THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Course Number: SW n393T29 Instructor: Robert Ambrosino, Ph.D.

Unique Number: 88595 Robert.ambrosino@utexas.edu
Semester: Summer 2023 Office: On-line (see hours below)
Meeting Time/Place: T/TH 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm*
Office Phone: (210) 268-9043

Office Hours: T-TH 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm and by

appointment via Zoom

*This class will be conducted using a combination of synchronous (group learning via Zoom) and asynchronous (independent learning on one's own) formats. All Zoom classes will be conducted on Thursdays only throughout the semester.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN HUMAN SERVICES

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced management course will cover the knowledge and skills necessary to guide non-profit organizations through a variety of important financial decisions. Students will learn how to create budgets, analyze financial statements, record common financial transactions through basic accounting, manage cash flow, analyze costs, and support key financial decisions in a nonprofit at executive or management levels. The course will examine how financial management is used in social work practice with case studies and exercises that will be directly applicable when beginning in a new nonprofit organization. Hands-on experience will include the opportunity to create one's own non-profit program budget, practice basic accounting, interview an Executive Director to better understand how finances are dealt with in practice, create a financial analysis and sustainability plan on a nonprofit of one's choosing, analyze cost structures and recommend revenues for a nonprofit case, and hear from social workers who have started their own non-profit and balance the finances on a daily basis. Through cutting-edge articles, books, exercises, videos, and guest speakers, students will come away with a toolbox for applying the latest in financial management theories to human service organizations. Students will learn to define and practice financial management topics to become a social worker with financial literacy.

IL STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Critically examine and apply theories of financial management to non-profit human service organizations.
- 2. Explain common financial management concepts and terminology to effectively communicate with organizational stakeholders.

- 3. Construct and analyze different types of budgets and understand the budgeting process in nonprofit and public entities.
- 4. Analyze value dilemmas, ethical issues, and social justice issues in the financial management of human service organizations.
- 5. Explain basic accounting principles, how to record common financial transactions, and software that supports this accounting.
- 6. Understand how to manage cash flow in an organization and the importance of monitoring cash budgets to support financial stability.
- 7. Understand different costs in a nonprofit organization and how to conduct a cost analysis to develop cost-effective programming.
- 8. Analyze financial statements of nonprofit organizations and provide constructive feedback on their financial conditions, financial performance, and fiscal vulnerabilities.
- 9. Describe the multiple revenue streams that finance nonprofits and the advantages and disadvantages of different funding sources.
- 10. Utilize differential cost-benefit analysis in making executive-level organization and policy decisions (make or buy, keep or stop, expand or reduce, fund or reject).
- 11. Understand internal controls and the importance of audits in supporting the overall financial health of an organization.
- 12. Apply financial knowledge to starting a non-profit business in social work.

III. TEACHING METHODS

The class will use a form of blended learning in which students learn content using synchronous (group learning via Zoom) and asynchronous (independent learning on one's own) formats. Designated "lab days" will serve as protected time for students to work exclusively on class assignments.

Several of the course assignments will involve the use of Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets. Students will need to be comfortable with using this software for the course. Students are expected to complete assigned readings *prior* to each class period and actively participate in the class through on-line communication.

Canvas will be used as the learning platform for this course, including communication between students and the course instructor. The course Canvas site can be accessed at http://courses.utexas.edu or the Social Work web page (requires Internet connection and computer UT EID and password). The Help Desk available through the UT home page (www.utexas.edu/its/help) or at 475-9400 is available to assist students with Canvas-related questions.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Zeitlow, J., Hankin, J., Seidner, A., & O'Brien, T. (2018). Financial management for nonprofit organizations: Policies and Practices (3rd edition). Wiley.

Note that the 3rd edition of this text is required.

