
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
FIELD PRACTICUM MANUAL



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

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NASW

<https://www.socialworkers.org/>

FORWARD

This manual has been prepared for the purposes of assisting agencies, students, and field instructors to understand the objectives, policies, and procedures governing field practicum instruction for the Master of Social Work program at Loma Linda University. Students and faculty will receive a copy of the manual to use as a reference guide. Students and faculty can access this manual in Canvas.

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PREFACE

To better assist in understanding the Field Practicum Program of the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology better, it is important to be familiar with the background of Loma Linda University and the School of Behavioral Health.

History: Loma Linda University has grown out of the institution founded at Loma Linda, California in 1905 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The original schools were Nursing and Medicine. These two schools were joined by Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Public Health, Pharmacy, School of Science and Technology, and the School of Religion. The School of Science and Technology was subsequently renamed the School of Behavioral Health. Loma Linda University is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church which is committed to the vision of its founders and sustained by its close association with the church.

Philosophy: As implied by the University's motto, "To Make Man Whole," the University affirms the following tenets as central to its view of education: God is the creator and sustainer of the universe; mankind's fullest development entails a growing understanding of the individual in relation to both God and society; and the quest for truth and professional expertise, in an environment permeated by religious values, benefits the individual and society and advances the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mission: The mission of Loma Linda University is to further the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ by educating Christian health professionals, expanding human knowledge of health, and providing compassionate health care for the whole person.

School of Behavioral Health: In the School of Behavioral Health, the essential concern of both faculty and students is the quest for meaning and service to others. Because that quest is served by knowledge, graduate students are obliged to achieve both broad and detailed mastery of their chosen field of study and also to participate with the faculty in the process by which knowledge is augmented.

Department Policies: A more complete source of Department policies is located in the University MSW Student Handbook.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIELD EDUCATION

September 21, 2016

Dear Student:

Welcome to the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology in the School of Behavioral Health! This Field Practicum Manual contains information that will guide your understanding of the learning objectives, policies, procedures, and requirements of the Loma Linda University MSW Field Practicum Program.

Please review this document and thoroughly familiarize yourself with the content. The Field Manual is a valuable resource for students, field faculty, and field instructors alike. The information contained in this Manual will assist you in negotiating your field experience and should be readily accessible for continued reference.

The field practicum experience is an integral part of your social work education that will help you to develop the knowledge and practice skills required of professional social work practitioners. Students must demonstrate competent performance in all MSW practice behaviors in order to successfully complete the MSW program. Student learning goals are guided by the CSWE competencies and practice behaviors.


The MSW Field Practicum Program compliments the mission of Loma Linda University to “*Continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.*” You will be challenged as you work to understand and appreciate the needs of diverse populations. Students will be expected to integrate classroom content with direct practice in a practicum setting. Students are highly encouraged to take initiative and seek out additional learning opportunities.

It is the goal of our program for you to have a positive learning experience while in your field practicum. On behalf of the MSW field faculty, I wish you a successful and productive academic year!

Sincerely,

Talolo Lepale, LCSW, MBA
Director of Field Education

FIELD CALENDAR

 LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY School of Behavioral Health		Department of Social Work & Social Ecology Field Calendar 2016-2017
SEPTEMBER	19	Field Instructor/Supervisor Training (New IPT system for tracking interns)
	20	Field Re-Orientation (Mandatory for ALL 2 nd Year Field Students)
	21	Field Orientation (Mandatory for ALL 1 st Year Field Students)
	22	DSM Orientation (Mandatory for ALL 1 st Year Field Students)
	26	General Orientation (For All New Students)
	26 (Mon)	Fall Quarter Begins – Field Placement begins for 2nd Year Students
	28 (Wed)	Field Placement begins for 1st year Students
OCTOBER	13 (Thurs)	Leaning Plans due
	17-21	Faculty Liaison Site Visits
NOVEMBER	14-18	Faculty Liaison - phone consult
	23-27	Thanksgiving Break – begins at 2:00pm on the 23rd
	28 (Mon)	Return to Field Practicum sites
DECEMBER	9 (Fri)	Educational Outcome Assessments due
	16 (Fri)	Fall Quarter Ends
	17 – Jan 2	Christmas Break
January 2017	3 (Tues)	Winter Quarter Begins
	4 (Wed)	1st & 2nd Year Field Placement Resume
	16 (Mon)	HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
FEBRUARY	6-10	Faculty Liaison Site Visits
	20 (Mon)	HOLIDAY – Presidents Day
MARCH	3 (Fri)	Educational Outcome Assessments due
	17 (Fri)	Winter Quarter Ends
	18-24	Spring Break
	27 (Mon)	Spring Quarter Begins – 1st & 2nd Year Field Placements Resume
MAY	1-5	Faculty Liaison Site Visits Begin
Mark your calendars!	10 (Wed)	Field Supervisor Appreciation Breakfast 8:30am – 10:00am
	29 (Mon)	HOLIDAY – Memorial Day
JUNE	2 (Fri)	Educational Outcome Assessments due
	9 (Fri)	Spring Quarter Ends
	9 (Fri)	Hooping Ceremony - 10:30am
	10 (Sat)	Baccalaureate Services
	11 (Sun)	Commencement Services
	19 (Mon)	Summer Quarter Begins
EXAM WEEK DATES BY QUARTER Fall 2016 December 12-16, 2016 Winter 2017 March 13-17, 2017 Spring 2017 June 5-9, 2017		HOLIDAYS, RELIGIOUS EVENTS, MANDATED FURLOUGHS, TIME OFF The student may observe holidays, religious events, agency mandated furloughs, and time off although this time will need to be made up in contact hours. The student must keep in mind that time-off needs to correlate with agency needs for continuity of client care. This need for continuity may require adjustment in time-off hours. Further questions regarding these issues are to be addressed to the Director of Field Education.

THE FIELD PRACTICUM IN THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM

INTRODUCTION

Field practicum is a keystone in graduate social work education. It is in field where theory, information, and concepts are learned, applied and internalized. Field education provides the guided practice needed to prepare MSW students to become advanced social work professionals.

RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

Practicum instruction, both historically and currently, is an integral component of social work education. Agencies that provide practicums are legally contracted with the Department to provide practicing social workers assigned as instructors within their agency and approved by the Social Work Program. Certain underlying assumptions guide the organization and implementation of the practicum and give direction to agency personnel and University faculty involved with practicum education.

The assumptions are:

- Students, agencies, and faculty share a common commitment to graduate level social work education and the promotion of the MSW Program mission, goals, and objectives as the primary purpose of field practicum. Service to the agency, its clientele, and the community are some of the additional benefits that result from the students' involvement in field practica.
- Field practica occurs in settings that reinforce students' identification with the purposes, values, and ethics of the profession and in settings where instructors model social work values and ethics at all times.
- Field practica should provide students with preparation in one or more specific areas of social work practice and should present students with opportunities to engage in a variety of practice activities that fosters the integration of empirical and practice-based knowledge and the development of professional competence.
- Field practicum, as an integral component of social work education, is designed to be sensitive to diversity in the following areas: (a) race, (b) ethnicity, (c) culture, (d) class, (e) gender, (f) sexual orientation, (g) religion, (h) physical/mental ability, (i) age, and (j) national origin. This sensitivity is accomplished through careful examination of the placement process, the agency context, and the roles of field instructors, faculty liaisons, and students.
- Field practica experiences are necessary to effectively translate social work knowledge into practice skills and may take a variety of forms including direct practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- Agencies and the MSW Program share a commitment to social work education and provide equal opportunities through the provision of field practica sites and practica instruction.
- Field practica should present opportunities for the students to become knowledgeable about social welfare and social work practice within the larger community and should include opportunities to become sensitive to broad issues and trends in social welfare services.
- Agencies and institutions selected as field practica sites provide environments that are reflective of the standards established by National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for personnel practices and interactions.
- Field practica will provide students the opportunity to engage in cooperative and collaborative interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary practice.

- Agencies selected as field practica sites agree to provide one hour of one-on-one supervision per week.
- Field education is evaluated based upon demonstration of achievement of the Program objectives.
- Field practica experiences should assist in preparing students for leadership roles in the future.

To this end, the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology has developed a graduate curriculum for both classroom instruction and practicum that provide for the study of professional foundation areas and prepare for advanced practice skills. It is during the field practicum experience that the MSW student focuses on integrating both the theoretical and experiential aspects of social work education.

INTEGRATION OF THEORY AND PRACTICE

The field practicum occurs concurrently with classroom instruction. The integration of theory and practice in the orientation and seminar classes are emphasized through four avenues:

Field Orientation SOWK (578): This course orients students to the field practicum requirements and core social work skills. During this two-day orientation, instruction is held regarding the field placement process, the roles of the field faculty, field policies and procedures, the development of the learning contract, professionalism and standard of conduct, and an overview of the DSM-V.

Field Seminar Class (SOWK 678, SOWK 757 & SOWK 787 sequences): The seminar class is taken concurrently with a student's field placement. The two-hour class is interactive in nature. The seminar provides a forum for mutual support, case analysis, discussion of ongoing concerns, and peer learning. The class acts as a bridge between the field work experience and academic course work to ensure the proficiencies in the following core competencies:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Field Liaison/Seminar Instructor: The field liaison acts as a mentor and ombudsman between the university and the student's field placement. The assigned liaison is responsible for facilitating the field seminar classroom experience. The liaison is responsible for visiting with the student once quarterly at their assigned field placement agency. Additional visits can be held as needed. The liaison is also available to help student's problem-solve concerns they may have about their field practicum.

