



UNIVERSITY *of*
WEST FLORIDA

Field Manual
Department of Social Work

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Field Office Introduction

Social work is a practice profession, and the field placement component is the centerpiece of both the bachelor's and master's degrees. In compliance with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and in accordance with the [2015 Education Policy and Accreditation Standards \(EPAS\)](#), revised in 2015, the field program at UWF has implemented a competency-based approach to field education. Competency-based education is focused on student outcomes to facilitate student demonstration of nine (9) core social work competencies, as outlined in the 2015 EPAS. Field education is primary to facilitating integration and application of these competencies through providing practice opportunities for students in field settings. Because competency-based education is outcome-driven, field education also serves the vital function of assessment, providing evidence that a student has demonstrated the level of competence requisite to entering practice. Thus, the Social Work Department at UWF embraces the concept of field education as the signature pedagogy for social work. "The intent of field education is to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting." (CSWE, 2015, p. 12). The learning sought is conceptual-it teaches principles which can be generalized and transferred.

The UWF Department of Social Work Field Education Manual has been designed as a guide for students and field instructors who are participating in a field practicum under the supervision of the Department of Social Work at the University of West Florida. The Department of Social Work and our partner agencies have assumed a combined responsibility for offering experience and instruction in agency settings for social work students in both the bachelor's and master's programs. In this way, conceptual classroom learning is supplemented and reinforced by actual practice while the student is still engaged in classroom pursuits. It is anticipated that, by participating in the field education process, the three interested parties will all benefit: the University, by stimulating its students to deeper and more individualized learning, the student, by gaining insight into the nature of the helping process and the profession they may enter, and the agency and community, both in direct service rendered and by producing better prepared future employees. This requires commitment from all three, and it is hoped that the quality of this collaborative relationship will continue to be such that the process of teaching and learning will be exciting and rewarding for all involved.

Department of Social Work Field Programs

The UWF Department of Social Work prepares graduates at both the undergraduate level with the Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) and the graduate level with the Master's in Social Work (MSW).

The Bachelor of Social Work Program

Field education at the BSW level aims to prepare students for beginning generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through facilitating a foundation of social work knowledge, skills, and values reflective of the CSWE social work competencies.

Students completing the 400-hour field placement are concurrently enrolled in SOW4522 Senior Seminar, which also meets weekly. The 400-hour placement is completed throughout the course of one (1) semester, approximately 25 hours per week. Schedules are negotiated between the students and the agency, and students are informed that they must have availability with regular business hours so as to ensure appropriate supervision is present. While enrolled in the 400-hour field placement, students are not permitted to enroll in more than one 3-credit-hour course in addition to Field Instruction and Integrative Seminar.

The following apply to the BSW 400-hour field placement:

- Students are concurrently enrolled in SOW4510 Senior Field Instruction (9-credit hours) and SOW4522 Senior Seminar (3-credit hours).
- Students are placed in one agency, to be determined by the Field team after review of the Field application.
- Students must complete 400 hours in one semester. (25 hours per week in the spring and fall semesters or 35 hours per week in the summer semester). If hours are unable to be completed during the semester noted in detail in the Incomplete Policy.
- Students must be engaged in direct contact with clients and constituencies during at least 51 percent of the required field hours.
- Students must participate in supervision through meeting face-to-face with a qualified field instructor (BSW or MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program with at least two years of post-social work degree practice experience) for one hour per week.
- Students must participate in the field placement process as outlined in this manual.

The Master of Social Work Program

Students enrolled in the Traditional MSW program participate in a Foundation (Year 1) placement and an Advanced Clinical placement (Year 2). Advanced Standing MSW students will participate in the Advanced Clinical Placement only. The Foundation field placement aims to prepare students for beginning generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through facilitating a foundation of social work knowledge, skills, and values reflective of the CSWE social work competencies. The Advanced Clinical field placement (Year 2) builds upon the first year Foundation field experience and facilitates advanced knowledge and skills within a Clinical/Behavioral Healthcare Concentration, preparing

students for advanced assessment, intervention, and evaluation at the micro, macro, and mezzo levels of practice.

During the Foundation year of study (Year 1), students enrolled in the full-time or part-time MSW program options are required to complete one (1) 300-hour field placement over the course of one (1) semester, averaging approximately 20 hours per week in an agency. All MSW students, including those enrolled in the Advanced Standing program, complete a 600-hour Advanced Clinical field placement spanning the course of two (2) semesters. The Advanced Clinical placement (Year 2) consists of 300 internship hours per semester, across two (2) semesters, at approximately 20 hours per week, for a total of 600 internship hours with the contracted agency. The Foundation and Advanced Clinical field placements combined provide for a total of 900 hours. Schedules are negotiated between the students and the agency, and students are informed that they must have availability with regular business hours so as to ensure appropriate supervision is present. Students participating in the Foundation and Advanced Clinical Field attend a one-hour face-to-face seminar on campus weekly. The seminar is part of the field education experience and is not a graded course.

The following apply to the MSW Foundation field placement:

- Students are enrolled in SOW 5532 (3 credit hours).
- Students participate in an integrative seminar weekly with an assigned Seminar Instructor.
- Students are required to complete 300 (approximately 20 hours per week) in one semester at the same agency.
- Students must be engaged in in-person contact with clients and constituencies during at least 51 percent of the required field hours.
- Students must meet with a qualified field instructor (MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program with at least two years of post-social work degree practice experience) for one hour per week.
- Students must participate in the field placement process as outlined in this manual.

The following apply to the MSW Advanced Clinical field placement:

- Students are required to complete 600 hours in one (1) agency over two (2) semesters (300 hours per semester) for approximately 20 hours per week.
- Students may not change agencies during the Advanced Clinical placement unless the problem-solving process has been followed and a recommendation to switch placements has been made by the seminar professor.
- Students are enrolled in SOW 6535 Advanced Field I (3 credit hours) followed by SOW 6536 Advanced Field II (3 credit hours).
- Students participate in an integrative seminar weekly with an assigned Seminar

Instructor.

- Students must be engaged in direct contact (in person or virtual synchronous) with clients and constituencies during at least 51 percent of the required field hours.
- Students must meet with a qualified field instructor (MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program with at least two (2) years of post-social work degree practice experience) for one (1) hour per week.
- Students enrolled in their final semester of study are concurrently enrolled in SOW 6536 and ~~a capstone course~~, SOW 6548 Capstone in Advanced Clinical Practice.
- Students must participate in the field placement process as outlined in this manual.

Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera)

The field placement process and student internship are dynamic and require responsive, user-friendly, and accessible software to guide the process. Approximately 150 students are placed into internships each semester, necessitating a high degree of communication and documentation. The UWF Department of Social Work utilizes Experiential Learning Cloud, formerly known as Tevera, to manage the field application and placement process, as well as the management of time tracking and assignment completion once the student is engaged in an internship. This software allows students to complete their field application and upload required documents easily, allowing the field office to view and route applications quickly. The software increases transparency in the placement process and allows for a greater level of efficiency in the field office, reducing the time needed to secure student placements.

Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera) serves as the “textbook” for Field and can be purchased from the UWF Bookstore. Students will have one (1) year of access after purchase. Students in our Advanced Standing MSW program ~~may~~ only need to purchase Experiential Learning Cloud once, while Two-Year, Traditional MSW students will likely purchase access to the software twice or more, depending on how quickly they move through the program. The software can be purchased at the following link: <https://www.bkstr.com/westfloridastore/product/tevera-student-access---1-year-236952-1>

Field Eligibility Requirements

BSW program

Students enrolled in the BSW program applying for placement at the 400-hour Senior Field Instruction level must meet the following criteria:

- Students must have achieved senior standing.

- Students must satisfactorily meet all general education requirements and/or have an A.A. degree.
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a social work major GPA of 2.5.
- Students must have completed all required core social work courses with a grade of C or better.
- Students must be entering their final semester of coursework.
- Students require no more than one (1) 3-credit-hour course in addition to SOW 4510 Senior Field Instruction (9-credit hours) and SOW 4522 Senior Seminar in order to graduate.
- Students must purchase access to Tevera/Experiential Learning Cloud to engage in the field.

Students meeting the eligibility requirements to proceed with the 400-hour internship may submit a field application. It is strongly encouraged in the Field orientation that students meet with the Field Placement Coordinator for a pre-placement interview. Prior to this meeting, the student must have met with the program academic advisor to review the student's degree plan and confirm all eligibility requirements have been met. A final grade check is also completed at the end of the semester prior to the student entering Field. If the grade check determines the student does not meet eligibility requirements, the student will not be permitted to begin field.

MSW program

Students enrolled in the MSW program applying for a 300-hour Foundation-level field placement must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be admitted to either the full-time or part-time program option.
- Students must have a cumulative graduate-level GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Students must have completed SOW5305 and at least 6 hours of MSW core courses.