Additional reading material will be posted on the course Canvas site throughout the semester.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The grade in the course will be comprised of the following:

Assignment #1 - Creating a Non-Profit Program Budget (15% of course grade)

For this assignment, students will create a hypothetical nonprofit organization, select *one* program provided by the organization, and create a revenue and expense budget for that program.

The following information is required for this assignment:

- Agency mission
- Two to three one-sentence objective statements
- Brief description of *one* program that is provided by the organization (no more than one paragraph)
- 12-month calendar or fiscal year budget for the program, with revenues to support the program *and* expenses incurred by the program (a spreadsheet template will be posted to the course Canvas site to capture this information)
- Variance report for the <u>first three months</u> of program operation (a spreadsheet will be posted to the course Canvas site to capture this information)

This assignment is due on <u>June 27</u>.

Assignment #2 - Creating a Cash Flow Budget Report (15% of course grade)

Using the program budget identified in Assignment #1, students will create a cash flow management report for the next year. The budget should include both cash receipts and cash payments, showing the ending cash balance for each month (a spreadsheet template will be posted to the course Canvas site to capture this information).

This assignment is due on July 11.

Assignment #3 - Understanding Non-Profit Audits (15% of course grade)

Non-profit financial audits combine basic financial statements with notes on the organization and other aspects of operations. Nonprofit executives need to be well versed in the terminology of audits and be able to understand how the statements and notes combine to paint the overall picture of the agency.

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Two sample audits will be posted on the course Canvas site. Each sample includes a set of questions designed to help students delve deeper into the audit. Students will choose <u>ONE</u> of the two audits and respond to the set of questions presented for that audit.

This assignment is due on **July 18**.

Assignment #4 – <u>Discussion assignments</u> (15% of course grade)

Each student will complete three (3) discussion assignments posted on the course Canvas site. Instructions for completing these assignments and their respective due dates (6/13, 6/22, and 7/13) will be included with each posting.

Assignment #5 - Agency/organization financial analysis and sustainability plan case study (40% of course grade)

Students will work in teams of 3-4 members each to complete this assignment. Team membership will be determined by students, with assistance from the course instructor as needed. Each team will be assigned a nonprofit agency case study to serve as the basis for completing the assignment.

Each team will prepare a <u>written</u> report documenting its response to a set of common questions posed for the various case studies. The report (excluding any attachments) is to be between <u>6 and 8 pages</u> in length.

In addition, each team will prepare an in-class (via Zoom) PowerPoint presentation that contains a summary of the team's response to the common set of questions. The order of presentations will be determined by the course instructor with input from students. Each team will have 20 minutes to make its presentation, plus 5 - 10 minutes to respond to questions posed at the end of the presentation by the course instructor and other classmates. Class presentations are scheduled for **July 20** and **July 25** (last two days of class).

The written portion of this assignment is due on **July 25**.

A summary of course assignments can be found in the following table.

	Assignment	Due Date	% Grade
1	Creating a nonprofit program budget	6/27	15%
2	Creating a cash flow budget report	7/11	15%
3	Understanding nonprofit agency audits	7/18	15%
4	Discussion postings (3)	6/13, 6/22, 7/13	15%
5	Case study	7/25	40%
	Written report	7/25	25%
	Class presentation	7/20, 7/25	15%
		Total	100%

VI. GRADES

The following distribution will be used to assign grades in this course:

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	В
80.0 to 83.999	В-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

VII. CLASS POLICIES (some policies have been modified to reflect the fact that the class is being conducted on-line)

Conduct and Civility: Social work students adhere to the Student Standards for Professional Conduct of the *NASW Code of Ethics* and assume responsibility for their conduct. Scholastic honesty and integrity are to be consistent social work values. The instructor will comply with

university guidelines regarding scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism. Social work practitioners respect others; therefore, differences in values, opinions, and feelings of class members and guest speakers will be respected. Students will help create and support a learning environment that does not interfere with the learning of fellow students. When students voice an opinion with which you do not agree, feel free to voice opinions in a civil manner that can enhance the flow of ideas and dialog.

