

University of Arkansas School of Social Work
 MSW Field Education Handbook
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I. FIELD EDUCATION PROGRAM MISSION and OBJECTIVES

School of Social Work Mission

Social Work Mission:

We are dedicated to fostering a community of culturally competent social work leader-practitioners. Through student-centered experiential learning, rigorous research, and committed community engagement, we prepare our students to become advocates for social and economic justice and equity. Our program integrates classroom knowledge with real-world application, embracing a Multi-Systems Life Course Perspective. We aim to empower social workers who will enhance the quality of life for all individuals, families, and communities both within Arkansas and globally, believing that through our efforts, Arkansas can truly be a land of opportunity for all.

MSW Program Mission:

The mission of the MSW Program is to prepare culturally competent social workers who embody core social work values.

- Our program develops advanced leader-practitioners, through the integration of classroom, field education, and experiential learning who are prepared for empirically based practice using a Multi-Systems Life Course Perspective.
- Learning takes place within an intentional collaborative community that promotes inclusion to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people, families, groups, organizations and communities in Arkansas and globally.

Field Education Objectives

The Field curriculum is designed to allow students to accomplish advanced practice skills, knowledge, and values consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of social work and the MSW program through effective performance in field internship. Special expectations include demonstration of leadership skills and ability for independent practice, preparation for intervention with global issues, use of current technology for practice, and successful interdisciplinary collaboration.

The educational objectives of the field sequence are consistent with the program's overall education objectives. Upon successful completion of all courses in the field sequence, students must demonstrate accomplishment of each MSW program educational objective.

Foundation Competencies and Practice Behaviors

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behaviors

1. Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.
2. Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.
4. Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.
5. Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice.

1. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
2. Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.
3. Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

1. Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.
2. Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

1. Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research
2. Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings
3. Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

1. Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.
2. Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.
3. Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.
2. Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. 1. Collect and organize data and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.
3. 3. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.

4. 4. Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance the capacities of clients and constituencies.
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.
3. Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.
4. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.
5. Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.
2. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.
3. Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes.
4. Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

Advanced Competencies and Practice Behaviors

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

1. Demonstrate the achievement of overall competency, including the capacity for continuous self-reflection, monitoring and evaluation, and consultation and supervision from others, resulting in professional and autonomous practice from a MSLC perspective.
2. Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice consistent with the MSLC perspective.
3. Demonstrate advanced social change and leadership skills at all levels (direct practice, education, research, policy practice, administration) of their work.
4. Demonstrate understanding and integration of the values and principles of ethical social work practice at an advanced level of practice, including the ability to independently resolve ethical dilemmas consistent with the relevant Codes of Ethics.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice.

1. Demonstrate the ability to use a MSLC perspective and intersectionality theory, to communicate understanding of the complex interrelationships of multiple diversities including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, geographic location, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.

2. Demonstrate the ability to use the dimensions of traditional and alternative paradigms, to demonstrate that difference can have a variety of significant influences on how and whether persons experience oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim.

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

1. Demonstrate the ability to recognize, understand, synthesize, and articulate the complex global interconnections of oppression and based on theories of justice, use social change and leadership skills from a MSLC perspective to promote social justice and human rights.
2. Demonstrate the capacity to advocate for and influence change in a manner that is consistent with a MSLC perspective and social work values and ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the ideas and concepts related to the notions of social justice, advocacy, leadership, social change, social support, social networks, and social capital consistent with a MSLC perspective.

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

1. Demonstrate the ability to present and justify arguments or positions using quantitative or qualitative research or knowledge and/or logical, rational models of thinking based on knowledge from practice experience (wisdom) that are consistent with a MSLC perspective and with social work ethics.
2. Demonstrate the ability to distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge necessary to effectively present and justify arguments or positions, using evidenced-based research and/or logical, rational models of thinking based on practice experience (wisdom) that are consistent with a MSLC perspective.
3. Demonstrate the ability to be a producer of evidenced-based knowledge.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge, based in a MSLC perspective, of policy practice grounded in historical and emerging strategies and tactics for policy practice across system levels (organizational, local, state, national, and international) with attention to financial, organizational, administrative, technological, and planning processes required to deliver services across the life course.
2. Demonstrate advanced skills in social work practice including the ability to link theory, policy-practice, and research/ evaluation, and to employ leadership skills to demonstrate and promote such a linkage.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Demonstrate advanced skills in the development of appropriate client system relationships from a MSLC perspective.
2. Demonstrate the ability to assume the role of learner and engage those diverse systems with whom they work as informants (teachers), consistent with a MSLC perspective.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Demonstrate the ability to use a MSLC perspective to understand, synthesize and assess issues that impede the exercise of basic human rights, such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education across all system levels.
2. From an MSLC perspective, demonstrate the acquisition of advanced knowledge grounded in historical and emerging strategies and tactics for assessment across system levels.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. From an MSLC perspective, demonstrate the ability to identify the interventions, tactics or strategies that are appropriate for a given situation.
2. From an MSLC perspective, demonstrate the ability to employ the interventions, tactics or strategies that are appropriate for a given situation.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

1. Demonstrate the use of a MSLC perspective to analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.
2. Demonstrate the ability to creatively analyze, raise critical questions about and evaluate (e.g. diversity related or fit with social work values) existing research, literature, intervention/ models, policies, and theories and in formulating new research, literature, interventions/models, policies, and theories.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact and role of research in achieving or impeding social and economic justice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the ways in which technology can aid in advanced social work practice and skills in using technology in advanced social work practice in evaluation.

