UPDATE for Students, Field Partners, and Faculty: 2019-20
Field Education Hours and Requirements

To: 2019-20 Field Students, Field Instructors & Task Supervisors, and Faculty

PLEASE READ THIS IN ITS ENTIRETY. This is a long, detailed, and informative email.

This morning, March 25, 2020, CSWE released the following statement in which they reduced their accreditation standards to the current minimum:

“Reduction in field hours. Under AS 2.2.5, field education programs provide a minimum of 400 hours of field education for baccalaureate programs and a minimum of 900 hours for master’s programs. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, students who have completed 85% of the required placement hours (i.e., 340 hours for baccalaureate programs and 765 hours for master’s programs) to a satisfactory level may, at program discretion, be evaluated as having met the field placement requirements. This option for reduced hours is for students whose field completion dates occur by December 31, 2020. Students whose field placement completion dates occur after December 31, 2020 will be expected to complete the full 400 or 900 hours in compliance with AS 2.2.5. Remote field activity, as well as field supervision and field seminar hours, may be counted toward the accrual of field hours.”

The PSU SSW currently requires all graduating MSW students to complete a total of 1000 field hours and all graduating BSW students to complete a total of 500 field hours. Each accredited school of social work has the ethical responsibility to identify their own standards and requirements, as long as they meet the minimum CSWE requirements. For this year, in response to the current epidemic, our School has decided to accept the new minimum standards established by CSWE. We will also be removing all field fees associated with SW 400, SW 511 and SW 512 for Spring term.

While we know for some students and agencies this will be a huge relief given all that you are currently navigating in your personal and professional lives, we also know for others there is likely to be a sense of loss in terms of education and training based on what you were looking forward to in the final term. We anticipate that there will be a range of feelings about our decision due to the impact on the most vulnerable members of our communities that our
agencies are serving. Please know we are trying to be as responsive as possible to the varied needs of all our Social Work Agency partners and the safety and well-being of all.

Below please find information for all current BSW and MSW field students.

**Graduating BSW students will need to:**

- Successfully fulfill a minimum of 340 hours of Generalist field education, including remote activities, except as noted below for those admitted to Advanced Standing MSW programs.
- Complete Winter term evaluation, which rates all competencies holistically at or above “basic competence.” If you are low on hours or not meeting basic competency in all areas, please see information below.
- Register for Spring SW 400.
- Continue to participate in weekly Spring term field seminars and complete all assignments. These seminar hours will count toward your total field hours.
- Develop and implement a plan for ethical and professional closure with your agency, within the realm of what is doable and can be completed remotely. Work with your liaison (and field instructor if they are available) to figure out what is reasonable.
- List Internship Termination Plan activities on your Field Education Plan under Competency #9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Use the attached Template as your guide for what to include in your plan/activities.

**Graduating BSW students admitted to an Advanced Standing MSW Program**

- In addition to the above requirements, plan to complete a minimum of 400 hours. Completing the remote minimum hours will be combined with your Advanced MSW field placement to meet the minimum requirement of 900 hours. If CSWE determines that another reduction is warranted for students graduating after December 31, 2020, we will update you about our expectations.

**Generalist (first year field) MSW students, set to graduate in June 2021 or later, need to:**

- Successfully fulfill a minimum of 400 hours of Generalist field education, including remote activities.
- Complete Winter term evaluation which rates all competencies holistically at or above “basic competence.” If you are low on hours or not meeting basic competency in all areas, please see information below.
- Register for Spring SW 511.
- Continue to participate in weekly Spring term field seminars and complete all assignments. These seminar hours will count toward your total field hours.
● Develop and implement a plan for ethical and professional closure with your agency, within the realm of what is doable and can be completed remotely. Work with your liaison (and field instructor if they are available) to figure out what is reasonable.

● List Internship Termination Plan activities on your Field Education Plan under Competency #9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Use this template as your guide for what to include in your plan/activities).

● Upon completion of the Internship Termination Plan activities, you will need a minimum of 400 hours, including your remote learning activities. These hours will be combined with your future Advanced year field placement which will have the requirement of 500 hours in order to achieve the CSWE minimum of 900 hours. If CSWE determines that another reduction is warranted for students graduating after December 31, 2020, we will update you about our expectations.

2020 Graduating MSW students need to:

● Successfully fulfill a total minimum of 765 hours of field education. If you completed 500 hours in your first year of field this means you only need to complete 265 hours.

● Complete Winter term evaluation which rates all competencies holistically at or above “basic competence.” If you are low on hours or not meeting basic competency in all areas, please see information below.

● Register for Spring SW 512.

● Develop an individualized learning activity to be completed during Spring term and presented to your faculty liaison in a final 1:1 meeting. More information about options for this learning activity will be forthcoming at the beginning of Spring term.

● Develop and implement a plan for ethical and professional closure with your agency, within the realm of what is doable and can be completed remotely. Work with your liaison (and field instructor if they are available) to figure out what is reasonable.

● List Internship Termination Plan activities on your Field Education Plan under Competency #9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Use this template as your guide for what to include in your plan/activities.

For students who are below the required hours for Winter term, or not yet demonstrating adequate competency in all areas:

● We will work with each of you individually to develop a path forward that supports you to develop basic competency and readiness for the next level.

● Planning to support competency and readiness will begin Spring term. It is imperative to understand that it may take some time to finalize so please be patient with us and yourselves.
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