

Surviving COVID-19 Disruptions in Field Education

Jeni Gamble, PhD, MSSW

Field Education Director and
Clinical Assistant Professor

To Our Students...We're disappointed too



Had to Happen

- 3/16: Suspended all on-site field education activities and restricted students from physically engaging at field placements locations.
- 3/23-3/27: Transition week for faculty and students to prepare for remote/online
- 3/30: Shift to online course delivery for all in-person classes.

What will be different? Same?

Changes

- Create Remote Field Activities Plan email & strike items from Learning Contract
- BSW reduced to 400 required hours
- Students may conclude field when required hours are met; no date requirement
- Faculty Field Liaisons may assist with Final Field Assessment

Stays the Same

- Participate in field seminars and capstone sessions
- Complete Time Reports and Final Time Summary Report upon field hour completion
- Submit Self-evaluation @ Final Assessment

So What Happens Now?

- 1) Strike items from previous Learning Contract that aren't applicable any longer. Send copy to FFL & FI with remote plan (see #5).
- 2) Consider the time you have remaining in placement and the types of work and projects that are most feasible for you.
- 3) Examine your remote working environment and situation for strengths and weaknesses.
- 4) Explore ways that you can work toward your priority competencies using *COVID-19 Guidance Packet (see document)*.
- 5) Develop Remote Field Activities Plan email – Using main activity areas, write brief description of activity, estimate time involved and connected competency; send as email.

COVID-19 Guidance Packet

- 35 free online training modules
 - Crisis-response activities
 - Remote learning activities by SW Competencies
 - Agency-connected learning activities
 - RFAP – activity, competency connection & estimated duration
 - Establish a free Zoom account (compliments of WVU :)
- *Book List – separate doc**

Be Realistic in Planning

- ***Get Creative - What's your life going to be like over the next 4-6 weeks?***
 - Big Reader - Read fiction/non-fiction books relevant to social work and write a reflection on its application to social work practice (estimate time)
 - Children at home? – Watch movies and documentaries with social work relevance and write a reflection or critical incident about it (3-4 hours?)
 - MSW Research – Work on literature reviews/analysis for SOWK 616 - Evaluation Research in Social Work (How much time will you need?)
 - BSW Capstone - Competency Thesis and Professional Presentation research and development (How much time will you need?)
- **Include agency meetings, discussions and projects – use Zoom 😊**
- **Include weekly/biweekly/group supervision sessions – use Zoom 😊**
- **Include seminar/capstone participation time, and time developing/delivering self-evaluation and field documentation**

Remote Learning Activity Plan Email

Agency Work

- Projects
- Meetings & calls
- Client interactions
- Supervision

Enrichment

- Online Trainings
- New content (reading, watching, etc.)
- Reflections/writing
- Self-Care

Academic Deliverables

- Capstone Thesis
- Professional Presentations
- Research Projects

Field Documentation

- Time Reports & Final Summary Time Report
- Final Self-Assessment

TIP: Use these general areas in the plan and get more specific in your time reports

What Field Supervisors Can Do To Help

Be a **rainbow** in
someone else's
cloud.

Maya Angelou

- 1) Assist students in developing
 - A plan to maintain a virtual presence in agency meetings, discussions, and activities
 - Remote learning activities
- 2) Continue to provide individual and/or group weekly supervision sessions to students virtually
- 3) Continue to review and approve student time reports
- 4) Complete/contribute to student's Final Field Assessment

Faculty Field Liaisons

- Are available for support and brainstorming
- Need copies of stricken Learning Contracts and RFAP
- Will continue to hold field seminar and capstone sessions
- Can lead on Final Field Assessment if helpful to Field Instructors



Every time you
are able to find
some humor in
a difficult
situation, you
win.

Support & Self-Care

- We are here to help and make this process as smooth as possible
- This is stressful! Please incorporate self-care into your everyday plans.
- Be practical when thinking about how you can complete what you need.
- Check-in with each other and share your plans - you could create group activities and do things together via zoom!

**Circumstances do not make a person,
they merely reveal them.**



**Thank you and please let us know how we
can help!**