II. FIELD EDUCATION PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Field Education Program

The Field Education Program consists of faculty and staff committed to providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate advanced practice skills, knowledge, and values consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of the MSW program through effective skill development in field internships.

The following is a glossary of terminology related to field education, followed by expanded descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of all partners.

Field Glossary

Field Education Program Director: The Field Education Program Director provides overall management of the Field Education Program. The Field Education Program Director assesses student readiness for field and collaborates with the student to determine the best placement “fit” based on student skills and interests as well as agency resources and availability.

Field Liaison: The field liaison is the faculty member whose primary responsibility is to see that the student's internship experiences are educational and meet the established learning objectives. This is achieved by integrating curriculum content in Field seminar, monitoring educational opportunities offered by the agency, connecting CSWE competencies and skill development, and evaluating the student's progress.

Field Instructor: The field instructor is a social worker that has received an MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program. The field instructor provides a minimum of one hour of supervision per week to the student. In most cases, the field instructor will be on site at the assigned field placement; however, when a master's level social worker is not available at placement, this role will be filled by a master's level social worker who is not on staff at the agency, and who has been approved by the Field Education Program. Frequently, this master's level social worker will be responsible for assigning learning tasks for the student at placement.

Task Supervisor: The task supervisor is the agency employee that assigns tasks to the student and who assists in evaluating the daily performance of the student. The task supervisor maintains regular contact with the field instructor and field liaison regarding the student's progress in field placement.

Field Placement/Internship: The Field placement or internship is a part of the social work student's formal educational requirements, consisting of an ongoing work assignment at an organization which allows the student to apply social work theory, values, ethics, and competencies to practice. This work assignment is directly supervised by a field instructor and/or task supervisor.

Field Seminar: Field Seminar is the academic component of the social work student's field experience. In addition to working in an agency setting, the student is required to attend a weekly, two-hour seminar designed to integrate curriculum content with direct practice knowledge and experiences.

MSW Field Application Process

The following is a list of the steps to apply for Field Education internship placement. Missing any step in this sequence may delay your Field Internship placement.

Student Internship Placement Process

- a. Students will purchase access to Tevera, the online internship tracking system.
- b. Students will complete the MSW Field Internship Application **prior** to attending their Field advising appointment. This includes identifying areas of interest.
- c. **Students are prohibited from arranging their own placements, and unsanctioned contact with approved field organizations could result in a student's removal from the placement process, making them ineligible for Field for that semester.**
- d. If a student has 2 or more Student Retention and Success Level 1 Forms that have been submitted, or expressed concerns from faculty, the student will be required to meet with

Field Education Program Director and the MSW Program Director, to determine field readiness.

- e. Students will schedule an appointment with the Field Education Program Director when the advising calendar is sent out via e-mail. Students should arrive at their Field Advising appointment prepared to discuss areas of interest as well as learning and professional goals.
- f. Students will receive an e-mail with referral for interview for possible placement. Pertinent contact information for the interview will be provided in the e-mail.
- g. The Field Education Director will make every effort to place students within 50 miles of the University of Arkansas main campus in Fayetteville. Reasonable efforts will also be made to place students in the locale of their residence if they reside more than 50 miles from campus. However, the student is still required to attend Field Seminar in person, once a week.
- h. Student will craft a professionally written e-mail to request an interview with the designated placement.
- i. If accepted for placement, students will complete the **Field Internship Acceptance Form**, which will be provided in the referral email. Please return the signed form to the Field Education Program Director.
- j. Students should arrange their schedule so that they can attend internship for full days if feasible, attending internship **no less than four hours at a time**.
- k. If a student is deemed field ready, the Field Education Program may make no more than three referrals for placement interview per semester. After each denial for placement, the student will be reassessed for field readiness. If a student is unable to secure placement after three referrals for interview, they will be deemed inappropriate for field placement for that semester.**

Workplace Internship Policy

Students who wish to explore the possibility of using their place of employment as an internship site may submit a completed Workplace Internship Request in writing to the Field Education Program Director. The Field Education Program Director in consultation with the Field Education Committee considers requests on a case-by-case basis. Requests must include the following:

STUDENT

- a. A clear delineation between paid employment duties and internship responsibilities. Duties and responsibilities must be significantly different from those routinely done in the students' role as employee with the agency. The volume of responsibilities also must be reduced to reflect the internship as a learning experience rather than an ordinary workload.
- b. Supervisor name and title for employment and proposed internship must be provided. The two supervisors may not be the same person.
- c. Provision of a licensed certified social work (LCSW) instructor who has not supervised the intern in other employment responsibilities.
- d. Identify the employment department, and the proposed internship department. If these departments are in separate locations, please identify.

