Introduction to Field Education
U-M School of Social Work
Office of Field Instruction
Introductions

Presenters:

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

• 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
• **Mary Eldredge**, 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? Community agency or organization

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?

To learn and to serve

Students are expected to:

• Integrate life experiences, classroom education, previous work/volunteer experiences and apply them to field experience
• Reflect on your strengths and areas for growth
• Become an experienced lifelong learner: learning to know what you don’t know
• Serve individuals, families and communities and strive for social justice

Everything you do in field is a learning experience
What does a field placement look like?

Who is involved?

Student, MSW candidate

Field Instructor, supervisor at the agency

Field Faculty, U-M SSW faculty member
What does a field placement look like?

How does it work?

**Field Faculty, U-M SSW faculty member**
- You will be placed by method and concentration
- We will monitor and support your learning through group site visits, individual meetings and virtual communication

**Field Instructor, supervisor at the agency**
- You and your field instructor will decide on assignments and learning goals
- They will teach, supervise and rate you based on your performance and growth
What does a field placement look like?

Where will my field placement be?

- “Local” options in Michigan and Northern Ohio, most in Ann Arbor and Detroit
- Most students travel more than 30 minutes, many 60 minutes
- National and international field placement options

Student, MSW candidate
What does a field placement look like?

How do I get there?

- Indicate on your field placement application if you do not have a car
- Placement options are limited if you do not have personal transportation
- SSW travel stipend if you travel outside a 30 mile radius
- Carpooling with others students
- Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (ride for free)
What does a field placement look like?

What will I do in field?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpersonal Practice</th>
<th>Community Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management of Human Services</td>
<td>Social Policy and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does a field placement look like?

Why do I need to learn and practice these skills?

- Practice and apply classroom theories in real-world setting
- Practice navigating ethical concerns according to the NASW Code of Ethics
- Practice behaviors that lead to competency in the CSWE Core Competencies
What is expected of you in your field placement?

Entering your field placement

Agencies and Field Instructors understand that you’re a student who is there to learn. You are not expected to come in with any specific social work skills or knowledge, as this is what you will be learning in the program.

However, as a professional graduate social work student you are expected to have skill and attributes in the following areas:

- Communication
- Intellectual and Cognitive Ability
- Emotional and Behavioral Readiness
What is expected of you in your field placement?

Those with work significant experience in social work settings

If you are someone entering the program who has worked in a social work setting (other than your undergraduate field placement), please indicate this on your field placement application in the comments section.

We can often find you field placements that will challenge you by encouraging you to explore a different topic, setting or to learn more advanced skills.
What is expected of you?

Best approach to field

- Field is a class
- Embrace all you do as learning
- Be open, flexible and patient
- Be willing to seek out opportunities
- Take risks and make mistakes
- Expect responsibilities to progress every term
- Engage in self-reflection and be a critical thinker

- Pace of advancement will differ
- Be prepared to face challenges
- Embrace discomfort rather than avoid it
- Manage uncertainty
- You may question the agency’s approaches and policies
- Want, seek and use feedback
How is field different than jobs and internships?

Field placement, internships and jobs

• Opportunity to practice in the real world environments, similar to other professions. Remember field is a class.
• Developing social work competencies, your professional identity and behavior.
• You will complete a learning contract (“educational agreement”) where you will identify assignments that will guide your learning experience
• Your presence will be a benefit to the clients and communities you are serving, but the main purpose is your learning
• A few agencies do provide stipends but not all
When do I apply for my field placement?

**Standard dates**

- Thurs
- **May 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
When do I apply for my field placement?

Reasons why you would apply for field at a different time

Interest in...

National placements

Global placements

Local placements with alternative schedules
When do I apply for my field placement?

Reasons why you would apply for field at a different time

Interest in...

Local placements with alternative schedules

Mary A. Rackham Institute – 16-month Fall start
• University Center for the Child and Family (UCCF)
• University of Michigan Psychological Clinic (UPC)

Michigan Medicine – 16-month early application

Thurs
May
17

In-person Information Session on September 10

Information Webinar on May 10
How to apply for your field placement

Review the web resource

Steps to Apply for Your Field Placement:

1. Prepare to Apply
2. Compose and Submit Your Field Application
3. Interview
4. Prepare to Start
How to apply for your field placement

How to prepare to apply

• Reflect on your learning goals and current skills

• Reflect on what qualities you’re looking for in a field supervisor (field instructor)

• Reflect on what you’d like your first job to be once you leave the MSW program and what basic skills you need to be qualified

Remember: Be flexible and open-minded; every field placement is a learning experience
How to apply for your field placement

Compose your goal statement and resume

**Goal statement:** 1-2 page written statement that we share with potential your 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.ed) at least 2 weeks prior to field application deadline.
How to apply for your field placement

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
How to apply for your field placement

If you’re interested in a field placement that’s not listed

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

Confirmation email

Email to introduce your initial field faculty placer

Field Faculty will review your materials

Your materials will be sent to a field agency (usually your first choice)
What happens after you apply

Interview process
• One agency at a time
• In-person, phone or virtual

Interview resources
• Incoming field student website
  • Tips for interview prep
  • Tips for interviewing in different formats
  • Sample interview questions
  • Tips for professional dress
  • Links to campus-wide resources
What happens after your interviews

Check in with the field placement

Health screenings & drug testing
Background checks

- The U-M SSW has had a long standing commitment to assist individuals with conduct issues so that they can pursue their MSW
Other important information

• Letters of Recommendation
• 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)
Let’s talk! Schedule your phone call with a field faculty!
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
  http://ssw.umich.edu/programs/ce/schools/

- 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
  http://masswmi.org

- School.Social.Works
  http://www.sitemaker.umich.edu/school.social.works/home

- State Practice Requirements