The primary purpose of practicum is to prepare students for professional social work practice. In achieving this, the overall goals of the field practica are:

1. To provide experiential opportunities in which core skills, associated with professional communication and interactions can be developed;
2. To provide professional experiences and educational supervision through which self-direction and awareness can be developed;
3. To promote an ecological practice perspective that regards people in relationship to their environment within an historical and cultural context;

4. To provide opportunities for the integration of social work knowledge, values, and intervention skills with sensitivity to special populations (i.e., ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental disability, age, and national origin);
5. To provide opportunities for understanding and internalizing social work values, ethics, and principles into a professional practice perspective;
6. To provide opportunities for understanding and applying biological, sociological, behavioral theories, and research methodologies in the delivery and evaluation of practice and development of knowledge;
7. To provide an appreciation for the interrelationship of historical and contemporary expressions of injustice and discrimination;
8. To provide understanding of social policies and service delivery systems and consequent appreciation for ways in which professional social workers can provide lead roles in advocating and promoting needed change; and
9. To advocate and effectively build collaborative relationships with allied professionals in interdisciplinary settings.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

INTRODUCTION

There are many key personnel involved in the Master of Social Work Field Education program. Each person, from the professor to the field instructor, to the student, performs an essential role, thus enhancing the well-being of the whole program. The following is a description of the roles and responsibilities of the components involved in field education:

1. Director of Field Education
2. Field Liaison/Seminar Instructor
3. Field instructor
4. Field Committee
5. Student Field Practicum Responsibilities
6. Responsibilities of the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology to the Agency
7. Responsibilities of the Agency to the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology

DIRECTOR OF FIELD EDUCATION

The Director of Field Education is a faculty member of the Loma Linda University Department of Social Work and Social Ecology and as such, reports to the Chairperson of the Department. The Director is responsible for the coordination of practicum instruction.

Specific coordination responsibilities are:

1. Developing and assessing of practicum facilities.
2. Preparing the student for the practicum through Field Seminar and Field Orientation.
3. Placing students in their respective practicums.
4. Providing to agencies significant information pertaining to the operation and development of the educational program, including the orientation and training of field instructors.
5. Assigning of field liaison to agencies.
6. Planning innovations which will enhance the practicum instruction program.
7. Managing changes in practicum placements.
8. Maintaining and storing practicum records.
9. Overseeing the submission of practicum grades based on the recommendations of the field seminar instructor.
10. Resolving concerns and problems related to all areas of field placement.
11. Developing, maintaining and ensuring standards.

12. Revising and updating the Field Practicum Manual.

FIELD LIAISON/SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR

The Department of Social Work and Social Ecology designates field liaisons who serve as representatives in the field on behalf of the Department. The assigned field liaison also serves as the student's field seminar instructor. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Meeting with the student and field instructor a minimum of one time per quarter.
2. Informing the agency of the Department's expectations regarding the content and structure of field instruction.
3. Consulting with the agency regarding the development of the student's field assignments and Learning Plan.
4. Reviewing the Educational Outcome Assessment form with the field instructor and the student at the end of each term.
5. Conferring with the student and the field instructor concerning the student's experience and performance in accordance with the Department's educational expectations.
6. Conferring with the agency about the student's progressive assignments.
7. Dealing with special learning problems.
8. Monitoring the student's conduct to ensure that it is in keeping with University standards.
9. Communicating with the field instructors about the school's curriculum and any changes in the program.
10. Assisting in resolving problems between the student and field instructor or other agency personnel.
11. Teaching and evaluating material as outlined on the course syllabi.

During field site visits, the liaison may share general information about student's academic progress or classroom behavior(s). However, information about a student's specific grades will not be disclosed to the supervisor without permission from the student.

FIELD INSTRUCTOR

Field instructors serve in the capacity of monitoring and being responsible for the overall tasks and duties performed by the student. The emphasis of practicum instruction is on the development of sound educational experience based on reaching their identified educational outcomes. In working toward this, the field instructor assumes three functions: administrative, educative, and supportive.

Administrative Functions of the Field instructor

1. Assigning tasks that will best meet the educational needs of the student that can be developed in relation to the student's capacity to carry out the function of the agency.
2. Meeting program requirements (i.e., attending meetings for field instructors, writing evaluations on student performance, and submitting recommended grades).
3. Keeping the field liaison informed about the student's progress and raising questions as needed.

4. Providing feedback to the Department regarding various components of the curriculum and the appropriateness of the placement in helping plan the future use of the placement.
5. Advocating for the student to gain access to learning experiences within the agency and the professional community.

Education Functions of the Field instructor

1. Assuming overall responsibility for developing the student's practicum assignment.
2. Assessing the educational needs of the student.
3. Establishing with the student learning objectives that address the student's specific needs and interests.
4. Making available to the student appropriate learning experiences in relation to each type of educational outcome.
5. Helping the student to learn and integrate theoretical knowledge based on the supervisor's knowledge and experience.
6. Providing an educational climate that challenges the student to expand professional skills, knowledge, and values.

Supportive Functions of the Field instructor

1. Orienting the student to the agency, its history, function, policies and procedures and target populations.
2. Informing the student about the strengths and limitations of the agency and the community's service delivery system.
3. Working closely with the student in the actual delivery of service.
4. Integrating the student's work with that of agency personnel.
5. Scheduling the student's work week and assisting the student in meeting professional responsibilities and using time appropriately.
6. Providing one hour of formal weekly scheduled supervision with the student as time for teaching, as well as offering emotional support.
7. Providing regular feedback to the student about her/his performance in the practicum.
8. Providing quarterly feedback through the Educational Outcome Assessment Form at the end of each term.

FIELD PRECEPTOR

There are some agencies that may assign both a field instructor as well as a preceptor to be involved with the student. A preceptor may be responsible for task assignments; giving feedback to the assigned supervisor on student performance; help orient the student to the practicum site (including but limited to review of policies and procedures); and providing information on community resources and relationships. A preceptor's role is supplemental to the assigned field instructor and consequently their scope of practice is limited. The field instructor retains the primary and overall responsibility for the student's learning and evaluation.

FIELD COMMITTEE

The Field Committee is chaired by the Director of Field Education and consists of three other faculty members within the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology.

Specifically, the Field Committee is responsible for:

1. Reviewing and updating field policies and procedures.
2. Insuring CSWE competencies are integrated into the learning plan, outcome evaluation and classroom content.
3. Resolving problems and addressing concerns of all field practicum participants.
4. Advising the Director of Field Education in the planning, staffing, and evaluating of the field program and field agencies.

STUDENT FIELD PRACTICUM RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Social Work and Social Ecology regards each student as an adult learner, capable of recognizing her/his learning needs and assisting in shaping the educational process. This philosophy is exemplified by the student's responsibilities within a practicum assignment.

The student's responsibilities include the following:

1. Using the field practicum as an opportunity to enhance and extend her/his academic programs.
2. Assuming professional responsibility and appropriate accountability for assigned client services and other agency activities.
3. Participating in weekly supervisor conferences with the practicum supervisor. This includes:
 - a. preparing an agenda
 - b. presenting material representative of interventions with clients
 - c. sharing reactions and preparing questions about the practicum experience
 - d. discussion new learning needs with their practicum supervisor the practicum supervisor
4. Participating in selected agency activities (i.e., staff meetings, conferences, in-service training, and committee work) when these are not in conflict with courses, seminars, or other academic commitments.
5. Obtaining agency approval for the use of case material or records outside the agency (e.g., maintaining accepted standards of confidentiality).
6. Informing the field instructor of classroom assignments that relate to practicum instruction.
7. Conferring periodically with the field liaison about learning experiences and any problems and/or concerns related to the practicum assignment.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY TO THE AGENCY

1. Consulting about the assignment of individual students to the agency to ensure appropriate learning opportunities that fit the agency's service functions.
2. Providing the field instructor with information about the student, the curriculum, and school policies.
3. Assisting the field instructor through consultations and conferences.
4. Designating a member of the faculty to serve as liaison to the agency.
5. Planning periodic meetings with field instructors to integrate practicum instruction with the total curriculum.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY

1. Accepting the student in field practicum without regard to age, race, religion, gender, life style preference, or national origin.
2. Recognizing the student as a developing professional, thus, assigning tasks appropriately.
3. Providing a qualified field instructor (MSW or LCSW) who has sufficient time and resources to develop the student's learning experiences, prepare and conduct individual student conferences (minimum of one hour weekly), attend school-sponsored meetings, and complete quarterly evaluations. An MSW field instructor must be two years post graduate.
4. Providing adequate facilities and equipment appropriate to the student's needs and assignments.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD PRACTICUM PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Integral to the profession of social work is the concept of experiential training for the graduate student. This experiential learning opportunity is guided through the Field Practicum Program. Students are placed in a variety of settings consistent with the social work profession, objectives of the Master's Program, and the mission of the University. The program is designed to give each student a foundation and subsequent advanced practicum experience. Practicums are enhanced through a weekly interactive seminar class. Several requirements are expected of students by the Department to enhance the field practicum learning process. These are documented in the following sections:

FIELD ORIENTATION

All foundation year practicum students are required to attend a 2-day orientation training prior to the start of their internship. This training will typically be held the week prior to the beginning of the school year. Topics for the training will include professional conduct expectations, overview of field program policies and procedures, overview of the DSM, introduction to foundation practice principles, engagement skills, self-care, and an introduction to the Intern Placement Tracking (aka IPT) software system.

All advanced field practicum students are required to attend a 1/2 day re-orientation training where students will review field practicum paperwork requirements, orient themselves to advanced standards of professional conduct, review of program policies and procedures, and an orientation to the IPT system.

STUDENT FIELD PLACEMENT PROCESS

During the winter quarter, the Director of Field Education will notify and orient students to the field practicum placement process for the upcoming academic year (please refer to the Administrative Policies and Procedures section for a more detailed account, p. 29).