Students enrolled in the MSW program applying for the 600-hour Advanced clinical level field placement must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be admitted to either the full-time or part-time program option, and must be enrolled in either the Two-Year, Traditional MSW program or the Advanced Standing MSW program.
- Students must have a cumulative graduate-level GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Traditional MSW Students must have satisfactorily completed SOW5532 Foundation Field and SOW6125 Psychopathology for Social Work. Advanced Standing MSW Students must have satisfactorily completed SOW6125, Psychopathology for Social Work.

- Students are required to purchase the Experiential Learning Cloud software platform in order to enroll in Field practicum and seminar

A final grade check is completed at the end of the semester before the student entering the field. If the grade check determines the student does not meet eligibility requirements, the student will not be permitted to begin the field.

Field Placement Process

The placement process for students entering field is structured and methodical in nature. Students anticipating enrollment in field initiate the field process the semester prior to entering field. Students at each level, BSW and MSW, are required to complete a field application within a specified time frame. This application is completed and submitted electronically via Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera).. Failure to submit the application within the specified time frame will result in the student's deferment of field to the following semester. Students will be permitted to enroll in field courses only upon completion of the following steps:

Step 1: Orientation

Students are required to complete a mandatory orientation in Canvas prior to the application and interview process. The orientation provides an overview of the policies and procedures for the field program. For students entering field in the spring semester, orientation will be held in the fall semester, and students entering field in the summer and fall semesters will attend orientation in the spring semester. Information presented during the Field Orientation is also accessible on the [Department of Social Work website](#). The field office will also host a virtual field orientation via Zoom (typically in the third (3rd) week of each semester), allowing students to deepen their understanding of the field and receive answers to their questions from the field team.

Step 2: Verification of Eligibility to Enter Field

Students must confirm eligibility to proceed with the field placement process. BSW students must meet with the program's academic advisor prior to completing a field application. Once the advisor has confirmed the student's eligibility, the student may complete the field application. Students can schedule an optional pre-placement interview by emailing the field office at swfieldoffice@uwf.edu. MSW students must be admitted to either the full-time or part-time program option, and must be enrolled in either the Two-Year, Traditional MSW program or the Advanced Standing MSW program to be eligible to enter the field.

Step 3: Field Application

Prior to completing the field application, students must purchase and activate an account with Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). This software access can be purchased from the UWF Bookstore. When making the purchase, students should select “in-person pickup.” Students will first receive a purchase confirmation email and then a second fulfillment email. 48-72 hours after receipt of the fulfillment email, students should be able to register their account with Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera) at the following link: <https://uwf.tevera.app/#/login>

Once students have an active Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera) account and the application has been opened, they may complete a field application for their anticipated semester of field practicum. Applications must be submitted by the specified due date. Failure to do so will result in deferment of field to another semester, which may impact a student's degree completion timeline as well as associated financial costs.

Step 4: Agency Assignment

When students have completed and submitted their field application and resume, the field ~~placement~~ team will process the documents and add students to the placement list. The field team will verify each student’s location and identify a site that meets field office vetting standards that is accessible to the student. The field office defines “accessible” as within 45 minutes' drive time. Efforts will be made to match students’ preferences with their placement preferences, though placements are made based on the availability of agency resources. Students are assured that, regardless of placement, opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge required will be made available to them.

After application processing, the field team will reach out to up to two (2) agencies on the student’s behalf to establish a placement. The field team will prioritize placements with sites that the student listed on their practicum form. If the agency is open to learning more about the student, an interview will be established. Students are responsible for coordinating with the placement agency to schedule and complete the placement interview. For professional reasons, members of the field team will establish contact with field agencies. Students are not permitted to initiate contact with field agencies without the express consent of the Field Office. Non-adherence may result in disciplinary action.

If a student defers placement to another semester after receiving an agency assignment, this information must be communicated to the field office. Students must also reapply for field during the semester preceding the student's anticipated return.

At this time, the social work field office **cannot guarantee** the availability of placements outside of regular business hours. Remote placements are rare and cannot be guaranteed. The field office will try to secure an internship that meets the preferences and needs of students. However, the student's availability ~~limitations~~ may limit the number of available internship opportunities and thus delay program graduation dates. For example, sometimes, students may not find a site with hours that suit their needs.

If a student gets an interview with a site and cannot accept the placement due to scheduling concerns, the student can decline the placement. However, this decision may delay their graduation and will count as one (1) of the two (2) identified placements for the semester. Alternatively, students may not get offered a placement after the interview. An interview that does not result in a placement offer also counts as one (1) of the two (2) identified placements that the field office will offer in a given semester. In these cases, the field office will continue to work towards placement in the student's chosen field semester. However, field registration will need to be deferred if another placement cannot be made by the add/drop deadline, or if the two (2) identified placements for a given semester have been exhausted.

Step 5: Agency Interview

Students are expected to contact the agency promptly and demonstrate professionalism in all communication with the agency. After a student's field application is processed, the field team forwards the student's field application and resume to the assigned agency prior to the interview for review. If the agency is amenable to meeting with the students, they will email the student or the field office. At that point, students are responsible for scheduling the placement interview. Once scheduled, the student is expected to attend the interview, presenting as punctual and appropriately dressed, and again, maintaining professionalism in all aspects. Students are expected to communicate with the Field Office regarding the status of their placement, such as interview dates and the outcome of the interview. Students are encouraged to prepare for interviews with their prospective agency by utilizing the resources offered by the [UWF Career Services](#).

Step 6: Field Confirmation Form

If the agency agrees to work with the student, the student will verify with the site who the assigned field instructor or task supervisor will be. Students will then complete a field confirmation form... The student's field placement is not finalized until the agency field instructor and field team agree upon the agency experience and a confirmation form is submitted. Students are responsible for ensuring that all information required on the confirmation form is accurate, including names of field instructors and/or task supervisors, along with their contact information. An email address is required for them to access Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). Once the field confirmation form has been submitted in full, the Field team will review and contact the student with any questions.

Please note that agencies reserve the right to decline a student for placement upon review of the student's application and resume and/or following the agency interview. In such cases, the student is responsible for following up with the field team. The student and field team will meet again to discuss any issues identified in the interview and to identify other placement options. Students may participate in up to two (2) agency interviews. If the student is unable to secure a field placement after the second interview, placement will be deferred to another semester.

The Field team must sometimes try multiple agencies per student to find an agency that is able to host that student. In any given semester, there will be several groups of students entering field. Various factors may impact a student's ability to be placed in a particular agency. Please keep in mind the significant amount of coordination that comes into play. Consider the extreme responsibility some of the agency personnel are under. Many carry heavy caseloads and may not be in their office throughout the day. It can take some time for the Field team to reach a contact, and also for the student to reach the contact to set up an interview. The students' input and communication during this process are key.

Reporting to the Field Agency

Students may not report to their internship before the start date of the semester. Students should report to their assigned field agency on the date determined by their field instructor, typically during the first week of the semester. Students will also begin attending integrative seminars during the first week of class. Students are not permitted to complete field hours between semesters (i.e., Winter Break, between Spring and Summer semesters, and/or between Summer and Fall semesters). While students are not allowed to engage with their placement between semesters, they are authorized and may be required by their field site to participate in their internship during Spring Break and other school closures occurring during the semester.

In-Person Contact Requirements

Per CSWE, students in field are required to engage in in-person contact with clients and constituencies at their site, for a minimum of 51% of their total required field hours. In-person contact refers to interpersonal interactions with clients and constituencies, and may include the use of digital technologies, such as Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams. Clients and constituencies are those served by social workers, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Learning Contract

The learning contract is a collaborative agreement between the Field Instructor and the student, containing the competencies and practice behaviors required of students at the BSW and MSW levels by the Council on Social Work Education. The learning contract provides a broad

framework for developing an individualized learning plan that is specific to the needs of each student and the agency. The learning contract reflects the student's performance as it relates to CSWE competencies and practice behaviors, providing the opportunity to define in operational terms specific tasks to be completed by the student, demonstrating the competencies and practice behaviors. As such, the learning contract provides a clear and fair baseline and is used as a tool to evaluate each student's performance as it relates to each task identified in the plan.

In addition to serving as a measuring tool to assess student performance, the learning contract provides an opportunity for student input as to the desired learning experiences and for the agency to agree on and identify how to provide for those experiences. The learning contract is also helpful in resolving any discrepancies that may arise between the student and the agency, as the expectations are clearly stated. In addition, the learning contract is a valuable tool for use in supervision as it is utilized on an ongoing basis to assess the student's progress in completing each specified task. Thus, it is helpful in identifying a student's strengths as well as specific areas of need. The learning contract is subject to revision per approval of the field instructor and faculty liaison throughout the semester to allow for flexibility in addressing the needs of each student and agency.

