



## Office of Field Education

# Block Field Placement Option for BSSW Students

### Policy, Requirements & Procedures

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Block placements require students to complete 420 field hours in one semester, providing an in-depth, concentrated learning experience. Students are in placement thirty hours a week for fourteen weeks during the spring semester of their senior year. Block placements require a great deal of commitment and initiative and are recommended for students who have demonstrated exceptional performance in the social work program and have significant experience in a work environment.

Students interested in the block placement option must formally apply and clearly specify their readiness for this intensive learning experience. Students must complete all required social work major courses before beginning the block placement, with the exception of the *Social Work 4188 Undergraduate Field Seminar*.

## Block Placement Requirements

### Prerequisites

- Currently, the Block Placement Option is only open to Columbus students due to course scheduling requirements
- Students must complete both the *Field Placement Questionnaire* and a *Block Placement Application* in the spring semester one year prior to the desired block placement.
- All required social work major courses must be completed before beginning the block placement, with the exception of the *Social Work 4188 Undergraduate Field Seminar*.
- Students who are approved for a block placement must complete the following courses during autumn semester of the senior year. To remain eligible for the block placement, students must earn a grade of C or higher in these courses. Failure to do so may result in delayed graduation.
  - *Social Work 4501 Generalist Practice with Families;*
  - *Social Work 4502 Generalist Practice with Groups;* and,
  - *Social Work 4503 Generalist Practice with Larger Systems.*

### During the placement

- Block placement students will be enrolled in ten credits of *Social Work 4189 Field Placement* and two credits of *Social Work 4188 Undergraduate Field Seminar* during spring semester of the senior year.
- Students are in placement thirty hours a week for fourteen weeks during the spring semester of the senior year.
- Attendance is mandatory at Field Seminars, which meet once a week and provide a supportive arena for shared learning.

## Considerations

- Not all agencies offer a block placement option, and evening/weekend hours cannot be ensured. Thus, options will be limited and preferred settings cannot be guaranteed.
- Should challenges or concerns arise that lead to either an interruption in the field placement or the need for re-placement in a new agency, a student's graduation timeline may be impacted due to the condensed nature of a block placement.

## Completing the Block Placement Application

1. Details regarding the application are provided during the field placement orientation that occurs spring semester of the junior year.
2. An interested student should email the field placement coordinator indicating their intent to apply.
3. Field placement coordinator will provide the student with a link to the *Block Placement Application*.
4. The student will complete and submit the application.
5. The *Block Placement Application* will be reviewed and evaluated by:
  - a. Undergraduate Studies Director;
  - b. Undergraduate Academic Advisors;
  - c. Director of Field Education; and,
  - d. Field Placement Coordinator.
6. After the application and questionnaire are reviewed, the Office of Field Education will notify the student of the decision:
  - a. If the application is approved, the student will be placed at an agency accepting block placements. The timeline for agency matching and interviewing is consistent with the placement process for the two-semester placement.
  - b. If the application is not approved, the student will be placed in a traditional two-semester placement.

## Course and Placement Timeline

- Spring semester junior year
  - Students complete field placement questionnaires and block placement applications.
  - Agency matches and interviews will occur for students with approved applications.
- Autumn semester senior year
  - Block placement students will need to complete 4503 in addition to 4501 and 4502.
  - Students should be matched with an agency no later than October 31st.
- Spring semester senior year
  - Academic advisors will enroll students in 4189 and 4188.
  - 4189, 10 credits – Students attend field placement 30 clock hours per week for 14 weeks.
  - 4188, 2 credits – Student will attend this hybrid format course which meets each week for 14 weeks, alternating weekly between in class and online attendance.