

Frequently Asked Questions About Field

Can I work full-time and be a MSW student?

No and yes. If you have flexibility in your work place, meaning working evenings or weekends is an option, then yes. If you work a regular 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday job, with no flexibility, then no. Based on student and agency need, some flexibility in the day and time is possible, but remember that most of the agencies we place in are only open or fully staffed Monday through Friday during daytime hours. Additionally, an intern may not structure his/her internship by only working in the evenings or weekends. As students, it is important to participate in the full range of activities in an agency. Since most agencies are not fully functioning on the weekends or evenings this cannot occur then.

What is the internship placement process?

Once a student is accepted into the program he or she will receive a field internship application that must be completed and submitted to the Social Work Department field coordinator. The field coordinator reviews all applications and contacts agencies in students' geographic area to assess agency interest as well as appropriateness for placement. Students may develop a list of possible placements to share with the field coordinator in their geographic area, however, students do not contact agencies directly. The field coordinator facilitates all internship placement efforts in order to prevent duplication of efforts.

Do I have to interview for an internship?

Yes, though your field internship will be an educational assignment you will interview with the agency. Prepare for your interview as you would for a job interview. Read everything about the agency you can find, prepare your questions for them, and be prepared for questions they may ask you. Dress appropriate to the setting, as you would for a job interview, and bring a hard copy of your resume to face-to-face interviews.

Will I get my choice of internship site or population?

Field coordinators work very hard at making a good match for students, however, there are no guarantees that a student will receive his or her choice of placement or population. There are many factors that go into placement decisions, including your educational and

work experience, your future work interests, as well as the geographic area you live in and the availability of social service placements in that area. Potential placement availability fluctuate on a regular basis. Students in the program are encouraged to ask questions and engage with the field coordinators throughout the internship placement process.

How far will I have to travel?

Most MSW students, depending on where they live, travel up to an hour to their placement. Much of this is determined by the geographic area (rural vs. urban, saturation of social service agencies employing MSW's, etc.). Students should consider this when budgeting for their graduate school expenses.