Introduction to Field Education Webinar
U-M School of Social Work
Office of Field Instruction
Incoming Fall 2019
April 17, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Introductions

Presenters:

• Now: Introduction to Field Education: Daniel Fischer, LMSW, Assistant Dean of Field Education and Clinical Assistant Professor

• Later: School Social Work Specialization & Certification Information: Stacy Peterson, LMSW, Field Faculty & Beth Sherman, LMSW, Clinical Faculty
Introductions continued

To answer your questions:

- **Su Crabb**, LMSW, Field Faculty
- **Rachel Naasko**, LMSW, Field Faculty
- **Yatesha Robinson**, LMSW, Field Faculty
- **William Vanderwill**, LMSW, Field Faculty
- **Michelle Woods**, LMSW, Director of Career Services
- **Cerise Carrington**, LMSW, Financial Aid, Admissions and Student Services Officer
- Type your questions into the chat box and our faculty and staff will respond to you via chat.
What is “Field”? 

Field education (field placement, field practicum, field experience or simply “field”) is the hands-on, real-world training portion of the MSW curriculum.

- What? Hands-on learning & practice
- Where? A variety of settings

Field is the opportunity for you to take what you learn in the classroom and apply and practice these concepts and skills in a real world learning environment.
Why is field important?

• Opportunity to integrate and apply classroom education, life, work & volunteer experiences
• Engage in critical thinking and self-reflection
• Learn to navigate ambiguity and uncertainty, and manage expectations (flexible thinking)
• Commit to core values of the social work profession
• Begin developing your professional brand

Everything you do in field is a learning opportunity
Your Field Education Team

- **MSW Student**
- **Field Faculty**
  U-M SSW faculty member
- **Field Instructor(s)**
  Licensed MSW (often employed at the field site)
- **Task Supervisor**
  Employee at field site
Where will my field placement be?

Student, MSW candidate

- “Local” options in Michigan and Northern Ohio, most in Ann Arbor and Detroit
- Most students travel an average of 30 to 60 minutes
- Spring/Summer term national and international field placement options
How do I get there?

• You are responsible for your transportation to your field site
• If you don’t drive or have a car, indicate this on your application, as this does limit options
• Transportation options (Carpooling, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority)
• Travel stipend for field sites outside a 30 mile radius of UM-SSW
What will I do in field?

Interpersonal Practice

Community Organizing

Management of Human Services

Social Policy and Evaluation
Developing Social Work Competencies and Skills in Field

Practice and apply classroom theories and concepts in a real-world setting

Practice navigating ethical concerns according to the NASW Code of Ethics

Practice skills and behaviors that lead to core competency development
Entering Your field Placement

Entering field means you are entering a new community.

Field sites and field instructors understand you’re a student there to learn.

However, as a professional graduate social work student you are expected to have skills and attributes in the following areas: **UM-SSW Technical Standards**

- Communication
- Intellectual and Cognitive Ability
- Emotional and Behavioral Readiness
Best Approaches to Field
(5 Pieces of Advice)

• Own your learning and manage your expectations
• Learn to function with discomfort and anxiety
• Take risks and be willing to make mistakes
• Be patient with all you have to learn
• Want, seek and use feedback
How is Field Different than a Job?

- In many ways your field experience will feel like a job.
- As a profession, we believe it is critical for you to learn and practice in the real world environments where social work takes place.
- Field work allows you to practice as a MSW before you have your MSW.
- Your **educational agreement** with the agency is your key learning tool and will guide your experience.
- National labor law allows for educational practicums.
- CSWE does not allow field work to be employment.
When do I apply for my field placement?

**Standard dates**
- Thurs May 16
- Thurs May 16
- Thurs October 17

**Advanced Standing**
& any special scholarships that follow the Advanced Standing curriculum schedule

**20-month**
& any special scholarships that follow the 20-month curriculum schedule

**16-month**
& any special scholarships that follow the 16-month curriculum schedule
Reasons Why You Might Apply for Field at a Different Time

- National placements
- Global placements
- Local placements with alternative schedules
How to Apply for Your Field Placement

REVIEW THE WEB RESOURCES on the *Incoming Field Student Page* for these 4 steps

1. Preparing your application materials
2. Composing and submitting your field application
3. Interviewing
4. Preparing to start
How To Prepare to Apply (Step 1)

• Reflect on your learning goals and current skills. Think about how your best receive feedback.
• Reflect on what qualities you’re looking for in a field instructor.
• Reflect on what you’d like your first job to be after graduation and what basic skills you’ll need to be qualified.
• Whatever you expect, know it will be different.