- e. A schedule of hours for the internship clearly delineated and separated from employment work hours, signed by both the employment supervisor and the proposed field instructor.
- f. Payment: If the agency is going to provide payment, it must be a stipend or **payment outside of payment for regular employment responsibilities.**

AGENCY

- a. Written approval from (a) an agency administrator, (b) current employment supervisor, and (c) proposed field instructor, agreeing to the proposed internship.
- b. Written documentation that internship time will be focused on MSW degree learning activities, not employment duties.
- c. Final approval of the work site internship depends on all the above criteria being met. The field liaison will monitor the agreed upon terms; failure to comply with the agreement may result in removal of students from the internship.

Creating New Internship Sites

Agency personnel who are interested in becoming a new internship site are encouraged to contact the Field Education Program Director to determine if the agency will be able to accommodate the learning opportunities required for social work students. If so, the agency may complete the Field Organization Application and Field Instructor Application. The Field Education Program Director will arrange a visit to the proposed internship site to assess the appropriateness of the agency for the student's learning needs. Following the visit, the Field Education Program Director, in consultation with the Field Education Committee, will determine if the agency is approved.

Criteria for Selection of Field Education Sites

The selection of a field setting is based on the agency's commitment to shared responsibility for professional graduate education and on the level of staff expertise and experience. To help ensure successful placements and high-quality learning experiences for the student, the School of Social Work carefully assesses all potential placement settings. Specific criteria for selecting graduate field placement agencies include the following:

- 1. The presence of a solid commitment by the administrator and/or staff to provide professional educational learning opportunities in cooperation with the School of Social Work.
- 2. Willingness to designate a field instructor who (a) is a master's level social worker holding a degree from a CSWE-accredited program, and (b) whose schedule will allow for development of student learning opportunities of appropriate depth, breadth, and variety; and attendance at any meetings or training required by the Field Education Program;
- 3. The agency performs functions within the scope of what is generally recognized as professional social work. If social work is not the principal function of the agency, social work is identified as a sufficient professional service offered by the agency, and the social work practitioners are accepted by the agency as professional staff.
- 4. The presence of staff expertise in the form of professional education, experience, or other credentials which assures knowledgeable field supervision.

5. Willingness to make all students feel welcome.
6. Willingness to allow students to actively participate in the overall agency program and activities, as appropriate to educational needs and practice competencies of the student.
7. Willingness to provide access to agency case records, which are pertinent to student activities and learning needs.
8. Willingness to provide support services and appropriate facilities for student use, including an adequate and regular place from which the student can operate, clerical services, necessary supplies and equipment, access to telephone, and (if possible) reimbursement for travel expenses incurred during assigned duties;

Organization/Agency Application Process

1. Agencies meeting the criteria are encouraged to complete and submit an electronic Organization/Agency Application to the Field Education Program.
1. The Field Education Program will review applying agencies for approval. Agencies will be notified of acceptance status by mail, with any special conditions noted in the Field Education Program's letter to the agency.

Field Instructors

Field instructors for MSW students must hold a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program. For cases in which the agency offers valuable learning experience and does not have a social worker with a CSWE-accredited master's social work degree, the school ensures that the placement is consistent with the philosophy and practice of social work by arranging alternate social work supervision. This may be accomplished in several ways:

- a. A School of Social Work faculty member may be assigned to provide social work supervision for the student while the task supervisor provides onsite supervision of activities. In these cases, the faculty member is expected to provide supervision with the student for a minimum of one hour per week.
- b. The organization/agency or the School of Social Work, depending on resource allocation, may designate a social worker that holds a master's degree from a CSWE-accredited program to provide off-site supervision. In this case, a task supervisor is assigned to direct student activities on site at placement.
- c. An agency social worker with a master's degree from a CSWE-accredited social work program that is not the primary field instructor may provide weekly social work supervision to ensure that the student understands their work from a social work perspective.

Field Instructor Certification Process

Social workers wanting to become a field instructor for the School of Social Work must complete an application and be approved by the Field Education Program Director and Field Education Committee. Approved field instructors must practice in an approved field internship site.

1. Field instructors hold a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program. It is preferable that the field instructor be licensed in the state of Arkansas as an LCSW or LMSW. Occasionally practitioners from other disciplines may be considered appropriate

task supervisors, however, students will still be supervised by a field instructor with a master's degree from a CSWE-accredited program.

