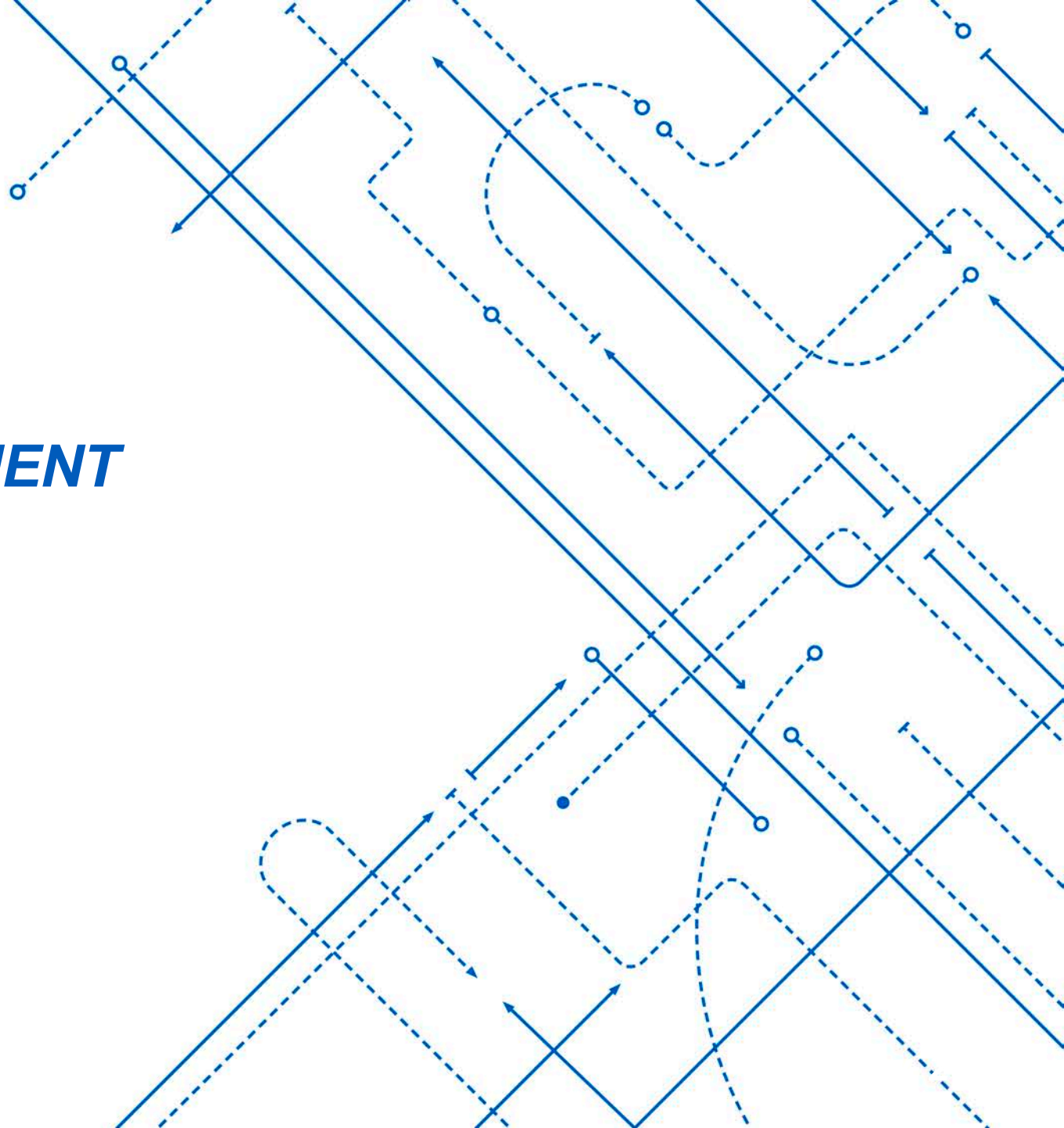




BE PREPARED: *KEY TO SUCCESS IN YOUR FOUNDATION FIELD PLACEMENT INTERVIEW*

*Michael Lynch; Katie McClain-Meeder
UB School of Social Work Field Faculty*

 University at Buffalo
School of Social Work



Key considerations

- Field is the signature pedagogy of social work education
- For many, this will be your first professional experience in social work
- Important to take the interview process as well as the placement itself seriously





Key considerations

- You will be placed in an agency that will offer you a generalist perspective of social work
- Foundation year students are expected to accept the field placement where they have been assigned
- Let us know the outcome of the interview within 24 hours




Setting up the interview

- You will receive an email from the SSW Field Department prompting you to make contact with the agency contact
- Be professional in your communication
- Think of this as a professional interview! Agencies DO notice how professional you are



In preparation for the interview

- Do your research!



Know a bit about the agency– the mission, the clients they serve

- Know where you are going. Many placements are located in the city and parking can be difficult. Students are encouraged to drive by the agency prior to the interview
- Dress professionally



During the interview: Key issues to address

- Your career interests, professional goals, and learning needs
- **Population Served**
- **Agency Mission, population served, and Learning Experience:**
 - typical examples of situations encountered in the field setting

Vision
Mission
& Values

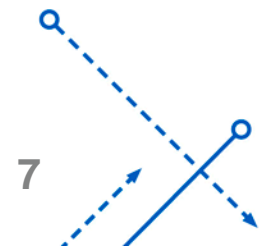




During the interview: Key issues to discuss

Requirement: At least 15 hours of Field/week

- **Student Hours and Schedule**
 - Agree upon a specific student field placement schedule (ie days and hours)
- **Dress Code**
- **Preferred Mode of Communication (e-mail, phone)**





During the interview: Additional Details

- Mandatory trainings/orientations required by agency:
- Screenings/References:
 - For example: OCFS background check, PPD, drug screenings
- Conflicts of Interest
- **Use of vehicles and any parking expenses**
- **Learning and Supervisory Styles:**





Ending the interview

- Establish a clear outcome
 - Does the agency agree to the student? Does the student agree to the agency? If not, establish a date to know the outcome of the interview. **Students are responsible to follow up. Clear communication between the student and the agency is very important.**
- Express appreciation
 - Follow-up email/ card

THANK YOU





Special Considerations

- **School Setting Placements**
- Please discuss the spring break of the school system versus that of UB. In order to get the minimum required hours, students often need to exchange the time off from UB with that of the school if they do not coincide.





Sample Interview Questions

- What can the agency/field educator provide in terms of learning opportunities?
- What can I expect in terms of supervision? What is the supervisory style of the field educator?
- What services does the agency provide? Find out as much as possible about the agency. Ask for brochures or any written material that might be available. Ask what activities or tasks will I be doing as a student?
- What has their previous experiences been like with students? What seems to have worked well in terms of students/field educators benefiting from the experience?
- What, if any, resources are available at the agency (i.e. computer availability, in-service training opportunities)?



After the interview: What do I do now?

- Fill out the survey monkey link letting us know the outcome of the interview. Placement will be confirmed once you and FE have confirmed
- Survey link will be in the email



GOOD LUCK!

**SOCIAL
WORKERS**



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