

Health Across the Lifespan

Advanced Field Placement Learning Opportunities

The Health Across the Lifespan (HAL) advanced concentration takes a life span approach to preparing MSW students for practice in health related settings. It supports students to develop clinical skills for working with individuals, families and groups, as well as advocacy skills to address the social determinants of health. Woven throughout the concentration is attention to self reflection, critical thinking, and examination of the dynamics of power and privilege.

- Fall term focuses on engagement and assessment, with special attention to theories and models of healthcare practice, implicit bias, ethics, teamwork, social determinants of health, medical case management, as well as medical terminology and documentation
- Winter term focuses on assessment and intervention with special attention to older adults and families, including spirituality, integrated medicine, advance care planning, substance abuse, motivational interviewing, sexual health
- Spring term focuses on assessment, intervention and evaluation with special attention to child and adolescent healthcare including health disparities, maternal health, LGBTQ youth, and group work

Classroom experiences include regular role plays addressing individual, family, and group clinical issues, as well as research and presentation skills for conveying knowledge to individuals and families, as well as other health care providers.

Types of Field Placement Settings:

Field placements will provide MSW students with a range of learning opportunities, including clinical practice with individuals, families and groups. Practice will typically focus on brief, short term (1-5 meetings) interventions and include participation on interdisciplinary teams. These settings include but are not limited to:

- Hospital - inpatient, outpatient, ER
- Pediatric clinics
- Pain clinics
- Primary care clinics
- Community health clinics
- Behavioral health settings
- Adult day health
- Hospice and palliative care
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Shelter services
- Oncology services
- Older adult assisted living

Examples of Possible Internship Activities that Support Student Learning:

- **Assessment:** Conduct biopsychosocial assessments independently, utilizing rapid assessment tools as appropriate (PHQ-9, SBIRT, SLUMS)
- **Intervention:** Develop skills in brief interventions and referral to treatment

- **Education:** Enhance health literacy and health promotion through psychosocial education on disease and treatment options within medical settings
- **Care coordination:** Participate in plan of care conferences with patient/family and interdisciplinary team, monitor, evaluate and document patient progress according to individualized plan of care
- **Insurance/Billing:** Gain exposure to Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance coverage of treatment and other related needs, including utilization review, claims, and documentation requirements in various treatment settings
- **Groups:** Assist, co-lead and eventually lead the facilitation of treatment and support groups (ie; chronic pain management, grief and loss, nutrition)
- **End of life care:** Facilitate end of life, advanced directive and/or palliative care conversations with patients/families
- **Cultural responsiveness:** Build knowledge of cultural influences, formulations, and implications on health decision making, including the effective use of interpreters, peer/familial support, and spiritual advisors