Readings and preparatory assignments: Students are expected to be active participants in the learning process by completing all assigned readings and viewing all Power Point presentations and related videos.

Professional communication and interactions: Disrespect toward the professor, students, or others is unacceptable and will be handled directly and in the context in which it occurs. Disrespectful behavior includes overt acts, such as talking over others or making derogatory remarks toward others, and covert acts, such as excluding class members from completing assigned tasks.

Class attendance policy: All students are expected to participate in <u>all</u> synchronous on-line class sessions (classes presented using Zoom) unless excused by the course instructor. Attendance will be taken using the Zoom attendance function.

Assignments and grades: Assignments should be turned in via Canvas on the date they are due barring serious, unforeseen medical illness or family emergencies. Penalties for late assignments will factor into the grade achieved for the assignment.

Electronic devices: All communication devices should be turned off or placed on silent mode and put away during on-line class sessions, unless otherwise required for the class.

Writing style: The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Seventh Edition* (APA) is the style manual to be used by all students in this course.

Use of Canvas: The professor will use Canvas Web-based course management /collective workspace for this class. An orientation will be given to the course Canvas site on the first day of class.

Course modification: To ensure achievement for course objectives, the professor reserves the right to make modifications to any part of this syllabus related to schedule, assignment due dates, and links to documents and videos available through the Internet. Should any modifications be made, students will be notified both in class and by email and the modifications will be posted to Canvas.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 related information. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: https://protect.utexas.edu/

The University of Texas honor code. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Disability accommodation statement. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and how they apply in my class.

Professional conduct and civility in the classroom. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

Unanticipated stress. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at https://cmhc.utexas.edu/.

Policy on social media and professional communication. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist

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among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g., blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

Policy on academic integrity. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.

Use of course materials. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

Classroom confidentiality. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

University electronic mail student notification. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy.

Religious holidays. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the Office for Inclusion and Equity. The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

TITLE IX reporting. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex https://titleix.utexas.edu/. Faculty, field instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of university resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at https://titleix.utexas.edu/.

Campus carry policy. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: https://campuscarry.utexas.edu.

Safety. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to

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be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

Behavior concerns and COVID-19 advice line (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

Emergency evacuation policy. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- · If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- · In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
June		<u> </u>	
1	ZOOMS	SESSION (group learning)	
	Course overview	Canvas	
	 Paradigms 	• Glossary of finance terms	
	 Financial challenges 	Power Point slides	
	facing contemporary		
	nonprofit organizations		
	 Leadership maxims for 		
	nonprofit financial		
	managers		
	In-class application		
	Assignment		
6	ASYCHRONOUS SES	SION (independent learning on your own)	
	 Understanding nonprofit 	<u>Chapter</u> 1 of course text	
	organizations	Canvas	
	Why some nonprofits	• IRS classification of nonprofit agencies	
	fail to deliver on mission	Pay-what-it-takes philanthropy	
	 Leadership challenges in 	Nonprofit starvation cycle	
	nonprofit organizations	■ Panopto videos	
		Other videos	
		www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfAzi6D5FpM	
8	700M (SESSION (crosses looming)	
O	• The course instructor	SESSION (group learning) Chapter 3 of course text	** Reminder **
		<u>Canvas</u>	Discussion #1 closes
	will provide commentary and lead	Sample strategic plans	on 6/13
	the class in a discussion	Power Point slides	011 0/13
	of topics covered on	- 1 ower 1 omt sinces	Case study
	6/6		assignment task
	 Managing mission, 		teams announced
	strategy, and financial		
	leadership		
	 In-class application 		
	Assignment		
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Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
13	ASYCHRONOUS SESSION (independent learning on your own)		
	 Developing operating 	<u>Chapter 7</u> (sections 7.1, 7.3, 7.4 – 7.6,	Discussion
	and cash budgets	Appendix 7A, Appendix 7B) and Chapter 8	assignment #1
	 Developing financial 	(all) of course text	
	reports and ratios	Canvas	
	 Budgeting systems 	Panopto videos	
15	ZOOM		
	■ The course instructor	<u>Chapter 6</u> of course text	
	will provide	Canvas	
	commentary and lead	 Sample financial statements 	
	the class in a discussion	■ Sample Forms 990	
	of topics covered on	Power Point slides	
	6/13		
	 Understanding financial 		
	accounting basics		
	• Financial statements		
	In-class application		
	Assignment		
20	20 ASYNCHRONOUS SESSION (independent learning on your own)		
	Developing financial	Chapter 5 of course text	** Reminder **
	policies and procedures	Canvas	Discussion
		■ Panopto video	assignment #2
			closes 6/22
22	22 ZOOM SESSION (group learning)		
22	• The course instructor	Chapter 4 of course text	Discussion
	will provide	Canvas	assignment #2
	commentary and lead	• Summary of Principles of Good	
	the class in a discussion	Governance and Ethical Practice	** Reminder **
	of topics covered on	• Financial code of ethics	Creating a nonprofit
	6/20	• Ethical issues for nonprofits	program budget
	 Managing structure, 	Materials on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act	assignment due on
	accountability, and	Power Point slides	6/27
	ethics		
	■ In-class application		
	Assignment		