In creating the learning contract, students are required to use the form located in Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). Because the learning contract defines the expectations through which the student will be evaluated, careful thought and consideration is required, as well as time and effort, on behalf of the student and Field Instructor. Input from the Field Instructor is essential and the Seminar Instructor will provide feedback as well. The expected completion date for the learning contract is specified by the seminar instructor in the seminar course syllabus.

Assessment & Evaluations

Each student's progress is formally evaluated twice through the course of the semester, once midway through the semester and at the end of the semester. The Midterm and Final Evaluations are to be completed by the Field Instructor and student and reviewed by the Seminar Instructor. The evaluations are administered and must be submitted electronically. The evaluation will be accessible to the Field Instructor once the student has initiated the evaluation process in Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). Specific due dates for the evaluations will be specified by the seminar instructor and noted in the seminar course syllabi.

The learning contract outlines specific desired outcomes related to each of the Core Competencies and is thus the primary tool utilized to assess student performance. Each competency is measured by rating the level of proficiency in performing tasks identified in the learning contract.

Student performance related to each competency is rated on a clearly defined scale from 1 (Attempted but failed) to 5 (Professional activity level, equivalent to an employee), with an explanation of each as follows:

The student is expected to demonstrate a minimum rating of 2, midway through the semester and an average rating of 3 and above is expected at the end of the semester. Given that students in the Advanced Clinical field are in placement two (2) consecutive semesters, a rating of 2 would be an acceptable rating at the end of the first semester, while the final evaluation of the second semester should reflect ratings of 3 and above. Students rated as a 1 or below at midterm (end of the first semester for Advanced Clinical Students) will be required to complete a performance improvement plan with input from the Field and Faculty liaisons, specifically addressing the area(s) of need.

Practice behaviors rated 2 or below on the final evaluation may result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory" in field. The student's final grade is determined by the Seminar Instructor and is based on the Field Instructor's recommendation, the student's performance in field seminar, and feedback provided by the agency. A final grade will not be assigned until all required field hours have been completed and midterm and final evaluations have been submitted.

Continued poor performance or a single incident that is considered unprofessional or unethical may result in termination from the agency (refer to the Termination Procedures section). Field Instructors are requested to adhere to the Problem-Solving Policy; however, the agency reserves the right to terminate the student if deemed necessary.

Dismissal from field may result from failure to meet the professional expectations outlined in the Termination of Students from Field. The feasibility for subsequent placement following termination will be determined by the Department Chair based on feedback provided by the Field Director and Seminar Instructor.

Upon earning an "Unsatisfactory" grade in Field the student may opt to repeat the Field Education Course if recommended by the Seminar Instructor and Field Director and approved by the Department Chair. Students permitted to repeat Field must do so during the semesters for which the field course and seminar is offered. MSW students receiving an "Unsatisfactory" will not be permitted to progress in their coursework until they are re-enrolled in field and/or have satisfactorily completed field. In such cases, students must meet with the Academic Advisor to draft an amended degree plan to determine appropriate course sequencing. The degree plan is subject to the approval of the Department Chair.

Monitoring of Students

Student progress in field is closely monitored in a number of ways:

- Students meet directly for supervision with their field instructor (in-person or online synchronously) a minimum of one (1) hour per week. During these meetings, the student's progress towards mastering competencies is reviewed. Supervision is also an opportunity for the field instructor to address any concerns that have been presented in the preceding week.
- Students attend seminars weekly. A seminar is an arena in which students can safely discuss field experiences and receive feedback from their peers and the Seminar Instructor.
It's an opportunity for the Seminar Instructor to gauge student progress.
- Assignments completed as a requirement of the seminar are reflective of student progress in field and a helpful means of student professional development.

Seminar Instructors conduct a site visit at least one (1) time per semester with both the Field Instructor and student present. The site visit process is discussed more in-depth in the section below.

Supervision

Supervision is an integral part of the field experience. Per CSWE, students in field practicum must participate in at least one (1) hour of face-to-face structured supervision weekly with a social worker possessing the required post-social work degree practice experience. All efforts are made to provide for supervision to be available at the placement agency. At times, an agency may provide a student with a suitable learning environment but not have a degreed social worker with the two years minimum practice experience on site. In this circumstance, a student may be supervised by an off-site supervisor also possessing the required post-social work degree experience. Off-site supervision must be coordinated through the Field Office.

Participation in supervision is documented through the field instructor's signature on the field hours log. Hours completed in an agency without the required supervision may result in the student completing additional appropriately supervised hours in order to satisfy this requirement.

Field Instructors must sign/initial the hours log weekly to document supervision and completion of hours. Students may count supervision time towards their total internship hours requirement.

Integrative Seminar

During each semester that a social work student is in a field placement, the student is concurrently enrolled in an integrative seminar taught by regular or adjunct faculty. The purpose of the seminar is to integrate curriculum course content with the field education experience through classroom discussion of field-based experiences. The seminar focuses on facilitating students' cognitive and affective processes, prompting students to think critically regarding the application of social work knowledge in the practice setting. The integrative seminar intends to stimulate discussion of issues related to the social work competencies within the context of the student's field education experience. Written assignments and oral presentations are also tools

utilized in the integrative seminar and serve to connect classroom learning with field-based experience.

Participation and attendance in a synchronous (in-person or virtual) integrative seminar is a requirement of the field at both the BSW and MSW levels. At the BSW level, SOW 4522 Senior Seminar is a graded course (A-F). Each integrative seminar (SOW 5532, SOW 6535, SOW 6536) at the MSW level is a pass/fail course, with the option to earn a final grade of satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U). Seminar attendance is mandatory. Students are NOT excused from attending seminars due to responsibilities or obligations associated with the internship. Students are expected to engage and attend in the synchronous weekly seminar, regardless of the time zone where the student resides. This may be important for any students residing outside of the Central Time Zone.

Students will be provided information necessary for registering for Field following submission of the confirmation form. Students may not count seminar class time towards their total internship hours requirement.

Site Visits

At a minimum, the student's assigned Seminar Instructor conducts one (1) site visit per semester. The agency visits serve to maximize the opportunity for student learning by assisting the agency in establishing and maintaining an effective learning environment, assisting and supporting the Field Instructor, monitoring the learning experience, and intervening when learning difficulties occur. During field visits, the Seminar Instructor meets with the student, field instructor, and other relevant agency staff to discuss the student's progress. The site visit is also focused on the student's performance and continuing needs, and future assignments. While one (1) site visit is required, the Seminar Instructor is available to meet onsite at the agency by request of the student and/or Field Instructor, and in some situations, more site visits may be warranted if issues of concern have been identified on the part of the student or agency.

Log of Field Hours

Students are required to maintain documentation of hours spent in the field agency as well as weekly supervision requirements. Students are required to track their hours using the time sheet function in Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). Students will manage their hours using the Time Track function and will run hours reports weekly that get sent to their supervisors. The Field Instructor and/or Task Supervisor must sign the timesheet weekly as well as on the date(s) of supervision. The Seminar Instructor will review the students' time sheets periodically to determine if the student is progressing as expected in accruing the required number of hours. Time spent in weekly supervision should be included in the student's time sheet. However, travel to and from the agency and/or off-site supervision is not to be included in the student's hours log.

Enrollment in Advanced Clinical Seminar & Capstone

Students are enrolled in SOW6536 Advanced Seminar in Clinical Social Work during their final semester of study in the MSW program. This is a 3-credit-hour course that is taken concurrently with the student's second and final semester of advanced field instruction. The Advanced Seminar in Clinical Social Work is integral to linking classroom learning to field experience as it allows for student analysis of practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through a written and oral presentation of a case from the student's field experience. During the final semester, MSW students will also be enrolled in SOW6548, Capstone in Advanced Clinical Practice. The comprehensive capstone presentation is the culmination of the integration of all coursework completed at the MSW level in conjunction with the advanced clinical field experience. The capstone encompasses engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation of the client or client system. Students are also required to complete three separate reflection papers, focusing each on ethics, issues of human diversity and social justice, and social policy. Each paper is written in relation to a specific case the student has encountered through the course of the field experience. With that, the Advanced Seminar in Clinical Practice is comprehensive in that it incorporates classroom learning and field experience, and it provides an opportunity for the student to demonstrate an understanding of the nine competencies and the ability to relate those competencies to the practice setting.

Roles and Expectations in Field

Role of the Field Director

The Field Director has primary responsibility for the field education program in the Department of Social Work at the University of West Florida. The Field Director oversees the operations of the Field Office and Field Team and coordinates weekly with department administration and advising to optimize the field education experience. The Field Director, with assistance from the Field Coordinators, develops and monitors field placement sites, provides training to agencies and field instructors, provides technological training to students, field instructors, and faculty utilizing Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera), and engages in planning, analysis, and evaluation activities for the Field Office.

