

Employment-based Field Placement Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why should I consider an employment-based field placement?

- Students already have a relationship with the organization which typically allows for a streamlined field collaboration—no background checks or human resources process is required
- Less time commuting
- There are very few agency placements that have night and weekend availability
- The experience could enhance the student's reputation at work

1. Can I use my job as my field placement?

- a. Yes, traditionally, MSW students apply to have their job count as field, as long as they are supervised by an LMSW and their field activities are different than their work activities.
- b. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students can now petition to have their regular work duties count for field, as long as the student can demonstrate a link between employment activities and the nine social work competencies. Students do need to be supervised by an LMSW. More information can be found [here](#)

2. If I use my job as my field placement, how many hours per week can I complete?

- a. Students in employment-based field placements complete 15 field hours per week

3. How do I get started?

- a. Students considering an employment-based field placement should have a conversation with their work supervisor to explore the possibility. If it seems possible, students then complete the employment-based application in Sonia

4. I want to do an employment-based field placement, but my organization has not worked with UB before; how do I proceed?

- a. Once your employment-based application is reviewed and approved, we will reach out to your workplace to complete a formal affiliation agreement. A faculty liaison will be assigned to your placement, and they will provide a brief orientation to your field educator

5. Who do I contact if I have questions about employment-based field placements?

- a. Your placement coordinator or Michael Lynch (mrlynch2@buffalo.edu)