All students are expected to complete the Field Practicum application by the established deadline. Students must be available to complete field hours on weekdays during normal business hours.

In terms of starting the process for securing a field placement, the Field Director reviews field applications and an interview appointment is established with either the Director or a faculty designee. It is during this meeting that students are matched to prospective agencies. Once a match has been determined, a referral to the prospective practicum site is made. Students will be given the agency contact information and are set up a pre-placement interview.

Students are prohibited on their own from independently initiating contact with a prospective field practicum agency. Failure to comply with protocol may result in the student becoming ineligible to interview at additional agencies and will be referred to the Academic Standards Committee for review. Failure to complete the field practicum application or submit the application by the assigned deadline may result in a significant delay or failure to begin practicum at the assigned time.

TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL TIME & PART TIME STUDENTS

Full time first year students are required to complete 16 hours per week in their field placement starting the fall quarter of their first year in the program. Students complete a total of 480 hours in field practicum. Second year students are expected to complete 20 hours per week for a total of 600 hours in field practicum. Students complete a total of 1,080 hours of field practicum during the MSW Program. Part-time students will begin their field practicum after completion of their first year of academic studies.

Advanced Standing

The field practicum for Advanced Standing students begins in the summer quarter following their admission into the program. Advanced Standing (non-stipend) students are expected to complete a total of 800 hours in field practicum averaging 18 hours per week over the course of four quarters. Advanced Standing Title IV-E stipend students are expected to complete a total of 900 hours in field practicum over the course of four quarters averaging 20 hours per week.

Dual Degree Students

Dual degree students enrolled in the combined MSW Criminal Justice or Gerontology Program are required to complete an additional 200 hours beyond the expected 1080 hours of Field Practicum (for a total of 1280 hours). Full time dual degree students are expected to begin their second year practicum in the summer quarter following completion of their first year in the program. Part-time dual degree students begin their practicum after completing the second year in the program.

Block Field Placements

In special circumstances students may petition to complete the first year practicum as a block placement. Block placements are completed within three months rather than the traditional nine months. The required 480 hours of a first year field placement are completed within this time frame. To be eligible, students must have successfully completed all of the foundation curriculum and cognates, be in good academic and behavioral standing, and demonstrate a proficient ability in foundation clinical skills. Block placements must be completed during the summer prior to entering the advanced practicum. Block placements are only granted with permission from the Director of Field Education and the Field Committee. (For further see p. 20 of the Field Manual).

Neither advanced standing students nor dual degrees students are eligible to complete a block field placement.

FIELD SEMINAR CLASS

Concurrent with field practicum is the seminar course which is required of all field students, and encompasses a minimum of 20 hours per quarter of group interaction. The purpose of the seminar course is to provide a forum for discussion of practicum experiences and to integrate theoretical and practical knowledge obtained from the field agency and course work. In addition, each student is expected to participate in role plays, simulation of client issues, treatment planning, methods of intervening with clients, and exploring the roles/dynamics of a treatment team. These experiences are intended to assist students in their development of specific practicum competencies. Students are expected to attend all scheduled seminar classes and complete all assigned readings and assignments in order to receive a passing grade for this class. The seminar is graded on a 'pass/fail'. However, a 'pass' grade is based on the proficiency of at least receiving a 'B' in required assignments for the class.

INTERN PLACEMENT TRACKING (IPT)

The Department of Social Work & Social Ecology utilizes the Intern Placement Tracking (IPT) software system to facilitate the management of all field placements and tracking field forms. In using this system, students will be able to complete required field forms. Field instructors will be able to complete field assessments leaving feedback immediately to the participating intern. Students will be assigned an I.D. number at the field orientation class (SW 578). Students will then need to set up a password to access the system. Dual degree students in their advanced year practicum will complete both the standard MSW learning plan and outcome evaluation as well as a supplemental learning plan and outcome evaluation on IPT.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS & OUTCOMES

Two tools are used to identify and measure the students' educational goals and outcomes specific to the student's field practicum: (a) the LEARNING PLAN AGREEMENT, and (b) the EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME ASSESSMENT (aka Field

Evaluation). In addition, other performance measures utilized include the field seminar class assignments (case presentations, written assignments and the Wholeness Portfolio).

Learning Plan Agreement

Students enter the MSW Program with different learning needs and levels of practice experience. The purpose of the Learning Plan is to identify individual student needs and educational activities to guide the student in meeting the educational outcomes of the field practicum. The Learning Plan addresses major performance categories as outlined under MSW Program Objectives and the Counsel on Social Work Education competencies. The Learning Plan is a tool for the field supervisor to identify and measure competencies and strategies toward goal attainment. The Learning Plan is developed through a **collaborative process** between the student and field supervisor, and is to be completed by the end of the **3rd week** of the academic quarter. Identified activities include field experiences that will provide opportunities to learn and practice skills in intervening with clients. Under each competency, a minimum of five activities (measurable tasks) are outlined that the student is expected to achieve during the year. The Learning Plan is written to encompass activities for the entire year. If additional activities are added to the Learning Plan, an addendum must be completed. A new Learning Plan is completed for each year that a student is in field placement (see Field Practicum Manual for Learning Plans for 1st and 2nd year students). A copy of the Learning Plan is maintained in the Intern Placement Tracking program. The student is strongly encouraged to download a hard copy of the Learning Plan for their personal record.

Field Evaluation: Educational Outcome Assessment

The purpose of the Educational Outcome Assessment (aka Field Evaluation) is to provide an evaluation of the student's progress in field placement. The Educational Outcome Assessment measures the practice behaviors linked to the nine Social Work Competencies that describe the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for competent practice. The document is to be completed and submitted through IPT by the field instructor at the end of each quarter. As in the case of the Learning Plan, the student should download a copy of the Outcome Evaluation for their personal record.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM SEMINAR CLASS

As a supplement to the field practica and to enhance experiential learning, students participate in concurrent field seminars during both the foundation and advanced years of the MSW Program. Provided weekly in small group settings under the direction of the students' field faculty liaisons, these seminars are designed to deepen and integrate the learning occurring in students' field practica. These seminars also support dialogue regarding a broad range of professional issues along with the opportunity to focus on and discuss various practice issues. Seminars utilize a variety of interactive teaching methods including: role plays, demonstration of specific interventions and case presentations. These experiences are tools to enhance students' acquisition of skills appropriate to their progression through the MSW Program. Students are encouraged to videotape their use of skills and techniques and then present these to their seminar group for review and critique. Any presentation of videotapes from the student's field sites would require an appropriate client release of information. The field seminars provide the context for application of the Wholeness Portfolio that begins during the first quarter of the foundation practicum and concludes in the final quarter of the advanced practicum. Students are required to complete all assignments and attend all seminar classes in order to receive a passing grade for field practicum (see attendance policy in the MSW Handbook). The seminar is graded on a 'pass/fail'. However, a 'pass' grade is based on the proficiency of at least receiving a 'B' in required assignments for the class.

WHOLENESS PORTFOLIO

Incorporated into the field seminar is a virtual professional Wholeness Portfolio that students begin developing during the first quarter of the foundation practicum and concludes with the completion of the advanced practicum. The virtual Wholeness Portfolio is a tool to assist students in identifying goals for their career, and organizing educational materials, such as resumes, clinical papers, and any academic item(s) that exhibit the students' accomplishments. Documents or references that identify client information are never included in the virtual portfolio. During the students' final quarter in the graduate program, they will present their completed portfolio and discuss future plans for employment and further professional development. This is seen as facilitating closure to the program and a final state of reflection on their graduate school experience.

EDUCATIONALLY BASED PROCESS RECORDINGS

It is a requirement that all students complete educationally based process recordings weekly. Students are to submit one process recording per week beginning the second week of each academic quarter. Process recordings are to be submitted weekly to the field supervisor and will be reviewed during supervision. Formats of process recordings vary depending upon the agency's preference and the student's job maturation level. Examples of process recording formats will be reviewed with new students during Field Orientation (SW 578). Process recordings can be downloaded through the IPT system to complete and submitted via hard copy to their field instructor.

TIME LOGS

Each student will maintain documentation on the number of hours and the types of activity undertaken during the field practicum. Interns will log their field hours in the IPT. This documentation will be reviewed and monitored by the University field liaison during the quarter. Students are encouraged to keep a hard copy of all hours completed in practicum.

FIELD WORK EXPECTATIONS

During the first year of field practicum, the emphasis will be on developing "generalist" practice competencies. This means utilizing a systems framework to understand the many issues that impact on a client's functioning (bio-psycho-social-spiritual dimensions). Also, students will be learning basic interviewing and interventions skills. It is not an expectation of the Department that first year students learn to formally diagnose clients utilizing the DSM-IV TR or DSM-5. However, some agencies may require students to be familiar with diagnostic categories and may expose students to diagnostic practice.

The following represents the minimum structure for field practicum. The Learning Plan provides a more in-depth outline of activities that guide student learning.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL FIELD PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES

Students are to have field experiences to enhance their learning through the following:

1. Opportunities to utilize consultation with agency professionals, to take initiative regarding problem solving dilemmas, and to provide the opportunity for the student to participate in multi-disciplinary interactions.
2. Develop awareness of community resources and the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of specific resources used by the agency including collaboration with community agencies.
3. Be exposed to a range of social work practice activities, specifically psychosocial assessments this can include diagnostic classification, goal setting, and consultation. Additional responsibilities include development of treatment strategies, networking, case management, and opportunities for varied treatment modalities, such as crisis intervention, time-limited and long-term treatment, and group treatment.
4. To experience a diversity of client populations including gender, age, race, socioeconomic class, and disabilities.
5. To have a minimum of one hour of supervision per week. One hour per week should be in traditional one-on-one supervision with additional time being made available to the student as needed. Group supervision may supplement individual supervision but **cannot** replace individual time in supervision.