2. Field instructors must practice in a School of Social Work approved internship site.
3. Field instructors must demonstrate a commitment to the education of MSW students and have adequate time and resources to supervise a student on a consistent basis.
4. Field instructors must observe the NASW Code of Ethics and operate within its context.
5. Field Instructors must complete Field Instructor Orientation. It is offered both in-person and online each semester.
6. A field instructor's certified status may be reviewed at any time by the Field Education Program Director and Field Education Committee if concerns develop regarding the quality of the educational experience, supervisory relationship, or if ethical concerns arise regarding the field instructor's behavior. The Field Education Program Director in conjunction with the Field Education Committee may suspend certification status at any time.
7. Any field instructor whose certification has been suspended may appeal this to the Field Education Program Director in writing.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Field Education Program Director is Expected to:

1. Assume responsibility for the overall management and direction of the Field Education Program.
2. Assign a field liaison to work conjointly with the agency-based field instructor.
3. Provide suggested learning goals to aid the design of learning objectives and the selection of learning activities by the student and field instructor.
4. Provide guidelines, evaluation tools, and protocols for the evaluation of the student.
5. Provide needed orientation and training to field instructors.
6. Be available to the student, the field liaison, and the field instructor to facilitate a resolution to problems that may arise.
7. Monitor and evaluate the quality of internship experiences provided by the various agencies and organizations utilized as field placements.

The Student Intern is Expected to:

1. Demonstrate awareness and adherence to all relevant professional standards, including, but not limited to the NASW Code of Ethics.
2. Adhere to Standards of Social Work Education.
3. Meet all academic pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements for field education.
4. Read the Field handbook and demonstrate understanding of its policies.
5. Meet with the field instructor on a regular basis, at a minimum, weekly.
6. Prepare for all meetings with the field instructor and alert the field instructor to topics that need to be discussed during the upcoming meeting.
7. Meet with the field instructor and the field liaison jointly at least twice during each semester.
8. Attend the agency on days and at times agreed on by the student and field instructor, and if unable to attend, notify the agency supervisor and prior to or at the start of the workday.

9. Behave in a professional manner: take responsibility to understand and carry out assigned duties, meet all deadlines, and seek direction when needed.
10. Identify themselves as a social work intern in all professional interactions and interventions.
11. Carry out agency related assignments in a manner consistent with agency policy and procedures.
12. Prepare records and reports in accord with agency policy, procedures, and format.
13. Identify learning needs and prepare a learning contract with specific learning activities that are acceptable to the field instructor and field liaison.
14. Purchase professional liability insurance (included in student fees).
15. Take responsibility for ensuring personal safety while performing internship duties.
16. Complete and submit all field monitoring and evaluation forms and reports required by the agency and school.
17. Discuss with the field instructor, field liaison, or Field Education Director any areas of significant disagreement, dissatisfaction, or confusion related to the field experience.
18. Complete the required number of hours and course requirements for the field internship.
19. Meet all course requirements of field seminar.

The Field Instructor and Field Agency Are Expected to:

1. Describe and explain what is expected of the student during placement with the agency.
2. Provide the student with a thorough orientation to the agency, its purpose, structure, policies, procedures, and ethical standards.
3. Provide regularly scheduled supervision to the student (at least weekly).
4. Provide the student with suitable workspace, equipment, and support staff.
5. Include the student in regular staff meetings and staff training sessions.
6. Assign duties and responsibilities that are appropriate to the student's learning needs and that are increasingly difficult, demanding, and challenging.
7. Assign duties and responsibilities that help the student develop a broad range of social work knowledge and skills.
8. Work with the student in ways that recognize the internship first and foremost as a learning experience.
9. Monitor the student's work and progress and regularly provide feedback.
10. Evaluate the student's performance in a fair, respectful, rigorous, and thorough manner.
11. Meet at least twice each semester with the student and Faculty Liaison to discuss the internship and student's progress.
12. Complete all evaluation forms and reports required by the school.
13. Model ethical practice and refrain from any inappropriate or unethical behavior toward the student (e.g., verbal abuse, sexual harassment, dual relationships).

The Field Liaison is Expected to:

1. Assume responsibility for assisting in the development of a learning plan that will provide the student with an array of appropriate and challenging learning opportunities.
2. Monitor the student's internship experience and assist in evaluating the student's performance.

