Field Education
Frequently asked questions

Will I be expected to perform as a social worker right away?
No. During field instructor training, we ask that students follow a four-step process:
1. Orientation to the agency (see Orientation Form in appendix).
2. Observing agency activities, client services, meetings, etc. The student and field instructor should process all observations.
3. Student conducts social work tasks in presence of field instructor or designee.
4. Student begins independent work.

Can I add holiday and break time to my field hours?
No.

I worked during the holiday. Can I count my hours?
Yes.

Don’t hours worked during the holiday get doubled?
No.

My agency is closed for a holiday that the university doesn’t recognize. I was supposed to work that day. Do I get to add these hours?
No. You may need to arrange with your field instructor to make up these hours.

Are there weekend and weeknight placements available?
Field placement takes place during normal business hours, i.e., Monday through Friday during the day. Field opportunities with non-traditional business hours are essentially non-existent. Students need to prepare to participate in weekday field assignments.

I do not have a car. Can I get a placement within walking distance from where I reside?
We cannot guarantee that an eligible field placement agency is located near your residence. Arranging travel to and from a field agency is the student’s responsibility.

I don’t think my agency is providing enough services for clients. What do I do?
The services an agency provides or does not provide are impacted by many factors. Talk to your field instructor about your agency’s mission, goals, and scope of services.

Why can’t I get the field placement that I want? I need to be placed at a certain agency so I can add it to my resume for future work in that area.
Field sites are selected first and foremost for educational purposes. The number of students being placed at any given time precludes placements based on personal desire.