First Year Field Practicum Expectations

In the first year of field practicum, students are expected to complete 16 hours per week with a minimum of 50% of their field hours (8 hours per week) in direct practice areas. The remaining hours may be spent in supervision, agency meetings, community agency networking, collaboration, and documentation time. The following are general expectations and

guidelines for student caseload assignments. The guidelines may vary depending on the type of agency and client population.

1. Preliminary orientation by the agency field instructor is expected to be completed by the second week of placement and caseload assignments are to begin by the third week. Ongoing training may be incorporated into regular field practicum hours. A Safety Orientation Checklist is to be completed and can be downloaded from IPT. It is to be initialed by both the student and the field supervisor. A hard is to be submitted by the end of the 2nd week of placement to the faculty liaison.
2. Students are to be assigned:
 - a. One to six ongoing individual cases per quarter. The first year student is expected to apply problem solving approaches, conduct biopsychosocial assessments, and understand systems perspectives. The cases assigned should be appropriate for the student to selectively apply such theoretical approaches.
 - b. One to three family cases per quarter involving family intervention or case management services. It is recognized that the term "family" may apply to a variety of familial patterns. Should a student not have the skills developed yet to effectively work with a family, it is strongly encouraged they first observe either a senior clinician providing family work or their direct supervisor.
 - c. One 6 to 8 week group experience (can be crisis/time limited). This experience should begin no later than January to insure adequate time for completion. The student is expected to co-facilitate a group experience. If a group experience is not available, the field instructor should consult with the field liaison about the possibility of organizing a group experience at a related facility. Group experiences may be varied such as psychosocial groups, educational groups, socialization groups, etc.
 - d. At minimum at least one long-term case. The duration is left to the discretion of the field instructor based on the nature of the facility, taking into consideration that the student should have the opportunity to monitor the psychosocial adjustment of the client over several months if possible.
3. Students will experience case conferences, in-service training, and/or staff meetings.
4. The student will actively participate in weekly supervision. This includes discussing case management, problem solving, enhancement of the therapeutic process, and student self-awareness.
5. Students will be exposed to the termination process for both student and clients.
6. Field instructors will review weekly process recordings completed by the student to enhance their understanding of the clinical process.

Second Year Field Practicum Expectations - Clinical Practice Year (including IV-E)

In the second year of clinical practicum, the emphasis for clinical students will be on developing diagnostic skills and utilizing more advanced interventions in working with individuals, couples, families, or groups. The caseload typically involves working with more complex problems. Certain placement sites may require students to diagnose clients using the DSM-5 and documenting goals and interventions using an electronic charting system. In the second year of field practicum, students are expected to fulfill a minimum of 50% of their field hours (10 hours per week) in direct practice areas. The remaining hours may be spent in supervision, agency meetings, community agency networking, collaboration, and documentation time. Generally, students in the clinical concentration will be placed in behavioral health agencies, residential settings, hospitals, or other specialized non-profit agencies. Students are to be individually supervised at a minimum of one hour for each week while in their practicum. The following are expectations and guidelines for student caseload assignments. The guidelines may vary slightly depending on the type of agency and client population.

1. Preliminary orientation is expected to be completed by the second week of placement and caseload assignments are to begin by the third week. Ongoing training may be incorporated into regular field practicum hours. A Safety Orientation can be downloaded from IPT which is to be completed and initialed by both the student and the field supervisor. A hard is to be submitted by the end of the 2nd week of placement to the faculty liaison.

2. Students are to be assigned:
 - a. Ten to twelve ongoing cases per quarter. The second year student is expected to apply case management skills, intrapersonal and interpersonal theories, treatment intervention strategies, develop treatment plans, and apply diagnoses using the DSM-IV TR or DSM V.
 - b. Two to three cases involving family intervention, case management, or direct therapeutic interventions. It is recognized that the term “family” may apply to a variety of familial patterns.
 - c. One 10 to 12 week group experience (can be crisis/time-limited). The student is to function as either a lead therapist or as a co-therapist actively facilitating the group process. For new groups, the student may be given the responsibility for designing the content and recruiting for the group. For ongoing groups, the student is expected to learn the dynamics and structure of the group. In both circumstances, the student is obligated to learn interactional processes and group analysis. Group experiences may be varied such as psychosocial groups, educational groups, socialization groups, etc.
 - d. At minimum one long-term case. The duration is left to the discretion of the field instructor based on the nature of the facility, taking into consideration that the student should have the opportunity to monitor the psychosocial adjustment of the client over several months.
3. Students will experience case conferences, in-service training, and/or staff meetings.
4. The student will actively participate in weekly supervision. This includes discussing case management, problem solving, enhancement of the therapeutic process, and student self-awareness.
5. Students will be exposed to the termination process for both student and clients.
6. Field instructors will review weekly process recordings completed by the student to enhance their understanding of the clinical process.

Second Year Field Practicum Expectations - Policy, Planning, and Administration Concentration

Students in the *Policy, Planning, and Administration Concentration* are placed in behavioral health agencies or organizations which promote interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of leadership skills. Sites support students’ participation in policy-making, planning, program development, program evaluation and social work administration activities.

In the second year of field practicum, students are expected to fulfill a minimum of 50% of their field hours (10 hours per week) participating in the administrative aspects of the agency. The exact nature of these responsibilities will be determined by the structure of the agency. The remaining hours may be spent in supervision, agency meetings, program development/evaluation, collaboration, and documentation time.

Students are to be individually supervised at a minimum of one hour for each week while in their practicum. The following are general expectations and guidelines for student activities. The guidelines may vary slightly depending on the type of agency and the services provided.

1. Preliminary orientation is expected to be completed by the second week of practicum. A comprehensive orientation to the agency is to include a mission statement, organizational structure, funding auspices, staffing patterns, interaction with the community, and boundaries. Ongoing training may be incorporated into regular field practicum hours. A Safety Checklist is to be initialed by both the student and the field supervisor and submitted to the faculty liaison by the end of the 2nd week of placement.
2. To participate in a variety of activities available within the agency, such as, task forces, board meetings, and program planning committees.
3. To attend, observe, and, when possible, participate in community, county or state level boards or committees related to the services provided by the agency.

4. To gain knowledge regarding legislative and other decision making processes that may impact agency funding and service delivery.
5. To gain knowledge and skills in the conceptualization and/or writing of grant proposals.
6. To assess administrative structure and service delivery.
7. To participate in agency activities relating to personnel management functions, program evaluation, financial planning, and staff development.
8. To assume primary responsibility for the development and implementation of a special project during the practicum.
9. To provide a review of the weekly process recording as a method of providing feedback on agency functioning.

BLOCK FIELD PLACEMENTS

Block field placements entail completing an entire year of the traditional foundation fieldwork practicum within 12 to 14 weeks and are available for only a limited number of students. Block placements are completed during the summer quarter that bridges the first and second year MSW program curriculum. Students with exceptional circumstances that have prohibited the completion of the foundation field placement during the regular academic year are eligible for block field placement consideration.

To petition a block placement, students must submit in writing a request to the Director of Field Education who then presents the proposal to the Field Committee for review. The Committee makes a formal motion to accept or deny the request. The Director of Field will contact the students with the Committee's decision.

Block placements are only approved if the student meets the following criteria:

- a. Students must have completed all of the MSW foundation curriculum and cognates.
- b. Student is in good academic and behavioral standing and currently enrolled in the MSW Program.
- c. Student does not have significant outside commitments that would impact on being able to complete the block within the prescribed time frame.
- e. No disciplinary actions pending within the Department based on either academic work or behavior.
- f. Has previous or concurrent work, volunteer, or intern experience in the field of social work.
- g. Students in a block field placement are expected to complete the same academic and Field requirements as those in a traditional 9 month placement (i.e. total number of process recordings, 50% of time in direct practice, outcome assessments, etc.). However, the requirements are to be met within a 3 month time period.

PAID FIELD PRACTICUM

The majority of field practicums are unpaid. There may be occasions where a field agency will offer a stipend or payment as part of the internship. Rates of pay vary tremendously depending upon the practicum agency's budget. Other requirements may include an early start date, mandatory agency orientations, or an extended end date.

OPTION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN FIELD PLACEMENTS

Federal Work-Study money provides for students an additional means of augmenting students' financial aid and in some cases may be used as pay for practicum hours. Eligibility for Work-Study is determined by the University's Office of Financial Aid following federal guidelines for nondiscrimination.

FIELD PRACTICUM POLICIES

1. Students are assigned to start field practicum based on their academic curriculum planning guide (i.e. two year program track, three year program track, or four year program track).

