

# Distance Education MSW Foundation Field Orientation Spring 2021 Cohort

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*Director of Field Instruction*

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*Sabin Hall 241*

**"Choose a job you love and you  
will never have to work a day in  
your life."**

**- Confucius**

# Mission of Social Work Program

Provide students with a foundation in **trauma-informed care** that prepares them to **identify, evaluate, and address** the personal, social, and systemic conditions that perpetuate **individual, family, organizational and community-based** trauma using evidence-informed interventions.

# When do you do Foundation Field?

- Start: August 2021 (also take *SW Practice II*)
- Finish: May 2022 (also take *Self-Care and Stress Management in Helping Professions*)
- 400-hour minimum requirement (12-13 hours/week)

# Cleared for Field

1. Attend field orientation session

*Email Jenny Release/Acknowledgement form*

2. Resume reviewed by Graduate College

*By April 16, 2021, email word document of resume to Susie Schwieger at [susan.schwieger@uni.edu](mailto:susan.schwieger@uni.edu) (Subject of Email: MSW Foundation DE Resume - Name)*

3. Consultation with Field Director, as needed

4. Good academic standing (B average; No more than 6 credits with a C; No incompletes)

5. Site secured by August 1, 2021

# Field Experience Search

- [www.uni.edu/csbs/socialwork](http://www.uni.edu/csbs/socialwork) under Field Instruction
  - Cedar Valley
  - State of Iowa
  - Out of State
- Intern Placement Tracking System (IPT)

# Where to intern?

- What populations do you want to work with?
- What issues/causes motivate you?
- What do you want, expect, and feel you need in your field experience?
- What area are you limited to?

# **Professional Qualities Agencies are Looking for...**

- Open to the experience
- Accept your role as a learner - ask ?'s, accept feedback
- Reliable - follow your schedule, be on time, submit paperwork on time, keep appointments
- Private life is separate from intern life
- Develop Professional Use of Self - create and maintain positive work-related habits



# Potential Issues During Field

**Unrealistic Expectations**

**Inability to Embrace Uncertainties**

**Unrecognized Anxiety**

**False Assumptions**

**Refusal to Ask for Help**

**Over-Scheduled**

**Overwhelmed or underwhelmed**

**Triggers**

**Help from Unhelpful Sources**

**Conflicting Personal and Professional Values**

Sources: Barlow & Hall (2007); Gelman (2004); Gelman & Lloyd (2008); Gelman (2009); Glassman (2016); Hemy, Boddy, Chee, & Sauvage (2016); Hughes (2011); Pierce(2016); Zeff, Kaersvang, & Raskin (2016).

# Process for Resolving Internship Conflicts

## **Student Issues with Field Placement**

Step 1: Student consults with Agency Instructor/Supervisor

Step 2: Student consults with Faculty Liaison

Step 3: Faculty Liaison consults with Field Director

## **Student Issues with Faculty Liaison**

Step 1: Student consults with Faculty Liaison

Step 2: Student consults with Social Work Department Head

## **Agency Issues with Student**

Step 1: Agency Instructor/Supervisor consults with Student

Step 2: Agency Instructor/Supervisor consults with Faculty Liaison

Step 3: Faculty Liaison consults with Field Director

# Public Social Networks

According to a 2018 CareerBuilder survey, 70% of employers use social media to screen candidates during the hiring process, and about 43% of employers use social media to check on current employees.

Source: [www.businessnewsdaily.com](http://www.businessnewsdaily.com)

Facebook-Twitter-LinkedIn-Google+-Instagram

# Requirements During Field

## FOR CREDIT

- **Learning Plan** - Developed during the first three weeks of the placement
- **Field Evaluations** - Agency supervisor will complete both rating scale and narrative evaluation at midterm and final term of the field practicum
- **Field Program Evaluation** - Administered by field office
- **Log of Hours** - Signed and submit at the end of experience

## GRADED

- **Summaries of Learning:** Submitted throughout semester to the agency supervisor & faculty liaison
- **Seminars** - Attendance and participation in seminars for a minimum of 12 contact hours over the entire field experience (monthly)
- **Agency Presentation for Seminar** - Presentation about your field practicum

# Placement Policies

- Internship at place of employment BUT different intern experiences & different supervisor
- Typically unpaid but can receive a stipend
- The field program does not grant social work course credit or field hours for life experience or previous social work related experience. The field hours can only be completed through the field instruction course. (*Accreditation Standard 3.1.5*)
- Handout: Hospital/Health care settings

# CSWE Allowances due to COVID-19 (through May 2022)

- 400 hours can adjust to 340 for COVID-related issues.
- Can engage in remote field experiences.
- Social Work employment can count as field hours but must be approved by Jenny Becker
  - CANNOT count 3rd shift hours (11 p.m.-7:00 a.m.)
  - Need MSW degree'd staff person to supervise the internship that is NOT your employment supervisor.
  - May need supplement work hours to obtain required field hours

# Timelines and Deadlines

- Today, sign release form and email to Jenny
- By April 16, 2021- resume emailed to Susie Schwieger at UNI Graduate College
- By August 1, 2021 - Site secured; Resume & Contract emailed to Jenny Becker
- August 2021 - start internship
- By Dec 2021 - midterm evaluation
- By May 2022 - final evaluation

# Looking Ahead to MSW Specialization Field Experience

- Fall 2023-Spring 2024 (no other classes)
- 500 Hours
- 15-16 hours/week
- Credit/No Credit for field
- Seminar is graded
- School Social Work Endorsement Pathway  
(SPED electives, AEA internship)



# Lessons Learned

- Practice interview skills (UNI Career Services & Graduate College)
- Apply early and cast a wide net
- Actively update resume throughout field experience
- Look for opportunities to network during internship
- Pick a site where you are passionate about the client base

# Questions

Jenny Becker, LISW

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