Field Agency Requirements

Potential settings are visited and carefully reviewed by the Field Education Coordinator. In order to be approved for affiliation by the School of Social Work for the purpose of providing field instruction to social work students, agencies must meet the following criteria:

1. Agencies must be related in their purpose and function to the mission, goals, and objectives of the School of Social Work.

2. The agency administration supports the philosophy of professional education and is interested in and willing to commit staff time to student instruction.

3. The agency offers a professional climate conducive to learning; staff relationship and morale contribute to a favorable climate for professional development.

4. Agencies’ philosophy of service must be compatible with the philosophy, values, and ethics of the Social Work profession.

5. Agencies must be clear about their programs and services offered.

6. Agencies’ programs must offer students a wide range of learning opportunities to work with client systems (individuals, groups, families, communities and organizations from various cultural, ethnic, social, religious, and sexual orientation backgrounds).

7. Agencies must have qualified Field Instructors or be willing to allow outside field instructors to work with their personnel.

8. Agencies must have been in operation for at least two years at the time of affiliation.

9. Agencies must not be dependent on students to fulfill basic staffing needs.

10. The agency maintains and observes policies with respect to nondiscrimination in relation to clients, staff, students, and faculty.

11. Agencies must make reasonable arrangements for students with regard to space and equipment.

12. Agencies must agree to the execution of a written School/Agency Affiliation Agreement between the University of Southern Mississippi and the agencies’ representative duly authorized to enter into contractual agreements.

13. Agencies must be willing to provide some release time for field instructors to attend field orientation sessions and field instruction continuing education seminars and workshops.