



Assessing Social Work Students in Public Library Field Placements through an Equity-minded SoTL Lens

Introduction: In 2022, UWSP and the South Central Library System formed a partnership to place social work student interns within area libraries. In January 2023, our first intern was placed at the Portage County Library. This SoTL project analyzes the student experience within libraries to assess learning, skill development, and the demonstration of social work competencies through a social justice lens.

Methods for developing and assessing student learning outcomes:

1. Library Staff Survey
2. Library Patron Survey
3. Review of other library/SW models
4. Weekly supervision meetings
5. Student learning contracts
6. Week 5 & 10 Efficacy Assessments

Results:

Staff survey: 12/22- (259)

- Identified need for resources for patrons with unmet psychosocial needs, training needs for staff

Patron Survey: 2/23- (405)

- Highlighted community identified needs

Review of Other Library/SW Models

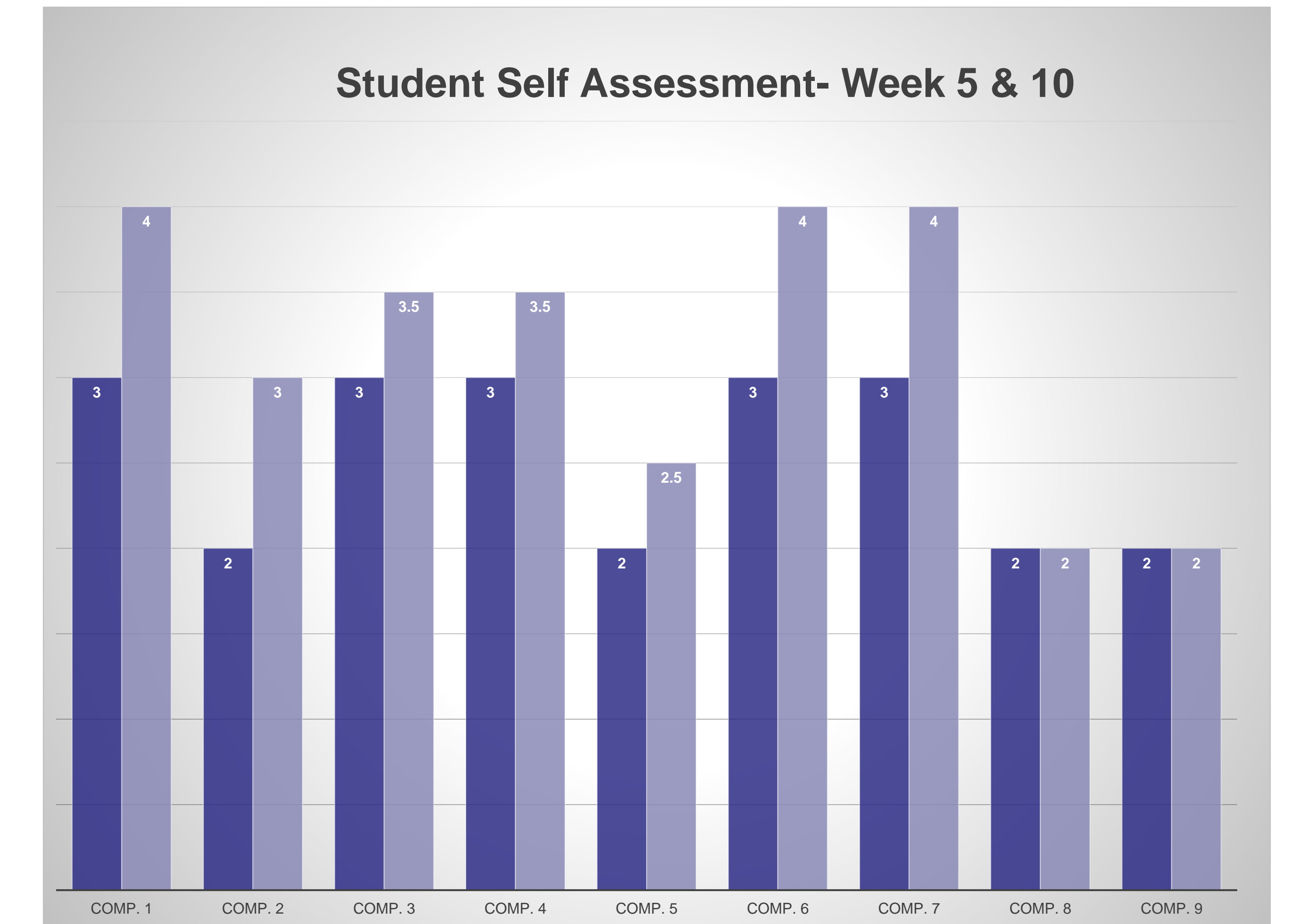
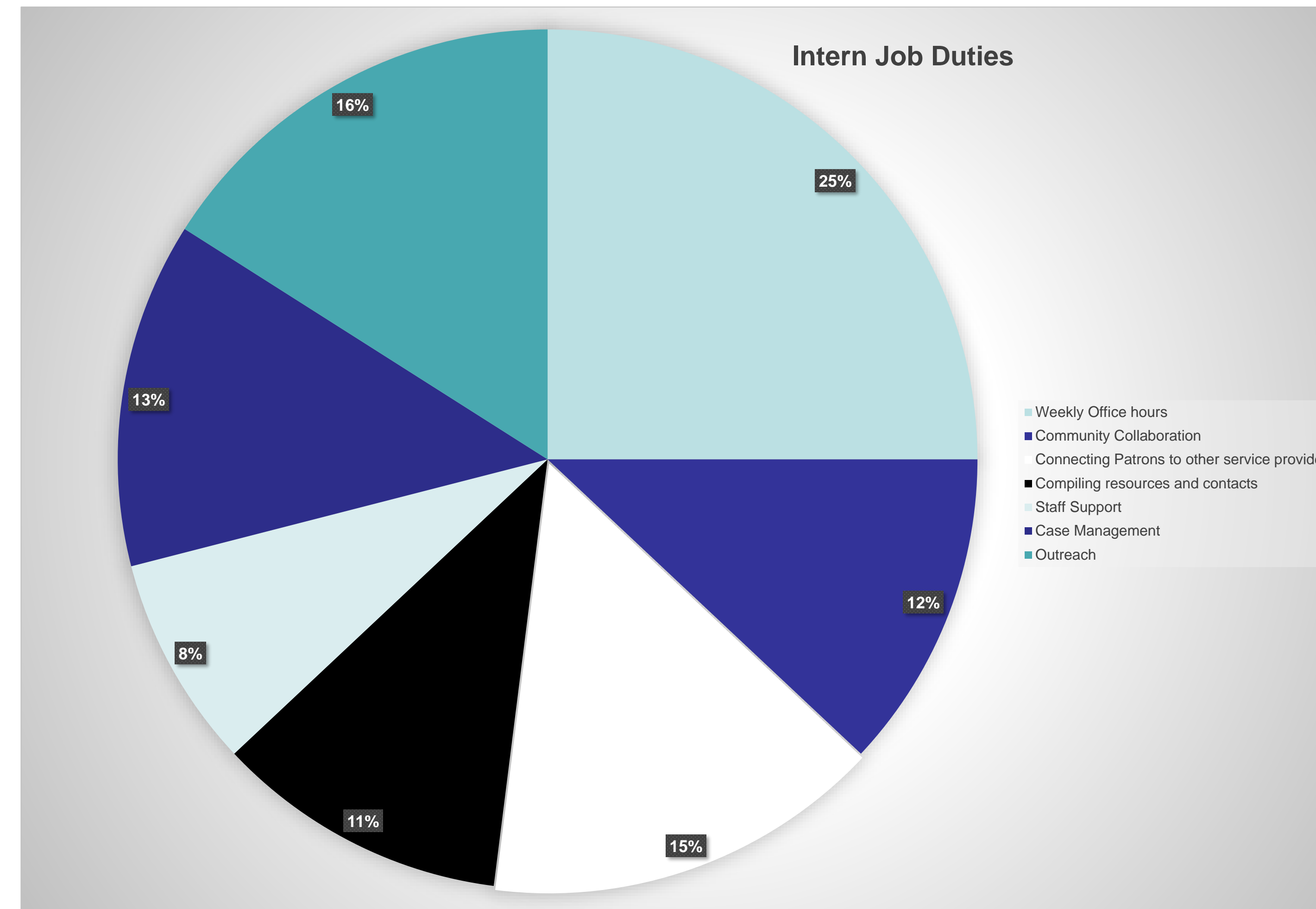
- Racine Public Library/Carthage
- St. Paul Library/ Metropolitan State

Student Efficacy Self Assessments

- Increased skills & efficacy between weeks 5 & 10

Weekly Supervision- Student & Faculty:

- Problem solving, review of learning goals, and general support.



Discussion:

- Student developed networking skills through collaboration with other community programs.
- Student developed case management skills and expanded their knowledge of community resources.
- Student demonstrated CSWE 9 core competencies during field placement.
- 6/23- 2nd intern starts at Portage Co. Library, Fall 2023 intern in Columbia Co.
- Stakeholder support for expansion of SCLS/UWSP partnership.



Community Interest: swlibraryinterns.com/