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
27	ASYCHRONOUS SES		
	 Managing risks and 	<u>Chapter 10</u> of course text	Creating a
	liabilities, legal issues,	Canvas	nonprofit program
	and human resources	• When is a nonprofit required to have an	budget
		independent audit?	
		 Understanding nonprofit agency financial 	
		Audits	
		Family Forward® financial audit	
		Panopto video	
29	ZOOM		
	■ The course instructor	Chapter 13 of course text	
	will provide	Canvas	
	commentary and lead	■ Power Point slides	
	the class in a discussion		
	of topics covered on		
	6/27		
	 Information technology 		
	and knowledge		
	management		
	 In-class application 		
	Assignment		
July			
4	University holiday – no		
	classes held		
6	ZOOM SESSION (group learning)		
	 Sources of nonprofit 	Canvas	** Reminder **
	Revenues	■ Ten nonprofit funding models	Creating a cash flow
	 Nonprofit revenue 	Nonprofits' many roads to revenue	budget report
	Strategies	Generation	assignment due on
	Operating reserves	■ Power Point slides	7/11
	■ In-class application		
	Assignment		

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
11	ASYCHRONOUS SESSION (independent learning on your own)		
	• Fall from grace: The	Canvas	Creating a cash
	Family Forward® story	Absent a financial audit	flow budget report
		 Impact of failure to complete single 	
		agency audit	** Reminder **
		■ Panopto video	Discussion
		_	assignment #3 due
			on 7/13
13	ZOOMS	SESSION (group learning)	
	 The course instructor 	<u>Chapter 15</u> of course text	Discussion
	will provide	Canvas	assignment #3
	commentary and lead	Power Point slides	
	the class in a discussion		** Reminder **
	of topics covered on		Understanding
	7/11		nonprofit agency
	 Evaluating your policies 		audits assignment
	and progress		due on 7/18
	 In-class application 		
	assignment		
18	Lab day	Protected time to work on class presentation	Understanding
			nonprofit agency
			audits
20	ZOOMS	SESSION (group learning)	
	 Final class presentations 		
	(1 st cohort)		
25	25 ZOOM SESSION (group learning)		
	Last day of class!		Financial analysis
	• Final class presentations		and sustainability
	(2 nd cohort)		plan written
			report

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Additional readings

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- Batts, M.E. (2017). *Nonprofit financial management oversight: The concise and complete guide for boards and finance committees.* Accountability Press in cooperation with Batts, Morrison, Wales, and Lee Certified Public Accountants.
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