More specifically, the Field Director is responsible for the following:

- Engaging and actively cultivating relationships with area agencies in order to facilitate appropriate field placement opportunities for UWF social work students.
- Lead trainer for field staff
- Facilitates student success plans
- Collaborates with program administration and advising to optimize communication, efficiency, and accuracy within the field program

- Engages in planning, analysis, and evaluation activities regarding the field office
- Plans and develops interventional strategies aimed at continuous improvement in the field office
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- Working with field Seminar Instructor to prepare field seminar course content.
- Creating and updating field forms and field policies, and procedures.
-
- Leads field planning meetings and orientations for students entering field.
-
- Provide orientation and training for field instructors and other relevant agency staff.
- Communicating with the Department Chair on an ongoing basis regarding field-related matters.
- Assist field coordinators in their roles as needed

Role of the Field Coordinators

The Field Coordinators work closely with the Field Director to manage and administer the UWF Social Work Field Program. Field Coordinators will be the primary point of contact for students during their field process. Field Coordinators are highly knowledgeable about available agencies, placement processes, and field office policies. They work with students admitted to the BSW and MSW programs in the Department of Social Work, ensuring students receive timely communication about placement-related tasks. Field Coordinators also work with students and agencies to coordinate placements, establish affiliation agreements, and work through conflicts.

More specifically, the field director is responsible for the following:

- Engaging and actively cultivating relationships with area agencies in order to facilitate appropriate field placement opportunities for UWF social work students.
- Facilitating the process of creating and renewing affiliation agreements with field placement agencies.
- Educating students on and implementing field policies and procedures.
- Facilitating the field application process for students at all levels of field.
- Engages in field planning meetings and orientations for students entering field.
- Meeting with each student to collaboratively plan the student's field experience for the following semester.
- Contacting prospective placement agencies on behalf of students to discuss potential internships.
- Assigning students to field placements.
- Providing information and support to students as they interview at area agencies and begin their field placements.

- Troubleshoot and provide consultation with students, Seminar Instructor, field instructor (and/or other agency staff) on issues as they arise.
- Create, administer, and manage student success plans

Role of the Field Seminar Instructor

The Seminar Instructor serves as the faculty liaison who works in conjunction with the field education office to monitor activities between the student and the field agency and maintains contact with the field placement agency. The Seminar Instructor is the first point of contact for students assigned to their seminar course and their field instructors. Communication between the faculty-Seminar Instructor, agency field instructor, and the student is ongoing. The faculty Seminar Instructor serves as a resource to the agency and facilitates the student's educational experience.

The Seminar Instructor is responsible for monitoring students throughout their field placement, and the final grade assigned is the cumulative assessment of the student's progress through their internship. At a minimum, the Seminar Instructor conducts one site visit per semester. The agency visits serve to maximize the opportunity for student learning by assisting the agency in establishing and maintaining an effective learning environment, assisting and supporting the field instructor, monitoring the learning experience and intervening when learning difficulties occur.

Additional functions of the Seminar Instructor are as follows:

- Guide the field experience to ensure students are engaged in agency activities consistent with the program competencies.
- Participates in the development of the learning contract with the student and field instructor to ensure the contract facilitates student growth for each competency and provides final approval.
- Maintains regular contact with and provides consultation to field instructors and students as needed, either in person, by phone, or by email.
- Supervises ongoing assessment of student performance throughout the semester, leading up to and including the midterm (potentially) and final evaluation points.
- Assists the field instructor in exploring alternative field assignments if the minimum range of practice assignments does not provide the breadth and depth of learning opportunities to meet student needs and curriculum objectives.
- Serves as the primary means of communication between the field placement and the Field Director and relays to the Field Director any concerns related to the placement.
- Serves as a resource, role-model, and professional mentor for the student.
- Verifies students' hours in the field and may request that the agency formally document those hours.

- Verifies students' hours in the field and works with the agency to formally document those hours.
- Engages in problem-solving with the site if the site or student are experiencing issues at the placement
- Manages the problem-solving policy (noted below) and provides access to students in cases where the student is facing issues at the site

Role of the Field Instructor

The role of the field instructor is that of a role model for the student. The field instructor conveys specific and general knowledge and skills to the student. In addition, the field instructor provides the stimulus for reflective thinking about social work theory and practice. An effective field instructor imparts knowledge but also encourages the student to engage in critical thinking and independent use and testing of various content areas of the curriculum. Field Instructors are responsible for the following:

- Orients the student to the agency, staff, and administration and acquaints the student with agency policy and procedures;
- Complies with the conditions of the affiliation agreement between the University of West Florida and the agency;
- Ensures student has access to and participates in training or in-service requirements of the agency;
- Works collaboratively with the student and Seminar Instructor to develop the learning contract;
- Meets with the student for a minimum of one hour per week to provide the required supervision;
- Ensures students' responsibilities include opportunities to participate in tasks specified in the learning contract;
- Assesses and addresses the student's learning needs and performance on an ongoing basis;
- Maintains communication with the Seminar Instructor;
- Ensures student has adequate work space and equipment, ie, desk, phone, computer, and/or any other resources necessary to fulfill responsibilities;
- With appropriate supervision, facilitates contact with clients and constituencies;
- Reviews all written documentation prepared by the student;
- Verifies student's hours in the field and participation in supervision through signing the student's hours log;
- Completes the midterm and final evaluations within the specified time frame and reviews with the student;
- Participates in field orientation meetings and continuing education events provided by the program;

- Adheres to the NASW Code of Ethics

Role of the Task Supervisor

Students may be assigned to work with the Task Supervisor if the Field Instructor is not present to supervise the student's day-to-day activities. Such would be the case with students participating in offsite supervision. While the field instructor is responsible for ensuring the weekly supervision requirements, the task instructor may be involved with the student's activities on a daily basis. The task instructor's role is similar to that of the field instructor in relation to student learning, providing feedback, support, and guidance.

Functions of the agency task supervisor may include any of the following:

- Participates in orienting the student to the agency, staff, and administration and acquainting the student with agency policy and procedures;
- Complies with the conditions of the affiliation agreement between the University of West Florida and the agency;
- Facilitates student access to and participation in training or in-service requirements of the agency;
- Works collaboratively with the student and Seminar Instructor, and field instructor to develop the learning contract;
- Ensures students' responsibilities include opportunities to participate in tasks specified in the learning contract;
- Assesses and addresses the student's learning needs and performance on an ongoing basis;
- Verifies the student's hours in the field by signing the student's hours log.
 - Maintains communication with the field instructor and Seminar Instructor;
- If appropriate, ensures student has adequate work space and equipment, ie, desk, phone, computer, and/or any other resources necessary to fulfill responsibilities;
- With appropriate supervision, facilitates contact with clients and constituencies;
- Reviews all written documentation prepared by the student;
- Completes the midterm and final evaluations within the specified time frame and reviews with the student;
- Participates in field orientation meetings and continuing education events provided by the program;
- Adheres to the NASW Code of Ethics

Offsite Supervision

In some instances, a student may intern in an agency where there are experienced and qualified professionals providing services in an agency. However, these professionals may not possess a BSW and/or MSW degree. In such cases, students meet with a professional possessing a BSW

(undergraduate students only) or MSW from a CSWE-accredited program with two years of postgraduate social work practice experience, in an off-site setting to complete the one hour per week of required supervision. This person serves as the student's field instructor. On-site at the agency, a task supervisor must be assigned to supervise the student's day-to-day activities. Likewise, task supervisors are asked to complete a Task Supervisor Application located on the Department of Social Work website. The purpose of the application is to confirm the task supervisor's educational background and work experience. Off-site supervision is a collaborative effort, and all parties should work together in developing the learning contract and assessing student progress. The off-site field instructor meets onsite at the agency with the student and task supervisor at least once per semester and, at a minimum, participates in the site visit with the Seminar Instructor. The primary responsibility for the student's learning remains with the field instructor.

Practicum form

In an effort to ensure that students have an accessible placement, the program utilizes the MSW Field Practicum Form during the admission process. This form allows students who are outside of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties to provide information to the field office regarding where they are interested in being placed. Local students will not need to provide this information, as local sites are diverse and plentiful. The only case where a local student will list a site on the practicum is if they are interested in engaging in an employment-based internship.

Upon admission, the field team will reach out to the sites listed on a student's practicum form to begin the vetting and affiliation process. If the site is amenable to a partnership, the field team will vet the site, ensuring that it meet the necessary requirements to provide an internship that is consistent with CSWE requirements.

Non-local students will select their top three preferences from a list of affiliated sites in their area. If there are not three sites in the area, the student will select their preferences from the affiliated sites and list additional sites of interest to fulfill the three needed sites. The expectation is that the student will be placed at one of the preferred sites, though this is not always possible. The Field Practicum Form does not guarantee placement but serves as an initial tool to begin the placement planning process. It is used to gather relevant information that supports aligning students with internship opportunities that best match their educational goals, interests, and learning needs.

