GOAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES

The Goal Statement document is used much like a cover letter for employment and allows potential field instructors to view a “snapshot” of your self-assessed knowledge, skills, and abilities. The purpose of the Goal Statement is to determine if what you want to learn is a “match” with what the fieldwork site has to offer.

The Goal Statement Should:
- Be written in a narrative format-- it functions as a writing sample.
- Not include personal/private information. This is a public document and is shared electronically with your field instructor as well as many of your potential colleagues.
- Be no longer than 2 pages, double spaced, and no smaller than 11 point font.

Include the Following Sections and Address All of the Questions:

A. HEADER
   1. Full name.
   2. Practice method concentration and practice area.
   4. Minor method (if applicable).
   5. If you are in a special scholarship program, indicate which program.

B. CONTENT:
   1. Briefly describe what led you to social work as a career and share some of your career aspirations.
   2. Briefly describe 2 skills you hope to develop in your field placement and share how these will help you reach your career goals.
   3. Briefly describe your learning style and how you learn best. Share what supervision style works best for you and how you manage conflict.
   4. Given your enrollment schedule in the SSW and your current life and work responsibilities; describe how you plan to successfully complete the required 16+ hours per week in your field placement.

PLEASE NOTE:
You have the opportunity to have the U-M SSW Career Center review your Goal Statement prior to submission with your on-line field application. Please contact them directly for assistance at: ssw-cso@umich.edu. You may also call them 734.763.6259 or visit their web page.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
- For more information on Learning Styles, take this quiz
- Field Instruction Modules & Becoming a Professional Social Worker Module
- Introduction to e-Portfolio: Online Portfolio Module

FINALLY, if you need help, please don’t hesitate to contact the Field Office especially if you have concerns or questions related to starting your field placement. We are here to help: ssw.ofi@umich.edu or 734.764.5331