



Office of Field Education Human Rights Activities Policy

The College of Social Work at The Ohio State University requires all students to complete human rights activities (HRA) each semester they are enrolled in field education. The purpose of HRA is to engage the student in advocacy outside of the field placement, as well as to allow our students the opportunity to provide volunteer services to those most in need.

To get a better idea of what we mean by “human rights”, you can view the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights [here](#). When we talk about advocacy, we mean advocacy on a macro level addressing issues for entire populations. When we talk about volunteering, we mean working on a more individual level to help individuals in need.

Below are the criteria for these activities:

1. These activities must be outside of the field agency, outside of any additional employment, and not related to the day-to-day activities of the student’s field placement. These hours count as part of the student’s total required field hours and should be recorded on the field Time Sheet.
2. Students must get approval from their Field Instructor prior to the activity in which they wish to participate. The student should discuss the event in supervision and record it in the Supervision Log.
3. Students are required to complete a certain number of hours of HRA by the end of their field experience, depending on their student level. Please see the table below for the required number of hours:

REQUIRED HRA HOURS BY STUDENT LEVEL	
Student Level	Number of Hours
BSSW	16
MSW I	8
MSW II	16
ASAP	16

4. It is the student’s responsibility to identify activities in which to participate. We have a list of appropriate activities on our website [here](#) that have been suggested by our affiliated agencies. If you know of any additional appropriate Human Rights Activities that you would like posted on our website, please fill out the form [here](#).
5. Volunteering must be completed in conjunction with a formal organization.
6. Appropriate Human Rights Activities include but are not limited to:

SAMPLE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES	
ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES	VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES
Participating in an Advocacy Day	Volunteering at a food pantry or soup kitchen
Organizing and participating in a letter-writing campaign to your legislators	Community organization event, such as a neighborhood clean-up project
Participating on a human services levy campaign	Mentoring or tutoring a youth through a formal organization
Researching and writing a letter to the editor	Organizing a food drive
Participating in non-profit organizations walks (e.g., Walk to End Alzheimer's)	Volunteering at a non-profit walk to check in walkers/runners, distribute flyers, etc.

7. Trainings and workshops **do not** count toward Human Rights Activities. These activities are included in the Learning Agreement separate from HRA.
 - **Exception:** If a student would like to participate in advocacy-based training they attended, the time spent only on the additional advocacy work will be counted as an HRA; not the training time.
 - From time to time the field office will send notification (via email) of those activities that can be used for field hours. This simply means that the student can receive credit for field hours (which can be listed on the Time Sheet) but will not meet the requirement for HRA.
8. Working on political campaigns or for partisan events **does** not count as Human Rights Activities. All activities, both volunteer and advocacy, must be consistent with educational policies as well as NASW policy and practice statements.
9. Other activities that **are not** appropriate for HRA are: participating in a PTA, neighborhood volunteering, sorting personal items for donation, volunteering with animals, volunteering in a Sunday school class, and/or babysitting. If you have questions about whether an activity is appropriate for HRA, please discuss it with your Field Instructor and Liaison.

The Office of Field Education will provide additional information regarding Human Rights Activities during orientation and other trainings. Should you have any questions about HRAs, please contact your Liaison.