

Frequent Asked Question

What is the purpose of field education?

Field education is an integral part of both the School of Social Work BSW and MSW curricula. While classroom learning focuses on discrete knowledge and theoretical background, the field curriculum exposes students to a wide range of problems and possibilities. It teaches students to assess these situations and to develop, implement, and evaluate social interventions for actual persons, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

What is the purpose of field seminar class and why do I need to take it?

BSW: Senior Seminar is closely linked to Social Work Field Practicum. The purpose of this course is to facilitate and encourage students' development as entry-level practitioners through the integration of social work theory, practice, and values.

Can I work with my practicum agency more hours in some weeks and less hours in other weeks to fit within my study or work schedule(s)?

The number of hours established for the field practicum hours are set to maintain the integrity of the field practicum experience and to ensure appropriate supervision of the students. Students and agencies should work within the suggested hours as much as possible. Occasionally, there are situations when an agency may have a special program or campaign that requires the student to participate during weekend or evening hours. These hours should be incorporated into the total required weekly hours during the given semester.

I work 5-6 days a week during daytime hours, can I do my placement in the evenings and on weekends?

The goal of the field experience is for the students to gain a full day of training with appropriate supervision as designated by the *Field Manual*. While there will be occasions where students will be asked to assist with projects at their field practicum agency that occur in 2-4 hour blocks of time on weekends or during the evening, the majority of the field work should occur in 6-8 hour time periods during a regular business day. This helps the student balance academic goals as well as the goals of the field practicum.

What is the learning agreement?

As part of Field Practicum students are expected to work collaboratively with their Agency Field Instructor to develop a competency based, behaviorally specific, learning agreement based on their level in the social work program (BSW, MSW Foundation, MSW Direct). The learning agreement promotes adult learning and is the blueprint for integration of social work values, knowledge, and skills into professional practice.

Do I need a criminal background check and drug test

A criminal background check and/or drug test may be required for your placement. The link to order your background and drug test is: www.castlebranch.com

What are the steps for securing a field practicum placement?

Students are expected to follow the field placement process detailed on **Page 61 of the Field Manual** to secure a field placement. Students do *not* develop their own placements. All field placements must be approved by the Director of Field Education to ensure they meet the requirements of the program.

What is the purpose of the placement interview?

The placement interview gives the student and the Agency Field Instructor an opportunity to get acquainted and to explore mutual expectations about the placement. The goal of this interview is to determine if the match of student/agency/field instructor is appropriate. Students should treat this interview as a professional meeting.

How do I prepare for the agency interview?

It is important to put your best self forward when interviewing with agencies. You are encouraged to utilize resources available through the Boise State University Career Services and to solicit feedback on your resume or interviewing skills from social work faculty.

The tips below may also be helpful:

1. Demonstrate professional behavior:
2. Communicate respectfully via e-mail and/or phone. Return calls if messages are left for you and respond to e-mails you receive from agency personnel.
3. Dress professionally for your interview.
4. Take a resume with you to your interview. Resumes should include relevant professional and volunteer experience. You may also want to include information about relevant coursework you have completed to date, as well as professional references.
5. Prepare questions: Take time to consider what you would like to ask agency personnel in order to get an understanding of what field work in their agency might be like.

Can placements be completed in my place of employment?

Field Practicum Placement in an agency where a student is employed may be proposed by BSW or MSW students. Evaluation and approval of the proposal, to use the agency where the student is employed for a field practicum placement, is the responsibility of the Boise State University School of Social Work.

What if I'm having a problem in my agency?

Occasionally it is necessary to terminate placements due to Agency Field Instructor or student factors. Termination requires as much planning as placement. The student and Agency Field Instructor should thoroughly discuss the need to terminate in consultation with the Faculty Field Liaison and, when appropriate, the Director of Field Education.

Do students need professional liability insurance?

All social work practicum and internship students are covered by Grambling State University