STRUCTURE OF FIELD, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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Underlying philosophy of Field Education

• Field education is where our profession socializes students to perform the role of practitioner.
• Field Education connects the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom to the practice setting.
• Students need to demonstrate competency in 9 key domains
• Field Educators and Task Supervisors support, teach, and guide

Structure of Field

• Field placements last 2 full semesters (whether foundation or advanced)
  • 2 semesters (usually Fall and Spring, some Spring - Summer)
  • 15 hours per week
    • Schedule should be consistent
    • A shift of more than 6 hours, you are required (by law) to take a 30 minute lunch break per day that does not count for field hours
Foundation Year: Generalist Experience

Focus is on a broad set of skills including assessment, planning, intervention.

Involves the use of a range of skills across diverse practice settings.

Exposure to a broad range of social problems.

Involves exposure to individuals, families, groups, communities, and/or organizations.

Exposure to a broad range of social problems.

Hours required of foundation year students: 420 Hours.

Advanced Year

Builds off of generalist placement and allows for a more focused experience.

Students are able to choose an agency at which to interview.

Exposure to a specific area of practice.

Students can choose macro, mezzo, micro focus.

Hours required of advanced year students: 480 Hours.

Structure of Field

- Field Calendar (provides dates for start/end of field, breaks, due dates)
- Field Manual (specific policies and expectations that guide placement for students)

http://socialwork.buffalo.edu/field-educators-liaisons/field-educator-resources/forms-resources.html
Roles: Who’s Who

- **Field Educator** - MSW supervisor provides minimum of one hour per week supervision.
- **Task Supervisor** – (only in some cases); non-MSW who provides day to day supervision
- **Faculty Liaison** – faculty from school to ensure placement is going well

Role of Field Educator (no task supervisor)

**Field Educator**

- Commitment to student learning
- Orientation, day-to-day support
- Supervision (1 hour/week minimum)
  - Ensuring student is completing learning contract activities, completing hours, etc.
  - Opportunities for reflective supervision, anchoring in ethics and core values of SW
- Evaluation

Role of Field Educator (with task supervisor)

**Field Educator**

- Commitment to student learning
- 1-hr week of supervision
- Evaluation (in collaboration w/ the Task Supervisor)

**Task Supervisor**

- Commitment to student learning
- Day-to-day support
- Input into evaluation

Consistent communication between Field Educator and Task Supervisor (and student) is important
Role of Faculty Liaison

- Will check-in at minimum once a semester – meeting with you and student (more if needed)
- Your “go-to” for any questions, concerns, or problems
- Support to student and to Field Educator/ agency
- Paid by school to support the placement and be a support to the student and field educator

Role of the student

- Commitment to field placement (not just putting in the hours)
- Consistency and professionalism
- Making good use of time
- Working on learning contract activities
- Consistent progress in all 9 competencies; demonstrating skill development

Role of the student (the details)

- Time and attendance
  - 15 consistent hours/week
  - Timesheets (Taskstream)
- Preparing for supervision
  - Supervision Record Form (Taskstream and/or Portal)
- Evaluations: Learning Contract, Reflection
Questions about Field structure, roles, or responsibilities?

• Contact your faculty liaison
• Feel free to contact the Field department at:
  sw-field@buffalo.edu