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SLIS Practicum Goals Guide

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Goals are important. They help plan for the future, evaluate what we've accomplished, and review what we need to work on, both personally and professionally. Goals should be considered in the bigger context of Outcomes, Goals, Objectives and Tasks:

Outcome: What change in behavior happened because of an intervention?

Goal: What you want to accomplish in the big picture.

Objective: The W's of how to achieve your goal. Make the objective SMART.

Task: Your "to do" list for accomplishing your goal.

For the purposes of the SLIS Practicum, students set two work goals and two personal goals for their practicum semester. Students should think about how they will measure their goals. Although it is not required, students should consider developing Outcomes, Goals, Objectives and Tasks to help with measurement.

Work goal:

For the purposes of the practicum, a work goal is knowledge or skills related to professional work students want to develop during their practicum. Examples:

- Learn how to catalog materials.
- Gain public service skills needed to work on a reference desk.
- Acquire expertise working with rare materials.
- Gain confidence and skills presenting storytimes.
- Learn how a technical services department operates.

Personal Goal:

A personal goal is knowledge or skill to develop during the practicum that is focused on personal development. This can be related to communication, listening, confidence, body language, rapport with others, time management, conflict resolution, stress management, work/life balance, commitment to building professional knowledge, or many others. Examples:

- Find a mentor who can help me during my practicum and early career.
- Read one article from a professional journal each week.
- Determine what kind of supervision works best for me.
- Practice my leadership skills.
- Practice my communication skills.