

MSW Fieldwork Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know when field applications, orientations and meetings are held?

All specific information regarding deadlines, orientations, and interviewing schedules are communicated via the students' BSU email. Check it often and regularly.

2. How many hours are spent in field placement?

Generalist year students spend a minimum of 16 hours per week in placement. Students are required to complete a minimum of 464 placement hours in their generalist year. It is not unusual for students to complete more placement hours than the minimum required.

Specialized year students spend a minimum of 20 hours per week in placement. Students are required to complete a minimum of 600 placement hours in the specialized year. It is not unusual for students to complete more placement hours than the minimum required. Some placement agencies, such as hospitals, require a minimum of 24 hours per week. It is important that the student understands and commits to this additional requirement prior to interviewing.

3. Can I complete an internship that is evenings and weekends?

It is expected that all students are prepared to complete field hours during weekday daytime hours. This range is typically Monday-Friday, 8-6 pm, depending on agency internship hours. Some agencies may require a combination of evening and weekday

daytime hours, this will be determined by the agency you are placed with to complete your internship.

4. Can I interview at several agencies before selecting my placement?

The field education staff will work with you to arrange an interview at an agency that meets your learning needs. If that interview goes well and both you and the field supervisor think it is a good fit, the placement will be confirmed. If either party has reservations, another interview will be arranged at a different agency. It is not possible to interview at multiple agencies concurrently given the demands of supervisor's time and the importance of securing a placement within a reasonable amount of time.

5. Should I reach out to agencies and attempt to identify my own internship site?

Do not reach out to agencies that you think may be possible placement sites for you. DO share that information with the Field Director or other field staff.

6. What types of agencies might be possible field placement sites?

There are typically field placements available in agencies that specialize in youth and families, child welfare, schools, health and mental health, aging, criminal justice, LGBTQ, behavioral health, and settings that support persons with substance use disorders. Within these areas, there are government agencies, private organizations, and community-based centers that provide a vast range of training opportunities. The agencies in partnership with the school may change from year to year, but there are always ample agencies involved in training BSU social work students.

7. What if I am only interested in one type of placement?

Since social work is a broad field with many opportunities, you are urged to keep an open mind about the competencies you will need to start your career and the challenges that might serve to strengthen your abilities. Every field placement is designed to help you develop the skills and confidence you will need to specialize in as you continue to grow in the field. This will be discussed in your placement interview.

8. Can I modify my field placement schedule?

The field internship is designed to be completed according to the schedule provided, commencing in September, and ending in May with approximately three weeks of vacation, (two weeks during the University's Winter Break and one week for Spring Break).