Affiliation Agreements

Once a site has been vetted by the field program, the affiliation process will begin. The affiliation process engages the site to work with the University in completing an affiliation contract. Affiliation contracts can take 1-9 months to complete, depending on the agency. An affiliation contract must be in place before a student can be placed with a site. We've found that

smaller agencies have a quicker turnaround time, while large agencies, like hospitals, can take 6-9 months or more. Given the time necessary to complete an affiliation agreement, the field program has limits on when and under what circumstances affiliation agreements will be considered. The following are circumstances under which the field team will seek an affiliation agreement with a new site:

- A non-local student does not have three affiliated sites in their area and has provided additional sites of interest on the practicum form.
- A local student has filled out a practicum form on admission to the program and provided the field team with a site of interest for an employment-based internship with their current employer
- A non-local student, despite completing the practicum form at admission, has no affiliated and accessible sites in their area.
- A student is moving to a new location and provides the field office with a minimum of 4 months' notice to affiliate with a site in the new location
- A student gains employment at a site where they wish to complete their internship placement (that was not included on the practicum form), and provides the field office with a minimum of 4 months' notice prior to the intended start date of their placement. The student must be actively employed at the requested agency for the field office to pursue an affiliation contract.
- A student has at least 3 affiliated sites in their area, but wants to be placed at a specific agency not affiliated with the Social Work Program. In this case, students will need to request the affiliation at least 4 months before the intended start date of their placement. If the written request is not made at least 4 months before the intended start date of the internship, the student will defer to the next semester while the field team completes the affiliation agreement.

The following are circumstances under which the field team will not seek an affiliation agreement with a new site:

- The student has three (3) or more affiliated and accessible sites in their area and requests a new affiliation agreement be established for the upcoming semester.
- The student does not prefer the affiliated and accessible sites in their area and requests a new affiliation agreement be established for the upcoming semester.
- The student requests a new agreement be established due to moving to a new location and does not provide the field office with at least 4 months' notice. In this case, the field office will verify which affiliated and accessible sites exist in the new location. If such sites exist, the field team will seek placement with an affiliated site for placement in the upcoming term. If no such sites are available, the field team will begin work on a new affiliation, though the student will need to defer to the following semester for placement.
- The student requests a new agreement to be established due to securing employment at an unaffiliated site and does not provide the field team with a minimum of 4 months' notice.

In cases where the student wishes to be placed with their employer and does not provide the field team with 4 months' notice, the student will be deferred to the following semester for placement while the affiliation contract is worked out with the agency.

- The student requests a new agreement to be established for an employment-based placement, and the student is not yet employed with the agency.

Selection of Field Agencies

The UWF Social Work Field Office partners with a variety of agencies locally and across the United States, and has developed agreements with agencies serving diverse populations and contexts. The field office strives to provide a wide-ranging mix of agencies to meet student needs. Locally, students have access to a diverse group of placement sites. As a result, local students do not complete a practicum form unless they are requesting placement with their employer. This allows the field team with requisite time to establish the affiliation contract before the applicant enters field in their 2nd or 3rd semester. Non-local students will complete a practicum form, allowing for agreements to be established in the student's local area if needed.

The field team is responsible for vetting agencies to verify their appropriateness to take on student interns. Agency selection is dependent upon numerous factors, and consideration is given to the following criteria.

- The agency's mission and goals are consistent with the values and ethics of the social work profession.
- Agencies must view students as learners and understand that the performance of students is not the same as the performance of staff members, and retain ultimate responsibility for its clients/constituents.
- Agencies must be willing to facilitate the experiences and assignments required of field instruction and integrative seminars.
- Consideration is given to the credentials and experience of agency staff.
- Agencies must be willing to allow for the student to receive one (1) hour of structured direct supervision weekly, complete the midterm and final evaluations, and participate in field instructor training.
- Each agency must operate within a policy that prevents discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, ethnic origin, disability, political beliefs, or sexual orientation.
- Agencies are expected to provide a variety of assignments according to the student's educational needs and to provide the necessary resources for professional practice, including adequate space and equipment required to complete tasks.
- Agencies should provide students with the opportunity to attend staff meetings, in-service training, and other meetings or activities designed for the general staff.
- Agency policies and procedures related to student safety must be in place.

The Field team is responsible for establishing and developing new placement opportunities. Department policy, as specified in the UWF Field Manual, is that students do not make direct contact with an agency to inquire about placement opportunities unless they have been given permission to do so by the Field Office. Agency information is maintained in an electronic database. Agencies interested in working with students are initially asked to complete a Field Agency Application.

Selection of Field Instructors

Social workers with a BSW or MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program desiring to provide field instruction must submit a Field Instructor Application. In completing the application, potential field instructors must attest to having earned a social work degree from a CSWE-accredited program. In compliance with CSWE, field instructors must have a BSW (if supervising undergraduate-level students) or an MSW (if supervising graduate-level students). Potential field instructors must also attest to having two years of post-baccalaureate or post-master's social work practice experience. In addition, the application requires potential field instructors to verify the number of years in practice and inquire as to the length of experience in their current agency. The application further inquires as to the potential field instructor's ability to provide a minimum of one hour per week of face-to-face supervision with the student.

Problem Solving Policy

The University of West Florida Department of Social Work is committed to facilitating a successful field placement experience. It is therefore essential to identify concerns related to student performance in field and address them in a professional manner in an effort to identify corrective actions necessary to resolve the issue or concern expeditiously. For students, participation in the problem-solving process is an important aspect of the learning experience; thus, students are expected to adhere to the protocol as defined. In doing so, every effort is made to ensure the student's right to due process is respected, while offering the appropriate protections to agency and client interests. When a concern is identified, the following sequence of activities should occur:

Student Concerns related to the Agency or Agency Field Instructor (or Task Supervisor)

- The student will address the concerns with the field instructor and task supervisor, if applicable to resolve the issue at hand. Given the dynamics of the field instructor-student relationship, approaching a supervisor with an issue or concern may understandably be intimidating for the student. Therefore, students are encouraged to consult with their Seminar Instructor to "rehearse" approaching the supervisor for such a discussion.

- If the student, field instructor, and task supervisor, if applicable, are unable to resolve the issues directly, the student is to contact the Seminar Instructor to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting to include all relevant parties. The purpose of such is to identify problems, explore potential solutions, and attempt to develop a plan to facilitate the success of the field placement.
- Once involved, the seminar professor will provide the student with a Problem-Solving checklist form, documenting the steps taken towards the resolution of any issues at the site.
- Should the issues remain unresolved following the aforementioned meeting, the student, field instructor, task supervisor, if applicable, and Seminar Instructor will inform the Field Office, and all parties shall meet to discuss options available to the student. If warranted, this meeting may be to facilitate the termination of student placement from the agency. However, termination of a field placement cannot occur unless the problem-solving process has been fully utilized.
- If appropriate, the Field Team will identify other placement options for the student. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.

Agency Field Instructor Concerns related to the Student

- The agency field instructor will meet with the student to address the identified concerns and attempt to resolve the directly. In many situations, open and clear communication between the student and field instructor is sufficient to diffuse a tense and/or problematic situation.
- If the issue at hand is not resolved directly between the student and field instructor, the field instructor will contact the Seminar Instructor to discuss the situation. Oftentimes, the agency field instructor and Seminar Instructor are successful in developing a strategy to resolve the concern.
- The Seminar Instructor will then meet face-to-face with the student, agency field instructor and task supervisor if applicable. At this point, a Student Success Plan will be developed and agreed to by all parties. The purpose of the Student Success Plan is to clearly define the issue(s) at hand, how the issue relates to CSWE Core Competencies, and delineate the action to be taken by each party, specifying an anticipated date of completion.
- If the issue remains unresolved, the seminar professor will request a meeting with the Field Office and provide the Field Office with the current Student Success Plan. At that point, the student, field instructor, Seminar Instructor, and Field team member will arrange to meet to discuss options available to the student. This may include the student's termination from the agency. However, termination from the agency cannot occur unless the aforementioned steps have been taken.

- If appropriate, the Field Director will identify alternative placement options for the student. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.

