

Field Education 2020-21

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 supporting your field education learning experiences and helping you develop the essential competencies in the social work profession. We encourage you to tap into our knowledge whenever you have questions, concerns, or ideas. We will be with you every step of the way to monitor your learning and will serve as the liaison between the college and your field agency. We know that the impact of COVID-19 has been difficult for students, especially related to the field practicum component of the social work program. Our goal is to provide responses to some of the most frequently asked questions related to field education moving forward.

If I have not yet been placed for autumn semester, should I be worried?

Our placement coordinators are working diligently to place all of our students this fall. We appreciate your patience during this process as we reach out to all of our agencies to confirm whether or not they can accept students this academic year. The pandemic has created barriers for some agencies, but we are making every effort to place students and will continue matching throughout the summer. If we aren't able to provide you with a placement by the start of the semester, we will work with students on an individual basis to provide learning experiences for field. Please check your OSU email for ongoing communications from the field team.

Will there be an opportunity to complete virtual hours in field?

At this time, we are encouraging agencies to accept students with the potential to complete in-person and virtual hours. We are also offering the option to students to bank hours when possible, in the event that another "stay at home" order becomes effective. We are currently working with agencies to develop both in-person and virtual options for students. During the interview process, please discuss these options with the agency and share your comfort level with completing hours in-person, virtually, or a combination. We recognize that this will vary by student due to individual circumstance. Your mental and physical health remains our priority.

Will students who plan to graduate after December 31, 2020 benefit from the Council on Social Work Education's recent reduction to an 85% field hour requirement?

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 CSWE to accommodate student needs and the field team will be transparent with ongoing updates. We encourage students to front load their field hours at the beginning of the semester as much as possible in preparation for another possible shutdown.

How can I manage the emotions I am feeling related to the pandemic and racial injustice that is occurring at this time?

We understand that the state of America has many of our students exhausted and overwhelmed. Students have shared feelings of stress, grief, trauma and various other emotions related to the pandemic and racial injustice we witness on a regular basis. Students are concerned about their competence as a social worker as they understand the importance of the field experience. To support our students in field, we are offering ongoing virtual zoom [supervisions](#) this summer. In addition, please reach out to our office or [Counseling and](#)



[Consultation Services](#) if you would like to process these feelings further. For additional details about the college's commitment to diversity, please check out our [website](#).

Should I be worried about field transitioning to a virtual-only option next year?

We are working on developing online field curriculum to support students in the event that there is a need to remove students from field placements in the future. We will do everything we can to support our students if this should occur. In addition, please stay tuned for additional resources regarding the impact of COVID-19 on field education.

We ask that students continue to follow [CDC guidelines](#) and reach out to the field office - cswfield@osu.edu (614) 292-7686 with questions or concerns. We are here to support all of you!