3. Assist the Field Instructor and other agency personnel in connecting the school's expectations of students, the social work curriculum, the school's goals for internship, and the agency's goals for internship.
4. Facilitate the student's learning by providing guidance and serving as a source of information.
5. Meet at least twice each semester with the student and the field instructor to discuss the internship and evaluate the student's progress.
6. Assist the student in integrating social work theory and the specific experiences of the practicum through facilitation of field seminar.
7. Participate in arranging and securing a mid- term and final evaluation of the student's performance in field.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Course Requirements

The purpose of the graduate field program is to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate advanced practice skills, knowledge, and values consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of the MSW program through effective performance in field internships. Special expectations include demonstration of leadership skills, and ability for independent practice, preparation for intervention with global issues, use of current technology for practice, and successful interdisciplinary collaboration. The application of social work knowledge to a practice setting is facilitated by field instruction and weekly seminars. Field internships and co-requisite seminars are educationally directed, agency-based learning experiences enabling students to demonstrate advanced social work knowledge, skills, and values. Students are expected to progress to higher skill levels as they move through the field sequence culminating in the ability, upon graduation, to engage in advanced social work practice with persons across the life course and in multiple system contexts.

Two-year students (Spring of Foundation Year)

SCWK 5434: Foundation Field Internship (300 hrs. 19-20 hrs/wk) 4 hrs.

SCWK 5412: Foundation Field Seminar 2 hrs.

3-year extended program (Summer of 3rd year)

SCWK 5434: Foundation Field Internship (300 hrs., 30 hours/wk) 4 hrs.

SCWK 5412: Foundation Field Seminar 2 hrs.

All students (Fall of Advanced Year)

SCWK 6444: Advanced Field Internship I (250 hrs., 17-18 hrs/wk) 4 hrs.

SCWK 6442: Advanced Field Seminar I 2 hrs.

All students (Spring of Advanced Year)

SCWK 6454: Advanced Field Internship II (250 hrs., 17-18 hrs/wk) 4 hrs.

SCWK 6452: Advanced Field Seminar II 2 hrs.

The Foundation MSW field sequence consists of three 4-credit hour internships and three 2-credit hour field seminar classes. The Advanced Standing MSW field sequence consists of two 4-credit hour internships and two 2-credit hour field seminar classes. SCWK 54102/54304 (two-year option) is the first field internship and accompanying seminars in the series. The second in the series is SCWK 64402/64434 (Advanced Field Seminar I and Advanced Field Internship I).

These courses are followed by SCWK 64502/64504 (Advanced Field Seminar II and Advanced Field Internship II). Together they constitute the graduate field instruction sequence. The purpose of the graduate field program is to provide students with the opportunity to integrate masters level social work theory, practice knowledge, skills, and values with an agency-based learning experience. The application of social work knowledge to a instructor or task supervisor and accompanied by weekly seminars. The field program enables students to demonstrate acquisition of the advanced social work knowledge, skills, and values they have acquired as they proceed through the classroom curriculum.

Field Seminar Requirements

Two-year and three-year MSW students complete a minimum of 900 clock hours of agency-based professionally supervised practice experience. Advanced standing students complete a minimum of 500 clock hours of agency-based professionally supervised practice experience in recognition of prior completion of a minimum of 400 clock hours at the baccalaureate level. Accompanying field seminars meet once a week for two hours.

Field Seminar

Field Seminar is a co-requisite with field internship. Student competencies are explored in the field sequence and, as such, evaluation of performance leading to mastery of these competencies is essential. Each field seminar is similarly designed as a small group, solution-oriented learning environment where students' complete assignments reflecting their ongoing learning process and skill development with focus on professional development. Field seminar is an interactive class that requires student engagement both with their field liaison and with their student colleagues. Assignments specific to the seminar class can be found in the syllabus on the designated class Blackboard site.

Seminar Section Assignments

Students are enrolled in Seminar and Internship sections by the Field Education Program Director and School of Social Work staff. Seminar section assignments are made based on available resources, type of internship, student grouping, and other issues which might affect the student learning environment.

Completion of Hours and Absence from Field

All students are expected to complete the requisite number of hours in field within the parameters of the semester they are enrolled in Field. For MSW students that is either 250 or 300 hours per semester for two semesters, depending on whether they are a Foundation MSW student or in the Advanced Standing Program. If this is not going to be accomplished within the time frame of a semester, the student may receive an "incomplete" if they are deemed to be in good standing by the Field Liaison and the Field Education Program Director. The student could also fail the course if all required hours are not completed. When an incomplete is assigned for the grade, the student must obtain approval from the Field Education Program Director and the internship placement for completion of internship hours. Failure to obtain an approved plan to fulfill the course requirements will result in the student receiving a failing grade.

****It must be noted that the student cannot begin the second semester of field until a grade has been earned for the previous semester. When this cannot be accomplished, the student will have**

to postpone field until eligible for matriculation into second semester field. If the hours required cannot be completed by the end of the semester for students in their final field placements, the student may receive an “incomplete”, which could delay graduation.

If a field student is absent for a significant period, there are four options:

- a. Withdraw from field, with the consent of the field liaison and the Field Education Program Director.
- b. Earn an “incomplete” and complete internship requirement the next time that field course is offered, or under special circumstances.
- c. Complete the course requirements with an extension of time and approval from the field placement; or
- d. Earn a failing grade.