Remember: Be flexible, adaptable and open-minded; every field placement is a learning experience.
Composing and Submitting Your Field Application (Step 2)

**Goal statement:** 1-2 page written statement that we share with potential field placements to give them an idea of your knowledge, skills and interests

- Follow the goal statement guidelines to compose

**Resume:** Same as any other resume, but with any social work experience or skills emphasized

- The Office of Career Services (CSO) website has guidelines and examples

**BOTH:** Email your drafts to the CSO Writing Center before you submit (optional); must be submitted to CSO ([ssw-cso@umich.edu](mailto:ssw-cso@umich.edu)) at least 2 weeks prior to field application deadline.
Review the Available Field Placements and Submit Your Field Placement Application

- Search available field placements
- Rank your top 6 choices
- Fill out the remainder of the field placement application
- Upload your goal statement and resume

Rank your top 6 choices:
1. Blue’s Community Center
2. Maize After-School Program
3. Center Health Clinic
4. Children’s Place
5. Community Action Now!
6. University Help Resource
What If I Am Interested in a Field Placement Not Listed?

- Reach out to our office
  - If we already work with them
  - If we don’t already work with them
- Please don’t reach out directly to the agency
What happens after you apply

Confirmation email

Email to introduce your field faculty

Field Faculty will review your materials

Your materials will be sent to a field site (usually your first choice)
The Interview (Step 3)

Interview process
• One agency at a time
• In-person, phone or virtual, or combination
• May be individual or group interview

Review interview resources on our incoming field student website
What if I Don’t Get an Interview or Am Not Accepted After I Interview?

• Don’t panic.
• Reach out to your field faculty to discuss your situation and circumstances.
• You may need to rework your goal statement or improve on your interview skills.
• You may also need to reflect on where you are in your skill development.
Preparing to Start Field (Step 4)

Check in with the field instructor before the start date about any additional requirements you’ll need to complete

- Health screenings & drug testing
- Background checks
Other Important Information and Resources

• Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

• Social Work Licensing
  • Association of Social Work Boards
  • U-M SSW Career Services Office (ssw-cso@umich.edu)

• International Students

• Undocumented Status
  • U-M SSW Office of Student Services (ssw-oss@umich.edu)
  • Letters of Recommendation - occasionally requested by field site
Let’s talk! Schedule your phone call with a field faculty!

Email us at ssw.ofi@umich.edu
Presenters

Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work
Beth Sherman, MSW, LMSW

Professor Sherman specializes in the area of social work practice with children and youth. In addition to teaching, she coordinates the School Social Worker Specialization.

Field Educator, Liaison / LEO Lecturer IV
Stacy L. Peterson, MSW, LMSW

Professor Peterson is a field educator and liaison in the Office of Field Instruction. She works primarily with students interested in children and youth, juvenile justice, and school social worker practice.
Goals

- To provide information about the school social work specialization and certification.

- To provide information about the school social work specialization field placement process.

Overview

• Roles and Qualities

• Requirements for School Social Work Specialization:
  • UMSSW School Social Worker Specialization
  • Michigan Approval Process
  • Other States’ Requirements

• School Based Placement Process

• Contacts and Additional Resources
Roles and Abilities

Roles:

• Engagement
• Assessment
• Intervention
• Advocacy
• Evaluation

Abilities:

• Independent
• Flexible
• Efficient in a fast-paced environment
• Organized
Course Requirements

- SW612: Mental Health & Mental Disorders of Children and Youth
- SW629: Social Worker Interventions
- SW 642: Social Worker Policy and Services
- SW515/SW691: 500 Field Hours of direct service with children/youth/families
Approval Process

• State of Michigan School Social Worker Approval Process:
  • Form 310 Recommendation for Temporary Approval Request Form

• Other States’ Requirements: Each state has its own requirements for school social workers, please check your state’s department of education web site for details.
School-Based Placement Process

- Review/Timeline
- Criminal Background Check
- References
- Immunizations
- Registration/Field Hours
- Grading Policy
Contact Information

• Beth Sherman, MSW, LMSW  
  Assistant Clinical Professor  
  School Social Worker Specialization Coordinator  
  shermanb@umich.edu

• Stacy L. Peterson, MSW, LMSW  
  Field Faculty, Lecturer IV  
  stacyk@umich.edu
Resources

• School Social Worker Specialization

• School Social Worker Form 310
  http://ssw.umich.edu/programs/ce/schools/eligibilityrequestform.pdf

• School Social Workers Association of America
  http://www.sswaa.org

• Michigan Association of School Social Workers
  https://masswmi.site-ym.com/