

Advocacy Competencies Self-Assessment (ACSA) Survey©

Directions: To assess your own competence and effectiveness as a social justice change agent, respond to the following statements as honestly and accurately as possible.

STATEMENTS	ALMOST ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	ALMOST NEVER
1. It is difficult for me to identify client’s strengths and resources.			
2. I am comfortable with negotiating for relevant services on behalf of client/students.			
3. I alert community or school groups with concerns that I become aware of through my work with clients/students.			
4. I use data to demonstrate urgency for systemic change.			
5. I prepare written and multi-media materials that demonstrate how environmental barriers contribute to client/student development.			
6. I distinguish when problems need to be resolved through social advocacy.			
7. It is difficult for me to identify whether social, political and economic conditions affect client/student development.			
8. I am skilled at helping clients/students gain access to needed resources.			
9. I develop alliances with groups working for social change.			
10. I am able to analyze the sources of political power and social systems that influence client/student development.			
11. I am able to communicate in ways that are ethical and appropriate when taking on issues of oppression public.			
12. I seek out and join with potential allies to confront oppression.			
13. I find it difficult to recognize when client/student concerns reflect responses to systemic oppression.			

14. I am able to identify barriers that impede the well being of individuals and vulnerable groups.			
15. I identify strengths and resources that community members bring to the process of systems change.			
16. I am comfortable developing an action plan to make systems changes.			
17. I disseminate information about oppression to media outlets.			
18. I support existing alliances and movements for social change.			
19. I help clients/students identify external barriers that affect their development.			
20. I am comfortable with developing a plan of action to confront barriers that impact clients/students.			
21. I assess my effectiveness when interacting with community and school groups.			
22. I am able to recognize and deal with resistance when involved with systems advocacy.			
23. I am able to identify and collaborate with other professionals who are involved with disseminating public information.			
24. I collaborate with allies in using data to promote social change.			
25. I assist clients/students with developing self-advocacy skills.			
26. I am able to identify allies who can help confront barriers that impact client/student development.			
27. I am comfortable collaborating with groups of varying size and backgrounds to make systems change.			
28. I assess the effectiveness of my advocacy efforts on systems and its constituents.			
29. I assess the influence of my efforts to awaken the general public about oppressive barriers that impact clients/students.			
30. I lobby legislators and policy makers to create social change.			

Directions for scoring:

Score numbers 1, 7, and 13 first, and then record the score next to the corresponding number below:

- Almost Never = 4 points
- Sometimes = 2 points
- Almost Always= 0 points

Then score the remaining items by recording the score next to the appropriate number.

- Almost Always= 4 points
- Sometimes = 2 points
- Almost Never = 0 points

Total the number of points earned for each domain. Then, add the total scored earned for the 6 domains to find out your advocacy rating scale.

Client/Student Empowerment	Community Collaboration	Public Information
1. _____	3. _____	5. _____
7. _____	9. _____	11. _____
13. _____	15. _____	17. _____
19. _____	21. _____	23. _____
25. _____	27. _____	29. _____
Total: _____	Total: _____	Total: _____

Client/Student Advocacy	Systems Advocacy	Social/Political Advocacy
2. _____	4. _____	6. _____
8. _____	10. _____	12. _____
14. _____	16. _____	18. _____
20. _____	22. _____	24. _____
26. _____	28. _____	30. _____
Total: _____	Total: _____	Total: _____

Advocacy Rating Scale:

100-120	You're on the way to becoming a strong and effective social change agent.
70-99	You've got some of the pieces in place. However, you need to do some work to develop your competence in specific advocacy areas in order to be an effective social change agent.
69 & Below	If you earn low scores in certain advocacy domains (e.g., client/student empowerment, systems advocacy), obtaining training in these areas can greatly improve your effectiveness as a social justice counseling advocate. If being an advocate at the client/student level is a low area, you can expand your repertoire by familiarizing yourself with feminist counseling principles and multicultural counseling competencies. If however, low scores are in a majority of domains you may want to reconsider your commitment to being a social justice advocate.

Note: Advocacy Competencies Self-Assessment Survey

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