

Field Education

The WVU School of Social Work develops leaders in solving the most demanding social issues of our day through rigorous research, academic innovation and public service.

Field instruction is an integral part of the total curriculum and the signature pedagogy of Social Work. Field experiences provide students with the opportunity to apply the concepts and theories learned in the classroom to real practice situations, thus incorporating the knowledge, values, and skills that they have studied into their work with actual clients, communities, and systems.

Field Education Experiences: Placement Types & Details

<p>BSW: Students complete their placement utilizing a block placement model for 14-15 weeks in their final spring semester, students are in their agency 3-4 days a week for 28-30 hours, plus weekly seminar attendance. 400 required hours.</p>	<p>MSW Generalist: Fulltime: Placement occurs across Fall and Spring semesters, typically beginning in October, students are in agencies 12-16 hours per week and attend professional seminars. 300 required hours. Part-Time: Placement occurs across Summer and fall semesters, typically beginning late June, students are in agencies 12-16 hours per week and attend professional seminars. 300 required hours.</p>	<p>MSW Specialized: Fulltime: Placement begins in August and continues across fall and spring semester, ending in late April. Students are in agencies 16-20 hours per week and attend professional seminars. 600 required hours. Part-time: Placement begins in August and continues across fall, spring, and summer semesters, ending by July. Students are in agencies 14-16 hours per week and attend professional seminars. 600 required hours.</p>
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How does the agency benefit from having a student?



- Partnerships create relationships with motivated students that can assist with program activities, as well as explore, research, and develop agency “wish list” items, such as outcome evaluations, outreach, and new community resources.
- Agencies experience increased organizational capacity, enhanced quality in services, and a pipeline for new employees with existing agency training.
- Everyone gains exposure to new ideas, perspective, and renewed energy!

What does an agency need to provide to a student?

- A safe, ethical, and professional learning environment where students can engage in a variety of social work roles and practices, such as brokering, advocacy, service coordination, counseling, education, and mobilization.
- Trained and credentialed staff to provide quality supervision and appropriate social work learning activities and experiences.
- Time allowance for Field Instructors and/or Site Supervisors to attend field instructor orientation training and field education refresher sessions.



If you or your agency is interested in supporting student learning by becoming a new Placement Agency or Field Instructor, please visit us at socialwork.wvu.edu/students/field-education and/or email lindsey.rinehart@mail.wvu.edu. For more details, see our [Field Instructor FAQs](#).