Students may take off all school holidays and any holidays observed by the agency. It is the student’s responsibility to make their internship placement, including their field instructor and task supervisor, aware of university holidays. The student must still, however, complete all required field hours. If the student elects to work through a holiday with the approval of their field instructor and field liaison, the hours earned will count toward the required hours. Students who wish to complete internship hours on holidays, evenings, or weekends must obtain approval prior to the completion of the internship hours. If a student receives special permission from their field instructor and field liaison to work after hours, the field instructor or other appropriate task supervisor must be available to the student by phone, if not in person for supervisory consultation if needed.

Students may be given time away from the agency to attend conferences or other educational activities if the activity is relevant to the student’s learning experiences. This is done only with the advance approval of the field instructor. Students may count up to 16 hours of continuing education per semester as field hours. Other community meetings and agency specific training shall count as regular internship hours with approval from the field instructor.

IV. ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURS RELATED TO RETENTION AND CONTINUATION

Monitoring Student Progress

Monitoring of student progress is important for the field instructor, the field liaison, and the student. Each must take responsibility to ensure that monitoring is an on-going process that takes place from the first day of field until the last day. Evaluation of practice takes many forms; student self- evaluation, evaluation provided by the field instructor, task supervisor, and field liaison are all integral parts of performance-informed practice.

The student and the field instructor will meet on a weekly basis for supervision to review the learning contract, adjust tasks and assignments, and discuss progress. Supervision is to be provided by the approved field instructor to facilitate the student’s developing social work perspective. The field liaison will monitor student progress via the weekly journal entries, participation in field seminar, individual meetings and through open communication with the field instructor. It is also the student’s responsibility to monitor her/his progress by appropriate

use of supervision and ongoing review of the learning contract and progress toward learning goals.

Evaluation of Field Experience

Evaluation is a critical component for learning and overall professional growth. It is especially important during field internships since the student is expected to be continuously refining their social work skills and preparing for independent social work practice. Evaluation provides essential information on the student's strengths and identifies areas where additional growth is needed.

Because parts of the evaluation process are subjective, it is imperative to have open communication between all parties involved in the field internship. The student, the field instructor, and the field liaison all play essential roles in the evaluation process and in making field a meaningful professional learning experience.

The fundamental purposes of student evaluation in field internships can be categorized by the following:

- a. Evaluation provides the student with an assessment of competency development in the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and behaviors necessary for advanced professional practice
- b. Evaluation provides the student with guidance, encouragement, and incentive to continue professional growth.
- c. Evaluation provides the program and the student with a written record of performance.
- d. Evaluation is an important piece for shaping effective practice in the professional development of students.

Evaluation, in the form of performance feedback, is an integral part of the supervisory/teaching conferences between the graduate student and the field instructor and/or field liaison. Students meet regularly, a minimum of once a week, with the field instructor for this purpose. The weekly field seminars serve as another source of feedback through peer and field liaison consultation.

In summary, evaluation is ongoing throughout each of the field courses and provides critical analysis of performance by the student, other student colleagues, the field instructor, and the field liaison. Formal evaluations of student performance are conducted and documented at mid-term and at the end of each field internship course. The following sections offer a more detailed description of the formal evaluation process.

Mid-Term Evaluation

This evaluation occurs at the mid-point of the semester. The meeting is scheduled at a time when the field instructor, field liaison, student, and task supervisor (if applicable) can all be in attendance. Both the student and the field instructor should have their written evaluation completed at the time of the meeting with the field liaison. It is good practice for the field instructor to have reviewed the evaluation with the student prior to the mid-term evaluation meeting, so the meeting is not the first time the student receives the evaluative feedback, allowing the student an opportunity to formulate questions, or a plan to address any areas of concern. In addition to assessing the student's progress, this is the time to adjust assignments,

reaffirm or modify the learning contract, and in general, make plans for effective use of time remaining in the semester.

Final Evaluation

The final evaluation also involves the student, the field instructor, and the field liaison. The final evaluation allows for a comprehensive review and documentation of student performance. As with the mid-term evaluation, the field instructor and student are encouraged to make the evaluation process as collaborative as possible, discussing openly student strengths and areas for growth/improvement.

Field Evaluation and Reference Requests

Field evaluations completed before Fall 2020 semester are stored electronically by the School of Social Work and are available upon request to third parties if the student has signed a release of information for that purpose. Third parties include, but are not limited to, potential employers, other schools, licensing boards, etc. These documents may be obtained by e-mailing a request to scsw@uark.edu. Please include name, graduation date, contact information, and name and address of the school or university requesting the evaluation. If field evaluations are completed during or after Fall 2020 semester, then evaluations are available on each student's Tevera account.

