrast the following types of groups:

- Psychoeducational groups
- Counseling groups
- Group psychotherapy
- Work/skill based groups

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of group work? What populations and topics are appropriate for group work? What are some factors to consider before or when developing a group?

4. There are different phases of working with groups. Explain the different skills, topics, and roles for the beginning phase, middle phase, and ending phase of group work.

5. Provide a detailed example of a group that you have facilitated. Make sure to include the type of population, purpose or type of the group, the roles and relationships amongst group members, and your role in the group. Explain the objectives of the group and techniques or skills that you utilized to accomplish this.

6. Please list any workshops or trainings that you have taken in order to work with groups.