

MSW Field Education Overview

Overview

The School of Social Work's Field Education Office follows the standards and guidelines of the Council of Social Work Education. MSW Mission Statement states, *"The MSW Program is committed to the preparation of graduates for a career in clinical practice dedicated to assisting individuals, groups, families, and communities. While promoting equality and social and economic justice, faculty will prepare graduates for practice in a culturally diverse society, upholding the values and ethics of the profession and teaching critical thinking skills designed to enhance the quality of life for all persons"*. (<http://www.uncw.edu/swk.html>, retrieved 9/23/13)

Basic Facts about MSW Field Placements

- 18-20 hours per week, over a three day placement experience
- Three semesters of field at the same agency
- 300 hours per semester for a total of 900 hours
- Students are also required to attend a weekly academic field seminar facilitated by their faculty liaison

Field Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

Field Instructors must do the following:

- Provide student with a full orientation of the agency.
- Provide a minimum of one hour of supervision each week.
- Collaborate with student to create a learning contract that will assist in the focus of work assignments and learning opportunities consistent with field education goals and CSWE core competencies and sign off on the contract.
- Communicate regularly with the faculty liaison (UNCW faculty assigned to each BSW student) on student's progress, including strengths and concerns in completing assignments to facilitate early supportive interventions.
- Provide appropriate work space for student, including access to a telephone and a place to keep personal items and field materials.
- Complete and submit required documentation such as resumes, signed agency agreements, student mid-term and end-of-semester performance evaluations.

Standards for the Selection of Field Instructors

To qualify to be a field instructor, the agency-based supervisor must have:

- Graduated from an accredited school of social work**
- A minimum of two years practice experience post MSW graduation.

- Ability to provide a minimum of one hour per week of professional supervision and on-going consultation; explore clinical techniques or practice and facilitate student self-awareness.
- Have a willingness to attend and participate in the School's seminars and workshops.
- Submit a resume to be kept on file in the Office of Field Education.
- Willingness to interview students interested in an internship to determine the suitable selection of interns.
- Willingness to provide ongoing constructive feedback to the student with periodic formal written evaluations.

**If the agency-based supervisor is not a social worker, the individual must demonstrate a willingness and ability to support the strengths-based perspective, generalist model of social work practice. These students will be assigned an outside credentialed MSW and the on-site supervisor will be a task supervisor.

Prospective Field Placements/Agency

For an agency to be considered for a placement, the agency must:

- Agency demonstrates respect for values and ethics of social work as demonstrated by agency policy, procedure, program design, and service delivery.
- Agency shows a commitment to the provision of diverse learning opportunities.
- Provision of work space, privacy for interviewing, telephone access, parking space, and clerical assistance.
- Acceptance of interns representing differing values and backgrounds, including differences in cultural, ethnic, racial, religious, and sexual orientation, as well as physical challenges, special learning needs, etc.

Examples of MSW Student Tasks in Field

- ❖ Foundation Year – psychosocial assessments, interviewing, supportive counseling with individuals, families, and/or groups. Indirect client work, evaluation (ex. data collection and development), case-management (resource allocation and referral), and advocacy for social change.
- ❖ Advanced Year- advanced clinical assessments, specific use of intervention or psychotherapeutic models based on advanced theories, attendance and participation at community meetings and board meetings, and professional or educational meetings/workshops including presentations at such meetings.