SUGGESTED READINGS: DOCTORAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
QUESTIONS IN DIRECT PRACTICE

To the student: In preparation for the qualifying examinations, the student should become familiar with at least some versions of the most widely used types of clinical theories and interventions, including cognitive-behavioral and psychodynamic, as well as other approaches that bear on the student’s area of interest. The latter should be developed in course papers or independent study, and are the main preparation for the practice part of the examination. In some areas, the theories covered below may not be appropriate as preparation, and the student needs to make this judgment. But for those who desire some initial guidance in learning about general approaches to clinical intervention, this list may be helpful.

We emphasize that the following is NOT a list of readings required for the qualifying examinations. It is not anticipated, for example, that exam questions will refer to or require knowledge of specific references on this list. The knowledge required for the doctoral examinations should be developed in accordance with each student’s needs through the work the student does in his or her coursework as well as independently. Rather, this is a set of suggestions for pursuing certain topics that the student should master by the time of the qualifying examinations.

Conceptual and philosophical foundations of social work direct practice


**Epistemology, philosophy of science, and the quest for a social work knowledge base**

Bechtel, W. *Philosophy of science* (chapters 2-4). [See this book or other philosophy of science texts for references to pivotal articles by thinkers such as Kuhn, Hempel, Lakatos, and Feyerbend, as well as other classic philosophy of science articles on the nature of scientific explanation and theory.]


Kourany: All of Kourany is relevant, but especially the following reprinted articles:


**Social work perspectives on intervention**


Germain, C. & Gitterman, A. Social work practice and its historical traditions. (Germain and Gitterman, Life Model).


The psychoanalytic foundation: Herbert Strean, “Psychoanalytic Theory” (Turner, chapter 2).

**Psychosocial/diagnostic approach:** (1) Francis J. Turner, "Psychosocial Theory" (Turner, chapter 18); (2) Florence Hollis, "The Psychosocial Approach to the Practice of Casework" (Roberts and Nee); (3) Richard Woodrow, "Casework: A Psychosocial Therapy" (Meyer); Francis Turner, "Psychosocial Therapy" (Dorfman).

**Functional approach:** (1) Shankar A. Yelaja, "Functional Theory for Social Work Practice" (Turner, chapter 3); (2) Ruth Smalley, "The Functional Approach to Casework Practice" (Roberts and Nee); Harold Lewis, "Interventions, Assessment, Outcome, and an Approach to Practice" (Lewis, chapter 11).

**Problem-solving approach:** (1) Helen Harris Perlman, "The Problem-Solving Model" (Turner, chapter 10); (2) Helen Harris Perlman, "The Problem-solving Model in
Social Casework" (Roberts and Nee); (3) Sandra Abrams, "Casework: A Problem-Solving Process" (Meyer).

**Eco-systems and ecological models:** (1) Carel Germain and Alex Gitterman, "The Life Model Approach to Social Work Practice Revisited" (Turner, chapter 23); (2) Carol Meyer, "The Eco-Systems Perspective" (Dorfman); (3) Geoffrey Greif and Arthur Lynch, "The Eco-Systems Perspective" (Meyer); (4) Rosemary Grieve, "Clinical Application of the Eco-Systems Perspective: An Eclectic Approach" (Meyer).

**Clinical interviewing from psychiatric, integrative, cognitive, and psychodynamic perspectives:**


**General integrative texts:**


**Critical thinking about clinical intervention**


**Empirical Basis of Clinical Practice**


**Cognitive-behavioral**


**Psychodynamic theory and treatment**


Other approaches (Interpersonal, Client-centered, gestalt/humanistic therapies)


Marital, family, group therapy


