

Statement on Paid Placements

The Office of Field Education recognizes that our students having varying financial situations, rely on a variety of support to finance their education, and can function as care givers to family members, in addition to themselves. In recognition of the impact of financial strain on a student's success in the BSSW and MSW programs, the Office of Field Education will consider paid placements when possible. In order to maintain the academic integrity of the field placement, employment must be completely separate from field education. The Office of Field Education prefers that students are paid in the form of a stipend; however students must be classified as a "paid student intern" in the agency HR system if this option is not possible. The payment of a student must in no way correlate with employment expectations or requirements. If a student is already employed at an agency and wishes to complete their field placement at the same agency, the student must review and complete the [Employment Based Field Placement](#) requirements. If a student is a current intern at an agency, has completed a successful semester of field, and is offered a job at the agency, the student must review and complete the [Offer of Employment by Field Agency](#) process.

Please note that while we do have a small number of paid field placement settings, these opportunities are extremely limited and highly competitive. Please refer to the agency pages on the field education database to determine if a specific placement is paid or not. Field agencies are in no way required to pay students for their field placements. For further information on this, please review [this statement](#) from the Council on Social Work Education addressing Department of Labor Regulations and Social Work Field Education. Due to a variety of regulations related to Federal Work Study (FWS) policies, students are not able to utilize FWS Funds in conjunction with a field placement as payment. Limitations include, but are not limited to:

- The number of FWS hours versus the number of required field hours.
- Inability of agencies to hire all students as FWS

For students who are offered payment for their field placement (not a pre-designed paid placement setting) the office of field education requires the following:

- Student email detailing to Director and Assistant Director of field details of their request to engage in a paid placement
- A letter from the agency Education Coordinator stating that the student will be paid by a stipend or classified as a paid student intern. Letter must be signed by the Education Coordinator & Field Instructor