

Winthrop University – Department of Social Work BSW Internship Fact Sheet

BSW students complete a “block style” field placement in their final semester before graduation. They are required to complete 450 field hours in an approved field agency. This means that students are expected to work approximately 30 - 35 hours per week in an agency like a full-time employee.

BSW education and field experience is based on “generalist” social work practice. BSW students are expected to achieve competency in generalist practice behaviors that are provided by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). These competencies and practice behaviors make up the field learning objectives that are throughout the learning contract and field evaluations. These are reviewed and explained during our field orientation meeting. You can look at our learning contract or field evaluation to see these core competencies and practice behaviors.

Students only have 1 class during this final semester of field and it is a field seminar class where they have assignments that are related to their field experience. However, these assignments are the student’s responsibility and require minimal assistance from the assigned field instructor. This class meets weekly on Tuesday or Thursday, depending on the semester; therefore, students need to be able to leave their field agency early on their class day in order to attend class. Attendance is strongly enforced. However, this class time is counted towards their 450 total hours. Travel time to and from the field agency and Winthrop is not counted as field hours.

Field instructors must have a BSW or MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and should be two years post-graduation. They do not have to have a license. A student can work with a task manager with another degree, but needs to have a minimum of 1 hour per week with the BSW/MSW in supervision. That can be scheduled at the same time each week, or worked into the workday as it becomes necessary or questions arise.

Field instructors are expected to complete a one-time field orientation training via an online training module. Field instructors will receive social work 2 hours of CEUs for completing the field orientation training. Continuing education opportunities will also be made available for field instructors on a yearly basis.

Paperwork throughout the placement and course is minimal. The students will create a Learning Contract at the beginning of the internship and they will do a weekly time report for the field instructor to sign off on their hours, a mid-term evaluation and final evaluation.

Field site visits are conducted with the student and field instructor twice during the semester – once around the mid-term, and again at the end of the placement around the final evaluation due date.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact the social work field office at scwkfield@winthrop.edu or 803/323-3387.