

BASW PROGRAM: FIELD EDUCATION

Field education is required of all social work seniors. Through field education, the student has the opportunity to develop and enhance professional knowledge and skills by practicing classroom content and theoretical concepts under the supervision of a field instructor. Students learn and practice foundational social work skills in a real world setting while adhering to the competencies outlined by CSWE.

The School partners with a wide variety of agencies in the greater Lansing area to enhance student learning. A car is not required, although access to a car on field instruction days is helpful. Field education experiences can also be arranged outside the Lansing area for students who prefer another location. Opportunities exist for practice experience with diverse populations, age groups, and problem areas in both public and private agencies. Students have an opportunity

to outline their areas of interest when completing their field application.

Field education supervision is provided by an experienced practitioner who serves as the field instructor. Students receive five academic credits per semester in Social Work 494A and 494B. Students are at their placement site 16 hours per week, usually on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, although other combinations of days are possible. An additional hour is required each week in an integrative field instruction seminar as part of the SW 494 sequence.

Students are required to apply for field placement in the Fall of their junior year. Selection of a field education site for a student is based on faculty judgment of the student's educational needs and interests and the availability of placements.

We asked BASW student Lauren...

How has field education benefited you?

The biggest benefit field gave me is confidence. I now know I can put the things I have learned in the classroom into real life situations and do it well. Field has prepared me and given me confidence to graduate in the spring and begin my career as a social worker.

What advice would you give a new person entering a field placement?

Be open minded, curious, and ask a lot of questions. Use your time at your placement to push yourself further than you thought you could go. It is when you dive right into the situations where you feel the most uncomfortable where you come out learning the most.

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