- a. Full-time students are required to complete practicum during each of the two years enrolled in the program;
 - b. Three year part-time students complete practicum during the second and third years of study; and
 - c. Four year part-time students may complete practica during the second and third years of study or the third and fourth year of study.
2. A student who finds that she/he must defer or alter their field practicum requirements of their academic plan due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, personal emergency, etc.) must discuss the issue(s) with her/his academic advisor and the Director of Field Education by submitting a request for a curriculum variance to the Academic Standards Committee. The request for variance must be specific and include:
 - a. A proposed curriculum plan for completing practicum and concurrent program requirements;
 - b. The academic year in which the proposed plan is to be implemented; and
 - c. Delineation by the student of her/his understanding of the impact that the delay will have on completing the MSW Program (i.e., the projected graduation date).
 3. Field practica are contractually arranged with participating agencies. These agreements require the appropriation of considerable agency resources in staff expertise and time to provide an environment capable of supporting the learning expectations of professional social work practica. As such, all students are expected to remain in the same field practicum site for the entire academic year for which the assignment is made. Any student who discontinues her/his practicum assignment prior to the end of the academic year (or before all requirements are met) for any reason **could** be required to begin the entire field practicum experience again. This requirement applies regardless of whether academic credit has been received for any part of the practicum assignment that is being terminated. It is crucial that students remain within their assigned field site in order to maximize their learning and minimize any impact upon their assigned client population. This recognizes the nature of developmental learning inherent in professional social work practica assignments and the time needed for students to demonstrate competent practice skills.
 4. A student may not discontinue or withdraw from her/his field practicum to avoid receiving an unsatisfactory grade for a portion of the practicum experience. Any student that withdraws from a practicum course and is not in good standing will not be allowed to re-enroll in a field practicum.
 5. Any student who withdraws from a field practicum must be showing satisfactory progress in their field practica at the time of withdrawal.
 6. Any student who discontinues her/his practicum while in good standing may be required to audit the related seminar when she/he re-enters the field practicum sequence. When auditing a seminar course, students are responsible for all related fees, regular attendance, class participation, and completion of all requirements.

The special circumstances necessitating the discontinuance of a field practicum must be discussed with the field liaison, academic advisor and Director of Field Education. The field liaison and academic advisor will propose the specifics and timing of re-entry into the field practicum sequence with approval from the Director of Field Education and notification to the Academic Standards Committee so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the re-start of the field practicum within Program guidelines.

Prior to the student's re-entry into the field practicum sequence, a meeting will be held with the student, Director of Field Education, field liaison, and academic advisor. This will determine the students' readiness to re-enter a practicum, review audit requirements, and to finalize any outstanding arrangements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are background checks required for students in field placement?
Background checks are required by the University on all students who have been accepted for field placement within all LLU entities. The majority of field agencies require background checks, Live Scans and/or fingerprinting prior to the start of the internship. Background checks from the University and field agency legally cannot be shared with one another. Consequently, most students will end up completing two background checks

(University and field agency). In the event that the field agency does not assume the financial cost of the background check, then the student assumes complete financial responsibility.

It is imperative that students speak directly with the Director of Field Education regarding any prior convictions which could impact their ability to secure a field placement. Even with closed or expunged records a 'hit' may sometimes appear on a background check, which could impact on field placement, stipend eligibility and/or standing in the MSW program.

2. How are field placements arranged?

In short, a student, when seeking a field practicum, must be accepted into the MSW program. Students are given or emailed the "Application for Field Internship" and must return the applications on the specified date. The Director of Field Education reviews the applications in order to assess the applicant's education and work history. Subsequently, the Director of Field Education or designee will meet with the students on a 1:1 basis in order to explore a potential match for field placement. The student is then matched with an agency and given the contact information to arrange for a pre-placement interview.

3. If I am a part-time student, in what year do I begin field placement.

Part-time students begin their first year field practicum in the second year of their academic program.

4. If I am full-time, when do I start field placement?

Full-time students begin field placement in the fall of their first year in the academic program.

5. Are there late afternoon or evening field practicum sites available?

There are very few agencies that can provide later afternoon or evening field hours. These are very limited and are based on student need. A meeting with the Director of Field Education to discuss special circumstances is required.

6. Can I complete field placement hours on weekends?

Weekend hours are strongly discouraged given this is a student's personal time. Loma Linda University is under the auspices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and respect for the Sabbath is observed. Mutual respect is also afforded students of other faiths who designate Sunday as their day of worship. If a student wishes to have a practicum on the weekend the following criteria applies:

- a. A site must be available that meets the Program's requirements for practice, learning, and supervision
- b. The site must have hours available that do not overlap with the Sabbath (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown)
- c. The student must put in writing that a practicum on Sunday is requested and that this will not violate their religious practices.
- d. A master level clinician must be on site when a student is working over the weekend.

7. Do I have to work during school breaks?

Some agencies may require a student to work during breaks in order to avoid prolonged interruption of services to clients (e.g., residential treatment facility, group homes, mental health clinics). It should be clarified during the pre-placement interview whether the agency has such a requirement. Students are strongly encouraged to begin this dialogue with their field supervisor immediately to determine if a modified practicum schedule needs to be developed for the holidays and school related breaks.

8. Can I change a field placement?

It is very difficult to change a field placement. Any request for a change in field placement needs to be made to the designated faculty liaison who will then share this request with the Director of Field Education. See specific policy for procedures and restrictions (p.54).

9. What if I don't complete my required hours during the quarter?

If a student is short in completing the minimum required field hours, then they will receive an “In Progress Grade”(I.P.).

10. Do students have input into the selection of their field placement site?

Yes, the Director of Field Education or a field faculty member will meet with each student to discuss her/his learning needs and a potential site.

11. When does the process of securing a placement begin?

The process for securing a first or second year field placement begins in January with matching interviews. In March, students are able to begin placement interviews for practicum's beginning in the fall. Newly admitted students after March begin securing field placements upon confirmation of acceptance to the MSW Program and submission of the Field Practicum Application.

12. When do Block Field Placements begin?

Block placements begin at the start of summer quarter and end in mid-September.

13. What occurs if I am dismissed from my field placement?

In the event of a dismissal, your faculty liaison should be immediately advised of this situation. The liaison will discuss with you and the agency the reason for dismissal. Then the Field Committee will convene to determine and recommend a course of action. The Academic Standards Committee is also notified of the dismissal. Recommendations and final decisions vary depending upon the reason for dismissal.

14. If I am a Full-Time Title IV-E student can I declare a policy concentration?

No – only Part-Time IV-E students who already work for CPS are eligible complete a policy track. A review of the students' work history is completed and then determined if the student meets the requirements to declare a policy concentration.

15. Am I required to drive clients in my personal automobile?

Yes – Some agencies may require transporting of clients, particularly of minors. Prior to transporting clients, students should meet with their supervisor to discuss safety (e.g. child lock, car seat, etc.) and security of both the student and client. It is strongly recommended that the student's supervisor or designee to accompany the student when transporting a client. Further, students should contact their insurance carrier to insure adequate coverage.

GRADING METHODS

INTRODUCTION

Assessment is an integral tool of education. The process of assessment not only provides an avenue for discussion concerning performance, but it also enables both the field instructor and the student to examine progress made toward reaching specified learning objectives and outcomes. Without this tool, it would be difficult to determine the educational growth of the student.

OVERVIEW

The ongoing evaluation of a student's performance is an integral part of the field instructor's role. To ensure the continuous nature of the evaluation process, both weekly supervision and quarterly assessment conferences are required.

WEEKLY SUPERVISION CONFERENCES

The weekly supervision conferences help the student identify performance strengths and weaknesses, review process recordings, case issues/dynamics and evaluate progress toward achieving goals identified in the Learning Plan. If there are any difficulties in maintaining regularly scheduled supervision conferences, this should be immediately brought to the attention of the faculty liaison. The supervisor is required to be an **MSW with two years post graduate experience and must have completed at least 8 hours of Field Instructor Training.**

QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES

The LLU Field Faculty will complete a total a minimum of three onsite visits during the academic year. In the fall quarter site visits will occur within the **first 3 to 4 weeks** of the start of the quarter. Subsequently a follow-up phone consultation with the field instructor will be conducted during the later part of the fall quarter. For winter and spring quarter's, onsite visits will take place between **weeks 6 & 8**. The onsite meetings will focus on the student's progress during the quarter as well as reviewing process recordings and times sheets. At the end of the quarter, the field instructor and student are responsible for insuring the submission of the Educational Outcome Assessment form on IPT. The student should keep a copy of the outcome evaluation and time sheet for their records.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

There may be times when a field instructor (clinical or policy supervisor) has concerns about the performance of a student beyond the routine learning experience. Either personal issues or problems in job knowledge or skills may affect a student's performance. Where there are concerns about performance, it is expected that field instructors follow a progressive disciplinary action plan. The following steps are recommended:

- Step 1: The instructor discusses the concern directly with the supervisee to try and reconcile the identified areas of performance difficulty. At this stage, it is not required but it is recommended for the faculty liaison to be consulted. In the event a problem has a significant impact on performance (agency protocol and mandates not being adhered, followed, or clientele being negatively impacted) the faculty liaison must be notified.
- Step 2: If the issue continues, the instructor is to give the supervisee a "verbal" warning and contact the faculty liaison. A copy of the verbal warning is to be given to the faculty liaison. The field instructor is to consult with the faculty liaison to determine whether the faculty liaison needs to intervene at this step. If there is a determination made that the faculty liaison should be involved, then a joint meeting is to be scheduled between the three parties within seven (7) calendar days. The liaison is to contact the Director of Field Education for consultation and the matter is also referred to the Field Committee for discussion.

Step 3: With a continuation of the problem, the next step would entail a mandatory joint meeting with the field instructor, faculty liaison, and the student. At that time, a decision would be made whether the problem could be resolved with closer supervision and monitoring or whether an addendum to the learning plan needs to be implemented. The purpose of an addendum is to "identify the specific learning needs of the student that continue to challenge the student and the steps necessary to promote professional development."

Step 4: When it has been identified that an addendum needs to be written to the learning plan, the Field Committee is to be advised of the problem and make recommendations for the content areas that should be included in the addendum. These would include the following:

- a. Identification of the specific objectives that have not been met, or have been marginally met;
- b. Specific activities to assist the student's development and time frame for completion;
- c. The responsibilities of the student in the completion of the activities and the responsibilities of the field instructor and field faculty in assisting the student (see Grading Policies).

The addendum will be written by the faculty liaison in collaboration with the field instructor along with the Director of Field Education and co-signed by both the student and faculty liaison.

