

# What is Social Work Field Education Practicum?



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# Connecting Ideas to Practice with Ethical Service

- The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the accrediting body over all social work education programs
- CSWE mandates that all accredited social work programs include field education in an agency setting

***“The intent of field education is to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting.”***

(CSWE, 2015)



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# Field Education Is:

- Practicum or Internship Experience
- Where students turn theory into practice
- An opportunity to integrate knowledge, skills, values and practice of social work
- Experiential learning under the supervision of a professional social worker



# Field Education

- Reinforces academic studies with professional experience
- Increases students' professional self-awareness
- Involves hands-on practice, not just observing or shadowing



# The Basics

- Practicum I and II require business hours spent in a social service agency
- Practicum I for 5 credits and Practicum II for 8 credits are each full semester (16 week) placements
- Practicum I requires two days a week, 14 hours per week, total of 200 hours in the agency setting
- Practicum II requires three days a week, 22 hours per week, total of 320 hours in the agency setting



# More Basics

- Practicum I and II may be completed at the same social service agency
- It is recommended to enroll in Practicum I and II in the last two semesters of an academic program
- Online synchronous sessions with other practicum students will take place on Monday evenings
- Practicum placement is student driven by students securing a local agency placement and field instructor (social work supervisor)





# Important Criteria

- Agency Field Instructor must have a degree in Social Work specifically - either a MSW or a BSW from an accredited program with two years of professional experience
- Agency Field Instructor must commit to one hour of weekly supervision and ongoing supervision and evaluation for the student



# All Students Need

- High speed internet, web camera, speakers, and a microphone for class seminar sessions and conferences
- Reliable transportation to agency setting
- Professional clothing
- Time available for weekly agency hours (14 hours/22 hours)
- Desire to engage in social work practice and learn through experience





# Field Practicum Semesters

- One full semester in Field Practicum Preparation
- Then one full semester in Practicum I
- Then one full semester in Practicum II



# For Questions

Prof. Sarah Bellew  
Director of Field Education  
[sarah.bellew@asbury.edu](mailto:sarah.bellew@asbury.edu)