Agency Task Supervisor Concerns related to the Student

- The task supervisor will meet with the student to address the identified concerns and attempt to resolve the concerns directly. In many situations, open and clear communication between the student and supervisor is sufficient to diffuse a tense and/or problematic situation. If the issue at hand is not resolved directly between the student and the task supervisor, the task supervisor will contact the Seminar Instructor to discuss the situation. The field instructor, whether agency-based or off-site, should be consulted as well. Oftentimes, the task supervisor, field instructor, and Seminar Instructor are successful in developing a strategy to resolve the concern.
- The Seminar Instructor is readily available to meet onsite face-to-face with the student, task supervisor, and field instructor. At this point, a Student Success Plan should be developed and agreed to by all parties. The purpose of the Student Success Plan is to clearly define the issue(s) at hand, how the issue relates to CSWE Core Competencies, and delineate the action to be taken by each party, specifying an anticipated date of completion.
- If the issue remains unresolved, the student, field instructor, and Seminar Instructor shall inform the Field Director and arrange to meet to discuss options available to the student. This may include the student's termination from the agency. However, termination from the agency cannot occur unless the aforementioned steps have been taken.
- If appropriate, the Field Director will identify alternative placement options for the student. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.

Seminar Instructor Concerns related to Student

- The Seminar Instructor will directly communicate the concerns to the student to immediately resolve the issue at hand.
- If the issue is not resolved, the Seminar Instructor will inform the Field Instructor, the task supervisor if applicable, and the Field Director, and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the Seminar Instructor's concerns.
- If appropriate, the Field Office will identify other placement options. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.

Seminar Instructor Concerns related to the Agency

The Seminar Instructor will communicate directly with the field instructor and task supervisor, if applicable in an effort to resolve the issue directly.

If the issue is not resolved, the Seminar Instructor will inform the field instructor and task supervisor, if applicable, along with the Field Director, and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the Seminar Instructor's concerns.

If appropriate, the Field Office will identify other placement options. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.

Student Success Plans

In the event that the student is not meeting agency standards, requirements, or expectations, a Student Success Plan may be created to document the issue and provide a time-bound plan for remediation. This step assists the program and placement agencies in addressing student issues without suspension or termination, seeking instead to provide the student with the requisite feedback and time necessary to remediate the presenting issue(s). A Student Success plan may be initiated by the Seminar Instructor, Field Team, Department Chair, BSW and MSW Program Coordinators, or at the request of the Field Instructor.

Student Success Plans are implemented when the student is engaging in problematic behavior at the agency that could lead to termination of the placement, such as lack of professionalism, breach of policies and procedures, lateness or absenteeism, poor communication, and engaging in unethical behaviors. If a Student Success Plan is initiated, students will receive a copy of the form for review and signature, and will be expected to abide by the remediation recommendations. The plan will be monitored by the Field Instructor and/or Task Supervisor and the Seminar Instructor. Some Student Success Plans may rise to the level of the Field Office, in which case, Field Education Staff will be involved in monitoring the plan. Students will have an agreed-upon timeframe to address any deficiencies noted by the placement agency, and a follow-up meeting will occur after the student has had sufficient time for remediation efforts. If all remediation efforts have been satisfactory, the plan will be completed, and the student will be done with the Student Success Plan.

If a student is terminated from a placement, they will automatically have a Student Success Plan created that documents the nature of the termination. Students with active Student Success Plans are required to disclose the nature of their Success Plan when interviewing with a new agency after termination from the previous agency. Students may also authorize, by email, the Field Team to share the nature of a Student Success Plan with the interviewing agency. If a student chooses to share the Student Success Plan with the interviewing agency themselves, they will need to confirm with the Field Office that the plan was discussed. To do so, students will email the field office, CC the agency contact who performed the interview, and confirm that the Success Plan was discussed while providing a copy of the Student Success Plan in the email.

Immediate Suspension or Termination of the Placement by the Agency

An agency reserves the right to immediately suspend or terminate a student's placement due to unprofessional behavior on the part of the student, safety concerns related to clients, or unethical behavior by the student. In such cases, it is requested that the Agency Field Instructor complete the following steps:

- Contact the Seminar Instructor immediately to discuss the circumstances resulting in suspension or termination.
- The Seminar Instructor will notify the Field Director of the suspension or termination.
- The student will be informed verbally, and with written follow-up, the reason for the suspension or termination.
- The Field Instructor and task supervisor, if applicable, will work with the Seminar Instructor in completing any activities or meetings to facilitate terminating the placement.
- The field instructor and task supervisor, if applicable, will provide feedback to the Seminar Instructor and Field Director to identify issues bearing the potential to lead to termination and ways in which the agency and University can continue to work together to facilitate student success and promote social work education.
- If appropriate, the Field Office will identify other placement options. Please note, the Field Office cannot guarantee that a second field placement option will be available.
- Termination from a field placement may result in a failing grade for the field and/or seminar.

In such cases, the student will not be permitted to continue in the BSW or MSW program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For students receiving off-site supervision from a qualified field instructor not on staff with the agency, both the field instructor (off-site supervisor) and task supervisor should participate and adhere to these processes.

Termination of Students from Field

The University of West Florida Department of Social Work is committed to facilitating a successful field placement experience. It is essential to identify concerns related to student performance promptly and identify corrective actions necessary to resolve the issue or concern. For students, participation in the problem-solving process is an important aspect of the learning experience; thus, students are expected to adhere to the protocol as defined. In doing so, every effort is made to ensure the student's right to due process is respected, while offering the appropriate protection to agency and client interests.

Students are expected to reflect values consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics, and in doing so are expected to demonstrate professionalism in attitude, behavior, and demeanor in the field

agency and community. Concerns related to student performance, ethics, and professionalism should be addressed by the field instructor during supervision.

Inevitably, some students will experience significant challenges during the professional development process. On occasion, circumstances may arise in which students fail to adhere to professional expectations. An agency reserves the right to immediately suspend or terminate a student's placement due to unprofessional behavior on the part of the student, safety concerns related to clients, and or unethical behavior by the student.

Failure to adhere to these professional expectations can result in termination from the field agency and/or dismissal from the BSW/MSW program. These professional standards mandate students to:

- Demonstrate respect, empathy, and tolerance towards peers, colleagues, and clients;
- Utilize an assertive and direct style of communication, both verbally and nonverbally;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the student's role within the formalized structure of the agency or organization;
- Use established lines of authority appropriately within the Department of Social Work and agency or organization;
- Seek guidance from the student's identified field instructor and task supervisor if applicable, and prepare for supervision;
- Comply with Field Instructor's directives and utilize supervisor feedback;
- Dress and act in accordance with agency protocol;
- Respect the principle of confidentiality at levels within and outside of the agency or organization;
- Give precedence to professional responsibilities over personal concerns;
- Model a strengths-based perspective in professional interactions;
- Respect and use established protocol as outlined in the field manual;
- Practice in conformance with the NASW Code of Ethics; and
- Be truthful with information to clients, field instructor, task supervisor, if applicable, faculty liaison, and field director.

Termination for a field placement may result in a failing grade for the field, and in such cases, the student will not be permitted to continue the BSW or MSW program without undergoing further academic review.

If you resign from your field placement, it is not guaranteed that another internship will be provided to you. If you would like a new placement, you must request, in writing, why you would like a new placement and what you have tried to do to improve your current placement/situation. Any requests will be reviewed by the Field Director, Program Coordinator from the respective undergraduate or graduate program, and Department Chair.

The Department of Social Work reserves the right to deny a student a second internship based on student performance issues and other pertinent information. The Department will not offer a third internship for any single field education course.

Internship Availability

Placement agencies affiliated with the Department of Social Work require that a majority of hours be completed Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Students who work or have other commitments should take this into account in planning to apply to the Field. Most field instructors work normal business hours, and the majority of the services provided to clients are provided during the day on weekdays. There are very few exceptions to this, as night and weekend placements are extremely limited, and the Field Office makes NO guarantee that such will be available. MSW students should anticipate being available for 20 to 25 hours per week during regular business hours. BSW students should plan to be present in their field agency no less than 25 hours per week during the Fall and Spring semesters, and no less than 32 hours during the summer semester. Students are encouraged to carefully consider their availability to intern in a given semester. In some instances, students may need to defer Field to another semester. Students may also express interest in remote, hybrid, or paid placements. Remote and hybrid placements may be available, though they are extremely limited and reserved for students with a demonstrated need. Paid placements are also limited and tend to be competitive. Students seeking a paid placement may also benefit from engaging in an employment-based placement. Keep in mind, the Field Team requires a minimum of 4 months' notice to vet and affiliate with a new employment-based agency.

Starting and Finishing Hours Early/Late

Students are not permitted to begin accruing field hours prior to the first day of the semester for which the student is enrolled. Students are not permitted to "stockpile" hours and must remain in the placement agency at least until two weeks prior to the end of that semester. This ensures continuity for the agency and allows the student to participate in the field seminar course on the same schedule as other students in the group. A student is required to complete the requisite hours at the field placement by the due date specified in the field seminar course schedule.