Step 5: Finally, should the problem continue, the matter will be referred to the Academic Standards Committee to develop a corrective action plan (see Grading Policies). A corrective action plan is written when a student has "not attended to the requirements of a Learning Addendum or for whom a serious situation or problem identified that has immediate ethical consequences which may affect the well-being of the student and/or clients student will be placed on academic and/or professional probation" (MSW student handbook - Disciplinary Actions). It outlines specific behavior that is expected to change and a time frame for completion.

Steps 2 through 5 are documented and placed in the student's academic file. There may be occasions when the field instructor immediately suspends or terminates the student's field placement. In either case, the faculty liaison is to be immediately notified by the field instructor. The faculty liaison subsequently notifies the Director of Field Education who will then convene an emergency meeting with the Field Committee. The Committee will review the issue(s) leading to suspension or dismissal and make recommendations and a disposition on the matter.

GRADING POLICIES FOR FIELD PRACTICUM

1. The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading system applies to all field practica and seminars (SOWK 757A, B, C; SOWK 787A, B, C). These courses require a "B" proficiency to receive a Satisfactory (S) grade.
2. The recommendation of a grade for the field practicum is made by the field seminar class instructor (who in almost all instances is the liaison to the student). The Director of Field Education assigns final grades, Grades are based upon three criteria:
 - a. Student's performance and participation in the seminar class;
 - b. Completion of required assignments for the seminar;
 - c. Student performance in the agency practicum as reflected in the written evaluation completed by the field instructor and reviewed by the field liaison.

The seminar course is worth 50% of the total grade, with the field practicum assignments worth 50% of the remaining grade. Unsatisfactory performance in either of these areas may result in a grade of (U) (see Unsatisfactory Grade in Student Handbook).

3. In Progress (IP) Grade
 - a. **In Progress (IP) grade for satisfactory work:** An "In Progress" grade signifies that a portion of the required course work or practicum requirements have not been completed and evaluated in the prescribed time period. This grade is usually given for unforeseen but justified reasons, and when there is a strong likelihood of course completion.

It is the responsibility of the student to bring pertinent information to the seminar instructor and to reach agreement on the means by which the remaining course requirements will be satisfied. Agreement to the conditions for removal of the IP grade shall be put in writing by the seminar instructor in IPT. A final grade is assigned when the practicum and seminar course requirements have been evaluated as acceptable. An IP grade cannot exceed five quarters.

- b. **In Progress (IP) grade with an Addendum to the Learning Plan:** An IP in field placement may also be given if an Addendum to the Learning Plan needs to be in place signifying that the student has not met one or more of the competencies for the practicum. The competency requirements identified by the seminar field instructor must be completed prior to the end of the next quarter of field practicum. The completion date for practicum requirement(s) will be indicated by the addendum to the Learning Plan. The hours completed during the quarter in which the IP grade is given will count toward the total number of completed field practicum hours upon meeting all course requirements.

The Learning Addendum should be developed by the seminar instructor in collaboration with the field instructor. The purpose of the addendum is to identify the specific learning needs of the student that continue to challenge the student and the steps necessary to promote professional development. The addendum will include the following:

- 1) Identification of the specific objectives that have not been met, or have been marginally met;
- 2) Specific activities to assist the student's development and time frames for completion;
- 3) The responsibilities of the student in the completion of the activities and the responsibilities of the field instructor and field liaison in assisting the student.

If it is identified that the student's learning needs are beyond amelioration during the period when the addendum is in place, an unsatisfactory (U) grade will be given and the student removed from the practicum agency.

- c. **In Progress (IP) Grade with a Corrective Action Plan:** If it is found that a student with a grade of IP has made some progress during the additional quarter, but not sufficient enough to have removed the IP, the Academic Standards Committee, based on information provided by the Field Committee, will recommend to the School of Behavioral Health that the student be placed on probation. The Academic Standards Committee shall convene and develop a Corrective Action Plan.

A Corrective Action Plan may include the following: personal therapy, additional coursework, and/or other items deemed appropriate to assist the student in ameliorating identified problems. Under these circumstances, the grade of IP continues, and additional practicum time is required beyond the minimum designated for the practicum year. In some cases, the entire practicum (i.e., the total number of hours) may need to be repeated at a new agency setting. In this instance, the field instructor at the new practicum site will be informed of the circumstances surrounding the reassignment as well as the learning outcomes needing attention. If the entire practicum is repeated, the student must also audit all related seminars. The IP will be removed once the student demonstrates the expected level of skill commensurate with the practicum year being completed.

If at any time during the probationary quarter it is determined by the Program and Agency that the student's learning needs are beyond amelioration, the student will immediately be dismissed from the field practicum with potential recommendations to the Academic Standards Committee for academic amelioration, leave or dismissal from the MSW program. The student's continuation in other course work will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

4. Unsatisfactory Grade

- a. An Unsatisfactory (U) grade in field practicum may be grounds for dismissal from the program, as successful completion of field work is a requirement for graduation.

PROFESSIONAL FIELD PRACTICUM "FIELD" ISSUES

1. If students demonstrate a basic incompatibility with and/or inability to perform the program's professional (field) practicum requirements, they may be dismissed from the program. Students may demonstrate an overall pattern of incompatibility with, and/or inability through the following:
 - a. Students rejected by three or more agencies during the pre-placement process for reasons related to inappropriate behavior and/or responses to questions in the agency interview (i.e., rigidity to agency expectations, not open to accepting the student role in the learning process, extreme withdrawn personality style, persistent incongruent affect, volatile and inflammatory responses, and persistent angry and hostile mood).
 - b. Student shows unwillingness to participate in the field placement process as demonstrated by turning down three placement sites within a given academic year.
 - c. Students demonstrate repeated incapability with the field learning process by requesting unwarranted practicum reassignment within a given academic year.
 - d. The standards of competency delineated in the program objectives are not met.
 - e. Failure to disclose (either verbally or in writing) during the field application process (1st or 2nd year) information that has a direct bearing on their suitability to work in a behavioral health environment. This includes but is not limited to:
 - 1) Failure to disclose previous criminal convictions and/or charges (even if they have been cleared) that may make a practicum with specific populations and/or the bonding requirements of agencies impossible to meet.
 - 2) Failure to disclose convictions and/or charges at any time for acts against minors.
 - 3) Failure to disclose sanctioning by an employer, or a professional or voluntary organization for inappropriate conduct or boundary problems with other employees or consumers.
 - 4) Failure to disclose a mental health condition that requires regular medication adherence in order to perform adequately or safely.
 - 5) Failure to disclose active abuse or active treatment for an addiction to legal or illegal drugs, medications, or alcohol that impacts the ability to perform adequately or safely.
 - 6) Failure to disclose current illegal activities including but not limited to drug trafficking, persistent trouble with the law, possession of firearms (see Loma Linda University Student Handbook), fraud on admissions documents, sexual harassment, assault, inappropriate sexual behavior with clients, driving under the influence (DUI), driving with a suspended license, intentional intimidation of others, or violation of personal rights of others.
 - f. Non-compliance with or demonstration of an inadequate level of skill outlined in the corrective actions provided by the Field Practicum Committee and/or, when applicable, the Academic Standards Committee.
 - g. Persistent failure to appear at the designated practicum site at the prescribed time and/or days.
 - h. Consistent failure to meet agency deadlines.
 - i. Failure to complete agency assignments.
 - j. Violation of specific agency policy and procedures.
 - k. Violation of the professional Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.
 - l. Violation of Loma Linda University student policies regarding personal and academic conduct (see Loma Linda University Student Handbook).
 - m. Violation of professional performance standards of the MSW Program.
 - n. Personal issues which significantly impact the student's ability to meet agency or client obligations or needs.
 - o. Falsification of client records or fraudulent billing.
2. The following are considered areas of zero tolerance and will result in immediate dismissal from the program:
 - a. Dual relationships with clients, whether forced or coerced, including but not limited to personal friendships with clients; unauthorized transporting or contact with clients; relationships of a business or financial nature; sexual activity with clients including; but not limited to, kissing, fondling, or sexual intercourse.
 - b. Physical, verbal, or emotional threats directed toward clients, students, faculty, or staff.
 - c. Physical actions directed at clients, students, faculty, or staff, such as hitting, spanking, or slapping.
 - d. Illegal or unethical behavior that limits or takes away clients' rights or results in financial, material, or emotional loss for clients or gain for social work students.
 - e. Current illegal activities including but not limited to, drug trafficking, persistent trouble with the law, possession of fire arms (see Loma Linda University MSW student handbook), fraud on admissions documents, sexual harassment, assault, inappropriate sexual conduct with clients, DUI, driving with a suspended license, intentional intimidation of others, violation of the personal rights of others.

- f. Failure to report previous criminal convictions and charges which have not been cleared from the individual's criminal record that may make practicum with specific populations or the bonding requirements of agencies impossible.
- g. Sexual harassment (see Loma Linda University MSW student handbook).
- h. Students are expected to maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) throughout the course of the MSW program and during the period in which they are enrolled in the field practicum sequence (see MSW Student Handbook). (The complete Master of Social Work Professional Performance standards are found in the MSW Student Handbook.)

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AGAINST THE FIELD INSTRUCTOR

There may be situations where a student believes her/his academic or personal rights have been violated by their field instructor. Examples may include disagreement over the content on the evaluation at the end of the quarter, disagreement over case assignments, disagreement over the quality of her/his work with clients, or personality conflicts which negatively impact the field learning experience.