Student Evaluation of Field Internship

In addition to evaluating student performance, students complete an evaluation of the field internship. The purpose of this evaluation is to assist the field instruction staff with future planning. The information derived will be used in on-going evaluation of internship sites and field instruction. Data regarding the placement and field instructor evaluations are compiled and evaluated by the Field Education Director and the Field Education Committee. This data are utilized to provide feedback to the agency and the field instructor regarding strengths and areas for improvement. Additionally, this information will be used to inform programming for field instructor training and orientation.

When A Student is Not Making Satisfactory Progress in Field

The field education course is quite different from other Social Work courses. While a field placement in a community agency is organized around educational objectives determined by the program curriculum, it also involves professional responsibilities to clients, agencies, and the community. As a result of the involvement of these many stakeholders, it is imperative that we recognize early and respond quickly to students' performance problems.

When problems occur, it is crucial that the field instructor, student and faculty field liaison attend to several issues:

- The rights of clients to adequate professional service.
- The educational needs of the student (including access to corrective and supportive services, as appropriate).

At any point during a student's placement, an agency, the Field Education Program Director, or the Student Retention and Success Committee can remove the student from placement and bypass the problem-solving suggestions listed below. In such a situation the reason for removal of the student and any efforts made by the agency to remediate the student issue will be

documented on an Internship Incident form or a Retention and Success form. If the student is terminated from placement by the agency for cause, they will be referred for a level 2 or level 3 intervention. The student will not be referred to a different internship placement until a recommendation is made, either through the Level 2 intervention or the Student Retention and Success Committee (Level 3). If the student is referred to the Student Retention and Success Committee, the Field Education Program defers to the committee's recommendations.

1. When a student is not progressing at a satisfactory rate any or all, of the below may occur:
 - a. The field instructor may notify the field liaison as soon as a problem is identified.
 - b. The field liaison may arrange a conference with the field instructor.
 - c. The field instructor, field liaison, and/or student may meet to discuss and assess the problem.
 - d. The student may be given formal notification that his/her performance is substandard as documented on the Student Retention and Success form. Guidelines are developed in writing for the student to improve the standard of performance. In this process, the student may be referred to or request the involvement of the Student Retention and Success Committee. Any party can request the involvement of the Student Retention and Success Committee by making a request in writing for referral from the Field Education Program Director.
 - e. If the student does not meet the requirements of internship within the allotted time frame, a failing grade is earned.
2. If it is determined by the Field Education Program Director, with input from the field liaison and/or field instructor, that there is a legitimate and compelling reason that the student did not meet the learning and professional objectives of placement, the Field Education Program Director, field liaison, field instructor and/or Student Retention and Success Committee may allow the student extra time to complete the internship. It is important to note that substandard performance is not considered a legitimate and compelling reason for the student not to meet the learning and professional objectives of field placement. The decision to allow additional time to complete learning and professional objectives is based on the student's work to date, the agency's willingness to commit continued resources, the field instructor's willingness to commit extra time, and the student's commitment to the identified plan. When it is possible that a student may meet the learning and professional objectives of internship if given extra time:
 - a. The student will be assigned an "incomplete", and a specific plan will be identified to complete the internship hours and learning activities/assignments, following the University policy and timeline regarding assignment of "incomplete".
 - b. If the student has not accomplished the objectives of field by the end of the extension, the student may earn a failing grade.
3. If a student does not wish to spend the additional time necessary to successfully complete the field assignment, the options are as follows:
 - a. Formally withdraw from the field seminar and internship courses, or
 - b. Earn a failing grade for both courses.

4. Documentation of student progress can be assessed using the following tools:

- a. Direct observation of skills
- b. Client records
- c. Seminar assignments
- d. Feedback from other agency staff or other professionals
- e. Written work
- f. Use of supervision
- g. Field instructor assessment of performance
- h. Field liaison assessment of performance

CHANGE OF PLACEMENT

Change in Field Placement

Changes in field placement after the placement has started are only considered in extreme cases. Factors such as a shift in area of interest, or outside employment are not sound academic reasons for change of placement.

The following are policies regarding the change of students from an agency or organization.

1. If the student requests a change of placement:

- a. The student will discuss issues warranting the proposed change in placement with the field liaison. The field liaison, student and field instructor may meet and discuss the issues involved. If the issues can be resolved, the student will remain at the placement.
- b. Should the student still desire a change in placement after a meeting to attempt resolution of the issues, the field liaison will discuss the issues with the Field Education Program Director to clarify the status of the student and agency.
- c. A joint conference with the Field Education Program Director, field liaison and student may occur. The agency field instructor may or may not be involved in this meeting.
- d. If the decision is made to remove the student from the field placement, and the student is 'field ready', a suitable agency will be contacted, and arrangements will be made for the student to interview for a possible alternate placement. This shall be accomplished as soon as feasible so the student will not fall behind in internship hours.