Attendance

Students are expected to be punctual and present on all dates scheduled to intern in the field agency and are to adhere to agency hours. If the agency is open on a date that the University is not, for example, spring break or holidays, the student is expected to report to the agency. The exception to this rule pertains to semester breaks. Students are not permitted to intern at their field agency between semesters, and hours may only be accrued within the start and end dates of the semester, according to University policy. Students must immediately notify their Field Instructor of anticipated absences related to illness or emergency, and students must provide documentation from a medical provider or other appropriate source to their Seminar and Field

Team. Extended absences beyond three days are subject to approval by the Seminar Instructor and the Field Team. Unnecessary absences, such as vacation, are NOT permitted nor will they be excused and should be scheduled before or after the semester.

Attendance for the field seminar course is mandatory. Absences from the field seminar related to completing hours at the placement agency are not permitted. If a student fails to attend the seminar any hours accrued during the scheduled seminar timeframe will be null. As students coordinate schedules with their field agency, it is important to inform the field instructor of mandatory seminar attendance and to adjust intern hours as needed to accommodate field seminars. Seminar Instructors may have additional attendance requirements for their course, and will be addressed specifically in the course syllabus.

Leave Time

Unnecessary leave or vacation time is not permitted during the field educational experience and should be scheduled for breaks between semesters. Absences must be pre-approved by the field instructor, and hours missed for any reason must be made up before the end of the semester. In the case of illness, students should notify their field instructor immediately of any anticipated absences. Extended absences (more than three days) related to illness must be reported to the Seminar Instructor. Students incurring excessive absences from field experience may receive a grade of "Unsatisfactory". All field hours must be completed by the final day of the semester, as specified in the seminar course syllabi. Students may not begin accruing hours prior to the start date of the semester and must remain in the field agency at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester. Hours earned beyond in addition to those required do not exempt a student from remaining in field prior to that date.

The following policies apply to leave time:

- Students are expected to adhere to the agency's hours and holiday schedule while in the field placement. If the University is closed for any reason, the student is expected to be present at the field agency if scheduled. If an agency is closed for a holiday, the student does not report to the agency but must make up for the hours missed as a result of the holiday closure.
- Students are permitted three days of leave per semester for illness and/or family emergencies (injury, death, illness). However, these hours must be rescheduled per field instructor's approval and completed prior to the end of the semester. Absences extending beyond three days will require written documentation from a medical provider (or other appropriate documentation) and must be provided to both the seminar and field instructors immediately upon return to the agency to qualify for this exception. Determination as to whether the documentation is valid and approval of the exception should be made by the faculty liaison. If the Seminar Instructor determines that the exception should be considered, the student must submit a written request for the

exception to the Field Director for approval. Hours that have not been approved per these procedures may result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory".

- Agency closures due to inclement weather are excused, and if you live in an evacuation zone and an evacuation has been ordered, the absences are excused. However, students are required to notify their Field and Seminar Instructor of the absences, and any hours missed must be rescheduled per the field instructor's approval.
- If a student is summoned for jury duty, the absence(s) will be excused so long as the appropriate documentation is provided to the Field and Seminar Instructor. Again, any hours missed must be made up by the end of the semester and scheduled with the approval of the Field Instructor.

Withdrawal from Field

Students desiring to withdraw from field must do so prior to the University's withdrawal deadline to avoid receiving a "U" (unsatisfactory grade) in the course. Students withdrawing from field will be required to reapply for field the semester preceding the student's anticipated return. Students must complete the field placement process, as specified, in full. In the event of withdrawal, students are not permitted to carry over hours earned in a previous semester and must repeat all field hours required for the level enrolled. Students are not permitted to participate in the field unless concurrently enrolled in and attending the integrative seminar.

Incomplete Policy

In rare instances, students may request to receive an "Incomplete" grade for Field. Prior to requesting an "Incomplete," students are advised to [review the University guidelines](#). Students must meet the following requirements in addition to and/or in conjunction with the University's "Incomplete" grade policy.

- Students must have accrued at least 70 percent of the field hours required of the semester for which they are requesting the "Incomplete". Students also must have submitted all assignments and received satisfactory ratings on their Midterm Evaluation. If the Application for Incomplete Grade is approved, the student must submit a copy of their schedule containing the dates and hours the student will report to the field agency to complete the remaining field hours. This schedule must be approved by the Field Instructor and submitted to the Seminar Instructor by the 7th day of the semester in which they are completing those requirements.
- Students are not to re-register for the course in which they are receiving an "Incomplete".
- It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact and provide all documentation required of the Seminar Instructor, as specified in the contract.

The remaining field requirements must be completed before the end of the following semester. If the student does not satisfy the remaining course requirements, the "Incomplete" grade will be changed to "Unsatisfactory".

Employment-Based Internships

Traditionally, social work field placements are educationally focused, unpaid training experiences in social work settings. There are some situations, however, in which paid employment can meet the standards for field placement. The guiding principles in determining if a student's employment meets the criteria for field placement are that the experience must constitute new learning. Students who believe their employment potentially meets field education requirements should indicate their preference when completing the field application. Such is discussed at the time of the pre-placement interview. If the Field Director agrees to further consideration based on the initial discussion, the student will subsequently submit an Employment-Based Field Application. This application is in addition to the field application and must be completed electronically and submitted in Experiential Learning Cloud (Tevera). The student must complete the application with input from the field setting and proposed field instructor. The field education office then evaluates the agency's appropriateness for field placement. In order to be approved, the following criteria must be met:

- Required field hours must take place under the supervision of a qualified BSW (BSW students only) or MSW from a CSWE-accredited program with two years of post-social work degree practice experience who is not the student's current supervisor.
- Agency activities must be congruent with the competencies and provide opportunities for students to engage in generalist or specialized practice reflective of the competencies.
- The activities ideally constitute new learning for the student, and responsibilities differ from that of the student as an employee.
- The agency must be willing to exercise discretion as far as workload assignments to ensure the student's educational goals are primary.
- Students are expected to have a consistent schedule for the hours of the field placement and ideally engage in new learning activities during that time.
- There must be a signed Affiliation Agreement between the agency and the UWF Department of Social Work.
- The employment date or date of reassignment within the agency must be no more than 30 days from the first day of the semester in which the student is registered to start the placement, to ensure that the field education experience occurs in sequence with the student's degree plan.

In completing the Employment-Based Application, students must describe the roles and responsibilities of their current job and how the roles and responsibilities of the field placement will differ. Students must also submit a copy of their current job description and a description of the proposed internship position. In addition, students are required to provide a proposed

schedule delineating the student's employment hours from hours spent in field placement so as to ensure hours do not overlap. The Employment-Based Application is carefully reviewed, and the Field Director is responsible for making the final determination as to the appropriateness of the proposed employment-based internship. The student is notified of the decision and if the application is approved, the student is responsible for obtaining signatures from the field instructor and agency administrative personnel. Students are informed of the potential conflicts that may arise through the course of an employment-based internship and the application is clear in stating that as such reserves the right to approve an Employment-Based Application.

Student Safety in Field

There are risks inherent to social work practice. Therefore, the Department of Social Work is committed to supporting student safety. Supporting student safety is viewed as a collaborative effort between agencies, field instructors, and students. Agencies are expected to have established safety protocols related to situations that may pose a risk to the students. The field instructor is responsible for orienting the student to the agency's policies and procedures regarding risk management and for assigning students tasks consistent with their level of competence. Students are expected to adhere to agency policies and procedures addressing safety and are encouraged to address any concerns regarding their safety with their field instructor.

In an effort to reiterate the risks involved in practice, students must sign an acknowledgement of risk when completing the field application. The acknowledgement of risk addresses several factors related to student safety. They are as follows:

- Students are covered by a professional liability policy that is maintained by the Department of Social Work. Proof of such is available if requested by the field agency. Students are reminded of the importance of practicing within their scope of competence.
- Students may use their vehicle while in the field; however, students are not permitted to transport clients under any circumstances. Students are encouraged to contact their automobile insurance agency to confirm coverage and to inquire about any issues that may affect coverage through the use of personal automobiles in field.
- Students are informed of risks that may present when interacting with clients in office settings and in institutional settings, such as inpatient treatment programs or correctional facilities. Students should be knowledgeable of the agency's procedures and protocols related to safety and must participate in any training requirements required by their agency.
- Students may be expected to participate in home visits as a requirement of their field placement. Students are informed of risks related to home visits and again encouraged to be aware of and adhere to their agency's policies and protocols. The same is noted for students placed in agencies where client contacts may occur beyond normal business hours.