- Step 1: It is expected that the student will first try and reconcile conflict by openly addressing concern(s) with their field instructor. A student is to make every attempt to use professional demeanor and respect in meeting with her/his instructor to problem solve.
- Step 2: If after talking with the supervisor and the problem continues, the student is to then discuss the matter with the faculty liaison. The liaison will decide in consultation with the student, possible ways of dealing with the conflict i.e. alternative problem solving strategies, meeting with the field instructor. The liaison will document in IPT issues discussed and suggested methods of resolution.
- Step 3: In the event the problem is still not be resolved, then the student can request in writing to the Director of Field Education a review by the Field Committee for further disposition. There could be any number of possible recommendations made to the student or agency depending upon the severity of the issue(s). These could range from the faculty liaison more closely monitoring the placement, the student being changed to another field site, termination of the contract with the agency, or dismissal of the student from the field program. The result of the Committee's decision will be provided to the student in writing within fourteen (14) days of its referral to said Committee.
- Step 4: Should the student believe the action plan developed by Field Committee does not adequately result in a solution to the issue(s), the student may then request in writing that the MSW Program Director review the grievance. The MSW Program Director may choose to refer the matter to the appropriate standing committee within the Department. The committee may reaffirm the decision, modify the decision, or overturn the decision based on subsequent information. The result of the committee's decision is provided to the student in writing within fourteen (14) days of its referral to said committee.
- Step 5: If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Chairperson, he/she may appeal to the Dean of the School of Behavioral Health (See the UNIVERSITY CATALOG for academic grievance procedure).

THE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF FIELD

INTRODUCTION

In order to accomplish the goals of field practicum efficiently, it is necessary to establish a series of guidelines. The guidelines, set forth through official policies and procedures, allow for effective administration of the program.

PROCESS FOR SECURING A FIELD PLACEMENT

The process of securing a field placement involves a tremendous amount of collaborative work between the Director of Field Education, faculty liaisons, students, field agency staff, and community partners. It is imperative that a student disclose during the field application process (1st or 2nd year) information that has a direct bearing on their suitability to work in a child welfare, health or mental health environment. (see Background Check policy in MSW Student Handbook).

First Year Student Placement Process

Students entering the first year of field practicum will be contacted in person or via LLU email beginning in January of the current academic year by the Director of Field Education to initiate the field practicum application process. A summary of the placement is as follows:

1. Confirmation of acceptance into the MSW Program is received by the Director of Field Education by SBH Admissions.
2. The Director of Field Education contacts the student to arrange for an in-person interview with the student. During this interview, the student's education and work background are reviewed along with determining areas of interest i.e. mental health, child welfare, etc. The student is responsible for completing the "Application for Foundation Year Field Placement" and attaching a current resume and returning these to the Director.
3. All field applications are reviewed by the Director and "matching interviews" are then scheduled by the Director based upon the students' background and interest.
4. Students are contacted by the Director and advised to call the agency to set up a preplacement interview. Students will only be referred to one agency at a time rather than multiple placements. It is the student's responsibility to contact the agency for a pre-placement interview, to keep the Director advised as to the time and date of the visit, and to provide general feedback regarding the interview process. The Director of Field Education will forward to the agency the 'Placement Agreement Form' which indicates whether the student will be accepted. Upon receiving information regarding acceptance or denial, the student is then contacted by the Director regarding the status of placement. If accepted at the agency, the student will subsequently sign a 'Field Placement Agreement' form during their field orientation (SW 578).
5. Students who are not accepted after interviewing at their third internship assignment will meet with the Director of Field Education and the MSW Program Director to discuss readiness to enter a field placement and options for the program.

Second Year Student Placement Process

Students entering their 2nd Year or Concentration Year of field practicum begin the selection process in January of the current academic year. The Director of Field Education will visit current seminar classes and communicate with students via LLU email the process of securing a placement. Students will be emailed the “Application for Concentration Year Field Placement. A summary of the placement process is as follows:

1. Students are to submit a resume and the “Application for Concentration Year Field Placement” by the assigned deadline.
2. The field applications are reviewed by the Director of Field Education or designated faculty member and “matching interviews” are scheduled.
3. During the matching interview, students will be orientated to the placement process and will discuss their interests, experience, qualifications, and review scope of work at current placement site.
4. The student is subsequently provided with the name and contact person at a potential agency placement. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the agency for a pre-placement interview, to keep the faculty member advised as to the time and date of the visit, and to provide general feedback regarding the interview process. In some cases, the agency interviewer is responsible for contacting the faculty member with a placement decision. Upon receiving this information, the student is then contacted by the faculty member regarding the status of placement.
5. Students who are not accepted after interviewing at their third internship assignment will meet with the Director of Field Education, who will then convene a meeting of the Field Committee and a referral to the Academic Standards Committee for a disposition to be made.

Student requests to interview at a specific agency or with a population will be taken into consideration during the matching interviewing process, however it will not be automatically granted. The amount of time it takes to secure a placement varies depending on numerous factors (i.e., agency openings, number of students the agency may accept, work and vacation schedules, etc.). In general, most field placements are secured by June but it is not uncommon to secure a placement in late summer/early fall.

Students interested in interviewing with an agency that has not been pre-approved as a field site may submit the name and phone number of the agency administrator to the Director of Field Education for further exploration. Students are **not** allowed to conduct an independent search for a field practicum. **Students who do not follow the administrative policies of the Field Program may forfeit their eligibility for placement.**

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Background checks are required by the University and field placement agencies may also require background checks. Live scans and/or fingerprinting may also be required prior to the acceptance and start of a field practicum assignment. All background checks must be completed in a timely manner and the student must successfully complete a background check prior to the beginning/starting of the field practicum. Students are strongly encouraged to speak directly with the Director of Field Education should there be any past convictions (misdemeanor or felony) or other violations. Even with expunged records, it is likely that such “hits” will be detected and could result in the delay or disqualification of the field practicum. Delays or disqualifications may have an impact on academic progress in the MSW and needs to be addressed immediately.

HEALTH CLEARANCES

Field Agencies may require a student complete a health clearance, tests, or immunizations as part of the placement process. Students are expected to abide by the agency’s requirements and provide documentation if appropriate. Students are responsible for any fees incurred if not covered by the field placement agency site.

CHANGE OF FIELD INSTRUCTOR DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

In the event that a student's field instructor suddenly takes ill, transfers, or resigns from the agency, the student needs to notify the field liaison and the Director of Field Education immediately. A plan to transfer the student to a new field instructor must be developed and discussed in person with the student, field liaison, and agency representative.

AUTOMOBILE USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is required of all students who participate in the field program. Students are responsible for providing reliable transportation to and from the field agency. Students who do not drive must present a plan for transportation to the Director of Field Education for approval. The use of **public transportation to attend field practicum is NOT a viable option and is NOT permitted**. Attempts are made by the Director of Field Education and the field faculty to attempt to place students at a reasonable distance from their home. When this is not possible, students can expect an average driving time of 45 – 60 minutes to a field practicum site. Students must show proof of a valid California driver's license, automobile registration, and proof of automobile insurance. Students are to maintain their automobile insurance coverage throughout the field practicum assignment. All costs associated with automobile use and maintenance is the financial responsibility of the student.

ATTENDANCE

The student is responsible for observing regular agency working hours arranged by the field instructor. The student will keep a record of attendance and hours worked by using the Field Practicum Time Log form located on IPT. It is a requirement that the specified time requirements are met for each quarter. The Field Practicum Time Log should be completed each day the student is in their field practicum and reviewed each week by the field instructor. The field instructor who is to initial at the bottom the Field Practicum Time Log form that the review has been completed. This document will be reviewed by the field liaison during on-site visits. At the end of each quarter, the Time Log is archived in the IPT system.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The student must adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics and all agency policies regarding confidentiality). No related schoolwork, including class discussions and written materials, should contain client names or other identifying information. Information should be adequately disguised to preserve client anonymity and always be cleared through the field instructor or seminar instructor.

When confidentiality cannot be adequately maintained, the student must obtain written consent for release of confidential information appropriate to the agency's policies and procedures.

CONFIDENTIALITY AT THE AGENCY SITE

During a student's field placement, very sensitive information pertaining to clients will be discussed with your supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss with their supervisor agency policies relating to client confidentiality.

Issues to discuss include:

1. Determining whether messages can be left on a client's home phone.
2. Deciding which family members (if any) can be included in discussion about client(s).
3. Policy on faxing information about clients.
4. Determining what information can or should be shared with treatment team members.

5. Discussing what information can be written in chart notes about the client and family members.
6. Determining where confidential client's records are to be maintained.
7. Every effort should be made to not discuss clients in hallways, elevators, or other public areas.

CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

One of the major foci in seminar class is discussion of client dynamics. This includes assessment of the client, major presenting stressors, treatment methodology, diagnosis, application of theory, and use of self. Given the very sensitive nature of the information being shared, it is imperative that the last names of clients NEVER be revealed in oral discussion or in any written material. Rather, a pseudonym should be used. If the student has any questions or needs clarification relating to confidentiality these should be addressed with the seminar instructor.

CONFIDENTIALITY ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Students are required to maintain ethical practices in the use of social media. Students are to make every effort to refrain from posting any information regarding a client, a client's session, personal feelings about a client, or any related material on social networking sites regardless of how "disguised" the information may be. This is considered a direct breach of confidentiality and is unethical and unprofessional practice. Students who may be engaging in this practice should be reported to the Director of Field Education or to a member of the field faculty. Students who maintain their own social media sites should take careful consideration of their own practices and follow the suggested guidelines:

1. Students are not to accept "friend" requests from clients
2. Students should activate all privacy settings so that clients cannot have access to personal information
3. Students are to strictly follow all agency procedures and protocols regarding the use of social media

HIPAA

The Health and Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) went into effect in April of 2003. This Act in-part strictly regulates confidentiality of client records. It is the responsibility of the student to know and discuss with their supervisor how the agency regulates and enforces policies pertaining to HIPAA. Violation of HIPAA would result in dismissal of a student from the agency.

