

Guidelines for BASW Senior Field Placement

Cal State LA
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Mission of the School of Social Work:

The School of Social Work prepares BASW and MSW students for skilled professional practice in socially, culturally, and economically diverse urban communities. Our strength-based programs educate generalist social workers who are committed to social and economic justice, and are able to facilitate change and growth at all levels of practice.

Educational Goals of the BASW Program

- To prepare students for beginning generalist professional social work practice with diverse populations, and in a variety of service systems;
- To prepare students to work effectively with clients of different ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds and sexual orientation, by developing a knowledge base that teaches the value of diversity, is sensitive to the consequences of oppression and discrimination, and promotes advocacy for social change;
- To assist students in developing their identity as a professional social worker, and to help students incorporate the values and ethics of the profession into their practice;
- To equip students as beginning social work practitioners to evaluate research and begin to link research to social work practice;
- To prepare students for lifelong learning, critical thinking, ongoing self-evaluation, and the ability to pursue an advanced degree;
- To maintain collaborative working relationships with community groups, public service agencies and other disciplines committed to the delivery of human services.

I. Eligibility Criteria for BASW Field Instructors

- MSW or BASW Degree in Social work from an accredited Social Work Program with copy of resume.
- Minimum of two years professional (Post BASW or MSW) practice experience.
- Certificate of completion of Field Instructor Training from CSULA or an accredited Social Work program.
- Knowledge and experience in Human Services. Supervision or training preferred.
- Preceptors may have other behavioral science educational backgrounds and training, can be designated to assist the Field Instructor in identifying case assignments for the student, and provide guidance to the student in the Field Instructor's absence.

II. Learning Expectations for BASW Interns

- Exposure to diversity in client population, including cultural, ethnic, religious belief system, gender and socio-economic class;
- Exposure and experience with the full range of generalist social work practice on the continuum of practice, including information and referral, psychosocial assessments, case management, supportive counseling, advocacy, treatment planning, and problem solving;
- Opportunity to work with the individuals and families; depending on agency structure, 2-6 cases by the end of the first semester;
- Opportunity to be a leader or co-leader in skill building or support groups;
- Opportunity to collaborate and network with the other agency staff and professionals;
- Opportunity to participate in case conferences or treatment planning conferences and activities where applicable;
- Opportunity to integrate classroom content/theory and research knowledge;

- Opportunity to attend agency staff meetings, in-service training seminars, and staff development activities;
- Opportunity to provide case management and support to both short-term and long-term clients;
- Opportunity for macro practice experience, to familiarize students with the framework of social welfare services and policies that impact service delivery to individuals and communities, and the importance of advocating for social change.
- BASW students are not permitted to do therapy.

III. Field Instructors Responsibilities:

- Provide one hour per week of individual supervision to each intern.
- Complete a quarterly Fieldwork Evaluation on the student and submit it to the Field Faculty Liaison.
- Assist the student in completing the Learning Contract by approximately the 6th week of the first semester.
- Keep track of student fieldwork hours.
- Keep student and Field Faculty Liaison informed of student's progress and any concerns as they arise.
- Complete an Evaluation of the Field Experience Process which is submitted to the department in the 2nd semester.

IV. Student Preparation and Curriculum Prior to Field Placement.

- BASW students complete junior level training courses in human behavior, the social environment, life span, social policy, and generalist social work practice.

V. Role of Field Faculty Liaison:

- The Field Faculty Liaison conducts a seminar class every other Wednesday, and assists the students with integration of classroom learning and fieldwork practice application. Student attendance in seminar class is mandatory.
- The Field Faculty Liaison visits each student and Field Instructor at the agency to monitor the student's progress in placement.
- The Field Faculty Liaison determines the course grade in collaboration with the Fieldwork Instructor

VI. BASW Senior Field Practicum:

- Senior BASW Interns complete 210 hours each semester (14 hours per week) for a total of 420 hours. The interns will complete two consecutive semester at the agency.
- The specific days of the week and hours of the day for fieldwork are to be designated by the Field Instructor in collaboration with the fieldwork student.
- Absence from fieldwork is acceptable only in cases of personal emergency or illness. Students must notify the Fieldwork Instructor prior to being absent and are expected to make up any time missed, due to the illness or personal emergency.
- Students are expected to observe school or agency holidays in a manner that does not undermine fieldwork assignments and learning objectives.
- Continuity of care to clients is a professional responsibility, and students are required to make arrangements, with their field instructor, for their clients care during school breaks.
- Students complete a Learning Agreement in collaboration with the Field Instructor.

VII. Integrative Seminar

Students attend a one and a half-hour field seminar class (SW4951) every other Wednesday, with the Field Faculty Liaison, which helps students integrate classroom learning with fieldwork practice application. The Integrative Seminar provides fieldwork students with a supportive atmosphere for discussing, analyzing and resolving issues experienced in the field practicum. Some seminar class assignments are directly related to fieldwork experiences.