

# Part Time-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**

- 10-12 hours per week
- Five semesters of field
- 180 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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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- ❖ Foundation Tasks – 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 Tasks- 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.