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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



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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

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Foundation Year: Generalist Experience

Exposure to a broad range of social problems

Focus is on broad set of skill development: assessment, planning, intervention

Introduces students to basic concepts of social work practice: promoting human wellbeing

Allows exposure to individuals, families, groups, communities, and/or organizations

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

Hours required of foundation year students:
420 Hours

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Advanced Year

Builds off of generalist placement and allows student a more focused experience

Student is able to choose specific agency at which to interview

Allows students to develop specific skills (based on interests)

Exposure to a specific area of practice

Students can choose macro, mezzo, micro focus

Hours required of advanced year students:
480 Hours

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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>

Information for Field Educators & Liaisons

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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




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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



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Roles when there IS a 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



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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



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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



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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