

Field Education
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Field Education?

- Field Education is the social work professions signature pedagogy. Field education requires all social work students to demonstrate knowledge and skills through training experiences in professionally supervised and educationally based field internship placements. Signature pedagogy represents the central form of instruction and learning in which a profession socializes its students to perform the role of practitioner
- Field Education consists of a hands on practicum in an approved social service agency and an integrative seminar taken concurrently.
- The purpose of field education is to provide the student with the opportunity to develop competence in social work skills and professional values in actual social service settings.

Q. When can I begin the field education process?

- Students are contacted by the Field Office the semester before they are scheduled to enroll in field education courses.
- Eligible field students will be referred to the Field Office by the BSW and MSW Program Directors. Eligibility is determined by successfully passing required core courses before field education.

Q. What if I already know where I want to complete by internship?

- Students entering field education are not authorized to secure their own internship. Please do not contact agencies representing yourself as a Texas State University School of Social Work intern.
- The Field Office will coordinate all aspects of field placement for students and will work with you when it is time to secure an internship.
- Some internships are competitive and we support equal opportunity to access internships through a structured placement process.

Q. Are there paid internships for students?

- Paid internships are available in some agencies. The Field Office does not determine how much or when payments are made to student interns. Paid internships are on a case by case basis.
- Some paid internships offer a stipend, an hourly wage, or an incentive payment at the end of an internship.
- Paid stipend programs such as the Title IVE, BHWET, and VA are announced each semester outlining the instructions for application and selection.

Q. Can I see a list of agencies where I can intern?

- The Field Office does not release an agency listing to students.
- Agency lists are kept by the Field Office to avoid students reaching out directly to agencies to secure an internship. Not all agencies accept interns every semester.
- Agencies prefer the Field Office coordinate internships directly with them, often assigning a point of contact, and not through students.

Q. What type of agency settings will I be interning in?

- The Office for Field has partnership agreements with School Districts, Hospitals, Mental Health Agencies, State and Federal Agencies, Community Based Agencies, Shelters, Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers, Correctional Agencies, Hospice and Palliative Care, and Treatment Facilities.

Q. Will I have a choice in my internship placement?

- Through the field application process students discuss areas of interest.
- The Field Office will secure internships that are a good fit for the student.
- Students will be referred to ONE agency for an interview.
- If a student declines an agency placement, the student may have to defer their internship to another semester.

Q. I work full time, will the Field Office find me a nights and weekend only internship?

- Students are discouraged from working full time and attempting to complete field education concurrently.
- Students are expected to make themselves available for an internship from 8 am-6pm Monday through Friday during normal business hours when clients receive standard services.
- There are no nights and weekend only internships available.
- Interns are required to have approved supervision during their internship hours. Therefore, even if an agency is a 24-hour facility, an approved supervisor must be present during your internship.
- Field practicum is a required course which involves a substantial amount of your time, working full time is not an excuse for missing any parts of the field education requirements

Q. Can I intern at my place of employment?

- MSW Advanced Year students may be considered for an internship at their place of employment. Other students are not eligible.
- Employer based practicum guidelines and applications are made available by the Field Office upon request.
- Request for employer based practicums are approved by the Field Committee twice a year, February and September.
- Request for consideration must be received and approved the semester prior to entering field education courses.
- Student must be employed for at least 12 months with their agency to qualify for an employer based practicum.

Q. When can I apply for field education

- Students will be contacted by the Field Office the semester before they are scheduled to enroll in field education courses.
- Students will be given access to apply for the field education and must complete all the application steps to be considered for a placement.

- Students must pass all required courses prior to entering field courses – final grades will be verified by the academic advisor. A failing grade in required coursework may postpone field education
- Students must enroll in an integrative field seminar course concurrently with a field practicum course (BSW 4374/4975, MSW-F 5410/5411, MSW-A 5378/5979,5379,5679)

Q. How many hours are required for Field Education?

- BSW students complete one block internship with 420 contact hours in a field practicum in one semester.
- MSW foundation students complete two internships, foundation field is 360 contact hours in a field practicum and advanced field is 540 contact hours in a different field practicum.
- MSW advanced track students complete one internship, advanced field, consisting of 540 contact hours.
- MSW students have the option to complete field education over two semesters as part time enrolled students or a block placement in one semester as full-time enrolled students.

Q. How far will I be required to travel for my internship?

- The Field Office will make every effort to reasonably accommodate students' geographic preferences.
- Students may be required to travel up to 60 miles for their internship placement.
- Travel time to a field practicum is not considered contact hours.

Q. Can I switch to another agency placement once I have started an internship?

- The Office of Field Education works diligently to secure an internship which is a good "fit" for each student entering field. The Director and Field Team will review each internship uniquely and determine if adjusting a student's internship is appropriate