

# ASBURY UNIVERSITY

## **Assumption of Risk for Field Experiences During COVID-19**

(practicum, supervised practice, internships, or observations, and the like)

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Field experiences (practicum, internships, or observations, and the like) are a required component of select academic programs at Asbury University. Field experiences occur in hospitals, clinics, schools, community organizations, and other appropriate settings where students can interact with patients, clients, and K12 populations. Students may have the opportunity to be placed in a different setting, but alternative site options are not always available and changes may delay the completion of a student's degree.

Sites selected for students' field experiences are required to take reasonable and appropriate measures to protect students' health and safety in the field experiences. In addition, faculty may develop course specific policies and procedures relating to student safety and prevention of exposure to disease. Finally, each site will have their own infection control procedures. Students will be expected to follow both the university requirements and individual site requirements to decrease their risk of illness and/or injury while in the field setting. These expectations will be in place for the duration of the pandemic.

Students have the responsibility to report any infectious disease exposures (either from the field setting or from the general community setting) to their Asbury University supervisor. However, even with such measures, there are risks inherent to field experiences.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19**

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, is a highly contagious disease that causes symptoms that can range from mild (or no) symptoms to severe illness. While no students will be assigned to sites who are known to have COVID-19, there is still the potential for exposure from persons who are unaware that they are infectious, including other students. COVID-19 can cause severe and lasting health complications, including death.

Everyone is at risk of COVID-19. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Although anyone who contracts COVID-19 may experience severe complications, the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) has found that individuals with certain underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19. These medical conditions include: chronic lung disease, asthma, conditions that cause a person to be immunocompromised, obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease. COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily by coming into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 and may also spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes. Participating in field experiences, even when wearing recommended PPE, may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

My signature below indicates my understanding of all of the above as well as my intent to voluntarily continue in my degree program with participation in field experiences as required.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Student (print name)

**If you do not agree to all of the above:**

My signature below indicates my intent not to continue my participation in field experiences at this time. I understand that I may rescind this decision at a later date by completing this form again.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Student (print name)