

Frequently Asked Questions for the field experience in the BSW Social Work Program

Q: What are the requirements of the senior year SCWK 498 internship?

A: It is a professional level internship that spans the first and second semesters of the senior year. The expectation is for 16 hours per week, Monday-Friday, usual work hours.

Q: Is there an orientation for the process of internship?

A: Yes, there is a required orientation that will be planned and announced before the process begins.

Q: Is it necessary to have a BSW to apply for an MSW program?

A: No. The BSW degree may allow you to apply for an advanced standing MSW. Most MSW students do not have a BSW prior.

Q: Should I look for my own internship?

A: You identify your own service learning opportunity in SCWK 338, but must go through the field office for an internship in your senior year. Agencies must have a contract with the School and be assessed in advance as a learning/internship site. You will be informed of your field staff person early in the process.

Q: I would like to take advantage of international study tours. Can I do that while in an internship?

A: The internship is primary. It makes sense to consider travel during the summers and non-internship years.

Q: Can I have an internship if I don't have a car?

A: There are very few internships for which a car is not needed. The options become extremely limited in a region with limited public transportation and an expectation to travel within communities.

Q: Can I interview at multiple sites?

A: The policy is to carefully plan one interview at a site mutually determined with your field staff person. There are thousands of social work students at the BSW and MSW level in our general area, and it is necessary to limit multiple site interviewing to allow for smooth decision making and respect for agency time.

Q: I am in an internship and feel overwhelmed by what I am experiencing?

A: It is common for students to encounter human suffering beyond what they had imagined. You are strongly encouraged to talk with your seminar classmates, instructor and/or advisor. The BSU Counseling Center is a good resource in such situations.

Q: Can I finish the internship early, and accept an offer of employment?

A: It is a great outcome when an internship leads to employment. However, the internship must be completed at the stated date before employment in the same role or department can begin.