

Field Education Placement Support for Agencies

A Note from the Director of Field Education at Ohio State:

The Office of Field Education and members of the field team are dedicated to helping students develop professional social work competencies through successful completion of a field practicum. This would not be possible without support from over 1500 partner agencies across the country and in Canada. **Thank you** for your leadership in training the future generation of social workers. This community of helpers is needed now more than ever. In order to continue matching our students in field settings this coming academic year, we need your help. Our hope is that you will commit to accepting students at your agency and the purpose of this document is to provide guidance about this process.

What is the plan for autumn placements?

At this time, we are having ongoing conversations with our community partners to match students this fall. Our placement coordinators are working diligently to identify placements for all of our students starting field this August. We are asking agencies to think broadly about how students might be able to support the crucial work within the agency. If you are hesitant about taking a student, please let us know so that we can brainstorm together. The field team will work with you to support the student through providing ideas for virtual activities and providing ongoing zoom supervision sessions to supplement agency supervision. We hope that you will choose to engage in these efforts so that our students can assist you in serving the most vulnerable individuals within our community. Students will also complete a required online module on COVID-19 and implementing precautions prior to beginning field.

Will Field Education be affected by changes in the OSU academic calendar?

At this time, placements are scheduled to begin field the first day of Autumn semester, Tuesday, August 25, 2020. The last day of field in Spring semester is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2021. OSU has announced that academic courses will be online after the Thanksgiving holiday through the end of Autumn semester. OSU has also announced some changes to holidays/class schedules for Autumn semester. Field will remain an exception to these changes in the academic calendar. Students and agencies should discuss a schedule and plan that meets the needs of the students and the agency.

Will students receive a reduction in required field hours this academic year?

Students planning to graduate after 2020 are expected to complete the full number of required field hours. If additional shutdowns are required in the upcoming academic year, this policy will be revisited. OSU will communicate with the Council on Social Work Education to accommodate student needs and the field team will be transparent with ongoing updates.

Are there options to have students complete a hybrid model (in-person & virtual) in field autumn semester?

We appreciate agencies thinking outside of the box about accepting students and fully support students completing field in-person, virtually and a combination. Our hope is that students and agencies can work together to make a plan that benefits the agency while keeping the student learning needs at the forefront. To address social distancing needs, some agencies have accommodated students by rotating students scheduled days in the agency. Agencies have also identified virtual activities for students including program development and curriculum planning, research on best practices, training and providing telehealth services, advocacy efforts, and other special projects.

Can the agency use students to support funding from the CARES Act?

Many of our agencies are planning to use students to work with clients regarding CARES Act funding. We encourage you to involve students in this program when possible.

How do I support students in managing the emotions they might be feeling about the current challenges from the pandemic and racial injustice movement?

We understand that the state of America has many of our students exhausted and stressed out. Students have shared feelings of anxiety, grief, trauma and various other emotions related to their current situation. Students are also committed to learning as much as they can in field to expand their professional competence. We are offering several [virtual zoom supervisions](#) that students can access on the CSW website. In addition, we are encouraging students to reach out to the field office or [Counseling and Consultation Services](#) to process these feelings. If you are aware of students who are struggling, please contact your field liaison so that they can connect the student with additional support. We will continue to provide a high level of support around self-care for our students. For additional details about the college's commitment to diversity, please check out our [website](#).

Please reach out to the field team cswfield@osu.edu with any questions.