- Agencies may require students to undergo TB testing and, in some settings, students must provide proof of recent flu vaccination. Proof of other immunizations is sometimes required. It is the student's responsibility to verify completion of immunizations required by their agency, as such is part of the student's personal health record.
- Agencies vary in terms of criminal history disclosure. While students do not participate in a criminal background check upon admission to the BSW or MSW programs, students are informed that any pending criminal charges and/or history of criminal convictions may render a student ineligible for placement in a field setting. Students must affirm that they must disclose any history of criminal or child abuse allegations and that failure to be forthcoming in doing so could result in dismissal from the field setting and disciplinary action by the Department of Social Work.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

The University of West Florida, the College of Professional Studies, and the Department of Social Work are committed to a policy and operation of non-discrimination. The University has a written nondiscrimination policy, plan, and procedures, indicating that, in compliance with federal, state, and local laws, it does not discriminate based on race, color, age, disability, national origin, religion, sex, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other basis prohibited by law. The University's nondiscrimination policies and affirmative action policies are stated in the policy and procedures manual, which is available on the website, in the University catalog, and in the union agreement. The University states that it does not knowingly support or patronize any organization that engages in discrimination.

Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities. The IX applies to public and private educational institutions that receive federal funds, including the University of West Florida. Sexual harassment is generally referred to as discrimination based on sex. Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature is considered sexual harassment, and such includes a broad range of behaviors. The Department of Social Work requires that participating agencies have an established policy prohibiting sexual harassment of students while placed at the agency. Students must be provided with a copy of this policy at the time they begin their placement with the agency.

Title IX requires the University to respond to certain harassment based on sex. Students should immediately report allegations of harassment to the faculty liaison. Students are invited to contact the Office of Title IX Programs on campus with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations should:

- Register with the UWF Student Accessibility Resources. More information can be found at: <https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/student-accessibility-resources/>
- Provide documentation to the field director from the SDRC.
- Include a letter in the field application packet from the SDRC that indicates any accommodation that may be needed while in the placement agency or in the field seminar course.

All of the above steps must be completed by the due date for the field application in order to ensure the necessary accommodation can be made for the following semester.

Student Grievance Procedure

Students are encouraged to use the informal resolution process set forth in this manual. However, students may elect and have the right to submit a formal grievance in writing. The Student Grievance Process is set forth by the University, and specific steps are detailed on p. 53 of the UWF Student Handbook.

The Student Ombudsman is an employee of the University who is available to guide and assist students with concerns related to their experience as a UWF student. The role of the Student Ombudsman is impartial and may serve as a resource to the student as he/she navigate the steps to resolve the issue.

Student Expenses Related to Field Placement

Students are encouraged to anticipate expenses associated with establishing their field placement. The expenses may include the cost of background checks, drug screens, and/or immunizations. Students may be required to undergo a physical and provide proof of vaccinations or be subject to additional vaccinations. In most cases, that expense is the responsibility of the student. Students must also incur the cost of any specific dress requirements, for example, uniforms or lab coats. While agencies may reimburse students for any travel related to their internship while on duty, they do not reimburse students for travel to and from the agency. That includes the cost of gas and toll fees. The Department of Social Work does not reimburse or compensate students for any expenses related to field placement. Any expenses incurred in preparation for and/or during the course of the internship are ultimately the responsibility of the student.

Travel Expenses

Agencies may or may not reimburse students for travel performed in their vehicle. This is an agency decision, and there are no requirements that agencies must reimburse students. The Department of Social Work does not provide any form of reimbursement or supplement for travel expenses. Travel to and from the agency is not to be included in the student's hours log. Students needing further clarification regarding travel should contact the field education office.

Agency Requirements

Students must adhere to all policies and procedures related to onboarding for their assigned field agency. Agencies specify the requirements for interns placed in their agency, not the field office. And, students are ultimately responsible for ensuring any agency requirements are met. Please ensure that you have made contact with your assigned agency at least six weeks before the start of the semester to begin the onboarding process, as processing of backgrounds, drug screens, and any additional paperwork can be lengthy, potentially delaying entrance to field. The process and requirements of completing such vary, however, the following may help anticipate the process.

Background Checks

Most agencies affiliated with the UWF Department of Social Work require that potential student interns undergo a background check. Many of these agencies require that this be a Level II background screening. Some agencies cover the cost of the background and will instruct the student as to how to obtain the screening. In other cases, an agency may have specific requirements as to how to obtain the background check while also requiring the student to incur the cost. If any agency requires a background check but does not have a process in place through which the student can obtain the background check, please contact the Field Director. Students will be given specific instructions as to how to schedule and pay for the background screening. Please note that any prior events potentially affecting the outcome of the background screen should be discussed with the Field Director at the time of the pre-placement interview. A criminal history does not automatically exclude a student from completing field but it may impact placement decisions in terms of student placement. Keep in mind that agency requirements with regard to backgrounds vary, and some are more stringent than others. The Field Director will assist the student in navigating this process; however students must be forthcoming in reporting any history of arrests.

Drug Screens

It is common practice for agencies to require students to submit to drug testing. In some cases, agencies arrange for the screen to be completed and cover the cost. However, there are agencies that will require the student to bear responsibility and incur the cost. If that is the case, students

should contact the Field Office for further instruction as to how to meet the agency's drug screening requirements.

Health Requirements

Agencies may require students to submit documentation verifying that they are in good health and deemed fit to perform the responsibilities required of the internship agency. The Health Center on campus is a great resource in the event that a health screening is required. They offer services to students, and the cost is minimal. Proof of Immunizations may also be a requirement of your agency. Immunization records that were submitted upon your admission to UWF are on file at the Student Health Center. However, students must directly request access to those records as they are considered private health information. In addition, an agency may require a flu vaccination. Some agencies permit the student to decline the flu vaccine upon signature of a declination form. Students may be required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth if they choose to decline the vaccine. Please be aware that in some agencies, the internship is contingent upon the student agreeing to receive the vaccination. Students who have concerns regarding this issue are asked to notify the Field Director in advance, given the potential to affect placement options.

Malpractice Insurance

All students enrolled in Field are covered by malpractice insurance purchased by the Department of Social Work. Students are not responsible for purchasing this insurance, but some agencies may require that students purchase additional coverage. Students are only eligible for coverage under this malpractice insurance within the beginning and end dates of the semester they are registered for. Therefore, students are not permitted to intern before the start date or after the end date of the semester for which they are enrolled in field.

Substance Use Policy

Students who are using any kind of illegal drug or abusing alcohol, prescription drugs, or other substances that can cause impairment, are not permitted to participate in an internship or the field seminar course. A positive drug test, whether during the preparation for internship or while in an internship, will result in the student being removed from field immediately and will not return until all steps outlined in the Problem Solving Policy have been completed. The student may be asked to show proof of a substance use assessment or treatment from a state-licensed facility. Medical Marijuana cards do not exempt students from agency requirements and may prevent placement. This is solely up to the agency and not the University.

Use of Technology in Field Placement

Use of technology or electronic items (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) is not permitted during the hours spent in field unless the use is strictly related to the work being done in the agency. The only exception is when related to childcare or family emergencies. Personal communication should not interrupt any professional activities in field agencies.

Transportation of Clients

Students are not permitted to transport clients in any capacity while interning at an agency. This constitutes a significant liability for both the student and the University.

Disrupted Placement

Once a student is assigned to a particular agency, the student is not able to change placements before or during the semester unless there are significant issues at the agency level that have not been resolved by a full escalation of the Problem-Solving Policy. Student concerns regarding their assigned agency should be promptly reported to the Field Team (before the start of the semester) or the Seminar Instructor (after the start of the semester). While every effort will be made to place the student in another agency, this is not guaranteed and could delay placement which may in turn may delay graduation.

Deadlines

Deadlines for field applications and assignments due in field seminars are strict. Students missing the field application deadline may have to wait until the following semester to be considered for field.

Conflict of Interest and Dual Relationships

When a student is faced with a conflict of interest or the possibility of a dual relationship with a client, the student should immediately address this with the agency field instructor and the Seminar Instructor. Students should withdraw from any case where there is a conflict of interest or another kind of relationship with the client.

Criminal History Disclosure

Most agencies affiliated with the UWF Department of Social Work require that potential student interns undergo a background check. Many of these agencies require Level II background

screens, and in some cases, a Department of Children and Families clearance is required. Please note that as a student you may be responsible for any costs related to completion of the background check. Agencies vary in terms of background requirements, and placement determination is made by the agency. Agencies dictate the level and type of background screens required and whether or not students must incur the cost of the background check, if not done so by the agency. Each agency reserves the right to change their background screening requirements as well as the process through which backgrounds are completed at any given time, including matters related to cost of the background screen.

Students should notify the field director in advance if there are any arrests or charges in their history, as this will impact placement in the field. Failure to disclose and/or falsification of documents related to disclosure of criminal history, current or pending arrests regardless of disposition of the case, and/or any other history that may affect the outcome of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement or Department of Children and Families clearance, may result in dismissal from the BSW/MSW program.

International Field Placements

The Department of Social Work is unable to accommodate international placements. Placements on foreign US soil, to include military bases, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Field Office cannot guarantee placement in foreign US soil, and concurrent field seminar classes are scheduled based on Central Standard Time (CST), which is consistent with the time zone for the main UWF campus.