

Employment-Based Social Work Placement

New Council on Social Work Education accreditation policies allow students completing field placement in their workplace to count work hours towards field requirements if:

- Assignments and activities fulfill learning objectives
- Assignments and activities are linked to the appropriate level of social work practice
- Trained social worker who meets the qualifications for field education supervision*
- Supervision process for field education is distinct from employee evaluation process
- The student and agency field instructor remain employed at the agency during the time of the field placement

Benefits of Employer-Based Placements



Employees can pursue BSSW or MSSW degree while working



Employees can count work hours towards field expectations



Employee morale improves with employer investment



Employee retention should also increase



Employer benefits from better trained staff



CEU Opportunities for Field Instructors

** External social work supervision may be possible if the agency does not have a social worker on staff who is able to provide supervision.*

UTK College of Social Work

Employment-Based Field Placement Expectations

1. Signed Agency Affiliation agreement with UTK (Memorandum of Agreement)
2. Identification of a qualified social worker at the agency who will oversee student's learning, provide weekly supervision, sign off on learning plans, evaluations and timesheets
3. Employment-based field plan:
 - Outline learning activities/tasks to meet required learning competencies for field
 - Develop plan for tracking field hours
 - Clarify supervision plan, delineating student learning assessment versus employer's professional evaluation
 - Acknowledge risks involved with an employment-based placement
4. Identification of the types of activities should students be doing in their field placement:

Examples for Generalist or BSSW students (400 hours)

- Intake/assessment
- Client engagement/empathic listening skills
- Resource linkage/case management
- Basics of research, evaluation, policy analysis and advocacy

Examples for Clinical Practice Concentration students (600 hours)

- Advanced client assessment
- Implementation of clinical interventions (individual/group counseling)
- Evaluation of clinical practice
- Research best practices related to client interventions
- Understanding policy analysis /advocacy as a clinical social worker

Examples for Organizational Leadership Concentration students (600 hours)

- Community/agency assessments
- Facilitation of meetings/task groups
- Fund development, including grant writing
- Program development and evaluation
- Advanced policy analysis/advocacy

Want More Information?

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