****There is no guarantee that an alternate placement can be made. In this situation, the same protocol for field advising will be followed. Original referral counts as one referral for the semester. The student may receive two other referrals for possible placement if necessary and the student is deemed field ready. The Field Education Program will make no more than three referrals for placement interviews per semester. If a student is unable to secure placement after three referrals for interview, they will not be placed for field that semester and could be referred to Student Standards and Support Committee.**

- e. If a change of placement is granted within the first two weeks of internship, and the student has been actively involved in appropriate internship activities, the student may count hours earned at the initial placement toward the total internship hours requirement for the semester.
2. An agency may request removal of a student from placement for any reason. Should an agency request the removal of a student, for whatever reason:
 - a. The School of Social Work will remove the student within a time frame that is agreeable to the agency.
 - b. Either prior to, or after removal of a student from the agency, depending on the urgency of the removal and/or the agency concerns, the field liaison will discuss the situation that led to the agency request with the agency and Field Education Program Director, and the Termination Form will be completed.
 - c. If the agency simply wishes to explore whether a student should be removed from placement, the field liaison and/or Field Education Program Director may meet with agency representatives to determine options.
 - d. If it is possible for the student to complete placement, with special attention from the school, it is deemed better for the student's overall learning.
 - e. If this is not possible, and the student is terminated from placement by the agency, they will not be referred for another placement that semester. The student will be free to re-enroll in the internship class at the next possible opportunity that the internship class is offered provided the Field Education Program deems them 'field ready.'

Removal of a Student from Field

A student *may* be removed from field under the following circumstances:

1. Request of the student.
2. Request of the placement agency.
3. Recommendation from Student Standards and Support Committee.
4. Decision of the Field Education Program, including the recommendation of the field liaison in consultation with the Field Education Program Director. The following are grounds to remove the student from field:
 - a. Failure to maintain confidentiality about a client as mandated by agency policy and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.
 - b. Failure to abide by the NASW and Arkansas Code of Ethics.
 - c. Failure to follow the policies or procedures of the School of Social Work or the University of Arkansas.
 - d. An attempt or threat to harm oneself.
 - e. An attempt or threat to harm someone else.
 - f. Repeated tardiness at the agency and/or tardiness without notification.
 - g. Repeated absences from the agency and/or absence without notification.
 - h. Repeated change in scheduled field hours without prior approval.
 - i. Refusal to accept supervisory direction from field instructor, task supervisor, or agency staff.
 - j. Inappropriate behavior in connection with the field placement.
 - k. Student's lack of progress in correcting issues or concerns identified in field instructor or field liaison documentation.

Students who are at risk of being removed from field for any reason may be referred to the Student Standards and Support Committee to make recommendations to the student and Field Education Program regarding the student's status.

The final decision regarding removal from field may be made by the Field Education Program Director, the agency, or the Student Standards and Support committee. The student may appeal the decision following the guidelines in the UA SSW Graduate Student Handbook.

Whether the student will be allowed to return to field in the same or a different agency will depend on the seriousness of the incident requiring termination from placement and/or the ability of the student to work through the issues resulting in termination from placement.

V. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Arkansas to prohibit sexual harassment of its students, faculty, and staff. Incidents of sexual harassment are demeaning to all persons involved and impair the ability of the institution to perform its educational function. Sexual harassment of students may constitute discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and sexual harassment of employees is prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Sexual harassment of students includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct which takes place when: submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's academic status or advancement; submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual; and/or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

Students who believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment are encouraged to report the problem promptly to their academic dean or to the Dean of Students. University grievance procedures are available to individuals who wish to pursue complaints of sexual harassment.

Students may use the Student Complaint Procedure or the Student Academic Appeal Structure. For additional and specific information refer to the "Sexual Harassment Policy" in the graduate catalog.

VI. OUT OF REGION/INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

Students may qualify for out of region or international placements. Any student interested in such a placement should arrange a meeting with the Field Education Program Director at least **6 months prior to placement. Students are eligible for out of region/international placement for their final placement only.** Only students in good academic standing and who are not under any type of oversight by the Student Standards and Support Committee may qualify for out of region/international placement. To begin the process of determining feasibility of out-of-region/international placement, the student will:

1. Inform the Director of Field Education Program Director by email as early as possible of interest in out of region/international placement. Identify the area of practice interest and region preferred.
2. Submit three reference letters to the Field Education Program Director indicating appropriateness of student for this type of placement.
3. The student will provide the Field Education Program Director a list of potential placement agencies which the Field Education Program Director will utilize to determine placement opportunities
4. A proposed site may only be approved after confirmation of appropriate learning opportunities for the student, appropriate supervision, application, and approval by the Field Education Committee.
5. Following approval of a placement, the referral process utilized for in area placements will be utilized.

VII. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ⊞ See document link on School of Social Work website at [standards-for-social-work-education.pdf \(uark.edu\)](#) for:
- ⊞ Standards for Social Work Education
- ⊞ 3 Levels of Review for Student Standards and Support