Off-Site Field Instructor and On-Site Task Supervisor Arrangement

There are some placement settings that can provide solid educational internship experiences for students even though they do not employ social workers with the requisite degree and post-degree experience. The field team works with a small number of such organizations to arrange off-site supervision from a qualified social work field instructor and to designate an onsite task supervisor who works in the program and can provide oversight for the student on a daily basis.

It is preferred to have an offsite social work field instructor who has an affiliation with the organization and/or knowledge of the program and population served (e.g., staff member in another department, board member, consultant, etc.). The offsite social work field instructor is responsible for directing the student’s overall learning experience and for guiding the task supervisor’s activities with the student. An offsite field instructor has the same responsibilities as every other field instructor to provide at least one hour of direct supervision a week, help develop the Field Educational Plan, complete the student’s Field Evaluation at the end of each term, and participate in site visits with student and faculty advisor/liaison and the task supervisor.

The success of these special placements depends on the abilities of the offsite field instructor and task supervisor to clarify expectations concerning their roles, responsibilities, and relationship to each other, the School of Social Work, and the student. It requires regular ongoing communication and coordination between the field instructor and task supervisor. It is expected that the student, field instructor and task supervisor will meet together at least two times per term, and more if necessary.