FIELD DAYS AND HOURS

Field days and hours are arranged by mutual agreement between the student and the field agency. **Students are not allowed to complete additional hours per week or quarter toward the purpose of leaving the practicum site before the end of the current or final quarter.** Field days and hours may not conflict with the class schedule or other school requirements. Some portion of practicum hours may take place after regular hours if appropriate supervision is available at the agency.

There may be occasions when the field agency requires students to start a practicum experience prior to the beginning of the University's official academic quarter. Should this be necessary, the student **MUST be registered for field practicum with the University** (i.e., SOWK 757 for first year students or SOWK 787 for second year students) and have obtained financial clearance. The student must also submit to the Director of Field Education a proposed calendar of field hours for approval. The goal of the calendar review is to ensure that field hours are evenly distributed across the academic year.

In the event that an agency requires a student to begin early, the hours for the practicum will start accruing immediately towards the total number of hours required for that quarter provided that the student has successfully registered and financially cleared. The practicum requirement is that students complete 160 hours per academic quarter for first year and

200 hours per academic quarter for the second year in practicum. This is the *minimum* standard and in some cases, students will exceed the minimum number of hours per quarter. Students are expected to remain in field practicum and will not reduce the hours at their practicum site without permission of the agency and the Director of Field Education. Students are to be additionally reminded that the field practicum is an integral part of the MSW education and that having the mindset of just “doing the time” can be detrimental to the practicum learning experience.

The agency, student, and field liaison should monitor the student's accrual of hours toward the minimum requirement for each academic quarter (i.e., 160 hours for first year students, or 200 hours for second year students), understanding that a balance between continuity of services to clients and students rights must be sought. Thus, the agency may have a student continue seeing clients once the minimum practicum hours have been met in order to avoid significant interruption of services. The student may not carry over more than a maximum of **20 practicum hours** to any subsequent quarter. Given this, an agency that requires an early start date must present a carefully constructed plan to insure that the student's time will not to exceed the **20-hour limit. This plan is to be presented to the field liaison.** In either of the above situations where a student has completed hours prior to the end of the quarter (per agency mandate), then the student may stop attending the practicum at the agency prior to the end of the University's academic quarter **ONLY** when the following has occurred:

1. The field instructor has given permission for an early ending date for the quarter in question in collaboration with the faculty liaison, **AND**
2. The early ending date has previously been requested and approved by the Director of Field Education.

All students, however, are required to attend the Department's weekly field seminar class for the duration of the quarter regardless of the ending date of a field practicum.

HOLIDAYS, RELIGIOUS EVENTS, MANDATED FURLOUGHS, TIME OFF

The student may observe holidays, religious events, agency mandated furloughs, and time off although this time will need to be made up in contact hours. The student must keep in mind that time-off needs must be correlated with agency needs for continuity of client care. This need for continuity may require adjustment in time-off hours. The student and the field supervisor at the agency will negotiate the number of hours the student is to work. Further questions regarding these issues are to be addressed first to the field liaison. The Director of Field Education only becomes involved in the event a conflict arises.

ILLNESS OR PRACTICUM INCIDENTS

A student does not receive sick day credit in field practicum. Students must make arrangements to make up the time missed from field due to absences from illness during the academic quarter or some other period of time by special arrangement with the field instructor, field liaison, and/or Director of Field Education. In the event of absence or illness, the student is expected to telephone the field instructor at the beginning of the field day to report the reason requiring absence from the practicum.

In the event a student is injured during field practicum hours, the student is to immediately contact both the field supervisor and the field liaison who will immediately contact the Director of Field Education. The Director of Field Education will then discuss the situation with the MSW Program Director. A course of action will be developed and communicated directly to the student, field supervisor, and field liaison to ensure the well-being of the student. All parties will document the incident.

SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Attendance at social work conferences and meetings occurring during field practicum may be counted as field hours at the discretion of the field instructor. The student may be required to complete a process recording and discuss their experience in supervision.

NASW LOBBY DAYS

Students are strongly encouraged to attend NASW Lobby Days in the spring as a part of an integrated field experience. Students are responsible for arranging time off, well in advance, from field practicum to attend. Credit for field hours is **not** given for attending the event.

SOCIAL EQUITY

Non Discrimination

The LLU MSW Field Program is committed to equal opportunity, promoting diversity, and works to ensure that the program is executed without discrimination. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to immediately notify the Director of Field Education and the MSW Program Director.

Sexual Harassment

The LLU MSW Field Program is committed to providing learning experiences free of sexual harassment. Should a situation of sexual harassment arise, the program will comply with Loma Linda University guidelines. A student who is feeling uncomfortable, receives threats, or believes they are being sexually harassed or discriminated, should notify the Director of field Education and MSW Program Director immediately.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

The University and the MSW Program support the integration of all qualified individuals into the Program and are committed to full compliance with all laws regarding equal opportunity for all students with a disability (see LLU Student Handbook and University Catalog for policies regarding students with a disability). It is the student's responsibility to disclose to their supervisor needed accommodations. Students should also inform the Director of Field Education of any accommodations that may be necessary during field education at the field site.

INSURANCE

The University has assured, through the University/Agency contract, professional liability coverage for the faculty liaison, student, or any other University representative interacting with the agency on behalf of the University. This coverage is to be considered primary, and the University discourages students and representatives from obtaining their own liability insurance. Liability insurance commences upon the student registering for classes for the quarter in which they are completing field placement.

The liability insurance coverage only extends to students during their assigned field placement days and hours. It does not cover students who choose to remain at the agency after completion of their field placement. If an agency independently hires a student during summer hours or non-internship hours, then liability insurance through the University would not be a covered benefit. Any questions regarding this coverage should be addressed to the Director of Field Education.

Students are required to arrange and provide transportation to and from their field practicum sites. When using a personal vehicle, each student is required to provide documentation of a current driver's license and automobile insurance.

Failure to notify the Department of changes in insurance coverage is grounds for removal from practicum and/or dismissal.

SPLIT FIELD PLACEMENT

Students are not permitted to arrange or complete a split field placement during either the first or second year of their field practicum. Split placements entail providing both clinical as well as policy services at a practicum site within the same year. Split placements take away from the breadth and depth of the field experience.

ADVANCED PRACTICE YEAR

Students may declare either a clinical or policy concentration. However, full time IV-E students (i.e. child welfare) can only declare a clinical concentration. The IV-E stipend program for full time students is intended to recruit and train students in the field of direct practice in a child welfare services (CSW) agency. A policy concentration does not adequately prepare the student for such practice. However, part-time IV-E students can declare either a clinical or policy concentration depending upon their interest and future goals. Given that part-time IV-E students have already been in the CWS agency, a policy placement may complement their long term learning objectives.

TITLE IV-E STIPEND OPPORTUNITIES

The program also participates in the Title IV-E stipend program facilitated by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC). Students wishing more information about these opportunities should visit the department website and contact:

Viola Lindsey, PhD
Title IV-E stipend Coordinator
(909) 379-7583
vlindsey@llu.edu

SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

An area of increasing concern in the field of social work is recognizing and trying to insure to the greatest extent possible the safety of students in field placements. Students need to recognize that given the nature of social work, there may be a potential for risk to their personal safety.

In order to minimize risk, field instructors are required to discuss, as part of their orientation with student's agency, safety protocols. Supervisors are further required to have students initial on the 'Orientation Checklist' having reviewed pertinent safety issues within the work environment.

Students can also minimize risk by being aware of their environment. Within the office, students should consider following:

1. When seeing a new client, advise your supervisor of the time and date of the appointment.
2. When seeing a client with a history of violence, drug use, or psychosis, both advise your supervisor of appointment time and consider having either your supervisor or another senior staff person join you in session.
3. Review the policy and procedure manual of the agency particularly relating to safety management.
4. Give to agency staff your schedule.
5. Avoid working at nights unless authorized by the agency.
6. Ask for an escort to your car if working at nights or in an environment where safety is a concern.
7. Do not give to clients your home phone number or cell phone number.
8. Avoid wearing valuable jewelry or jewelry with sharp edges to your placement site.
9. Do not have potentially dangerous objects in the office (sharp or heavy objects).
10. Avoid giving clients personal information (place of residence, spouse, and children).

11. Be aware of the agency's emergency exits.
12. Know where an agency disaster kit is located.
13. Be aware of verbal and non-verbal cues of escalation.

If working in the field (home visits), in addition to the above listed safety guidelines, students should also try to observe the following:

1. Give your supervisor the time, date, and place of your scheduled visit.
2. Inform the secretary or other staff of your scheduled visit.
3. Call in to your supervisor or other staff during the day.
4. Do not park your personal car in front of a client's home.
5. Do not accept food or drinks from clients.
6. Go out on initial interviews with your supervisor or other senior designated staff.
7. Carry a cell phone.
8. Have a full tank of gas along with road maps.
9. Know your destination and route.
10. Lock your car and regularly maintain it in good condition.
11. Know the location of the police department.
12. Be alert and aware of gut feelings.

SELECTION OF FIELD PRACTICUM AGENCIES AND FIELD INSTRUCTORS

FACTORS IN SELECTION OF AGENCIES

The settings for practicum instruction reflect the breadth of options for professional social work. Selection criteria for practicum sites include the following:

1. A commitment to contributing to the education of professional social workers.
2. A commitment to the Loma Linda University Department of Social Work and Social Ecology Master of Social Work Program's mission, goals, and objectives of the training of professional social workers.
3. A statement of a defined function of services to clients.
4. Willingness to make available individual, group, and agency or community projects for assignment to the student.
5. Willingness to provide adequate personnel in terms of qualifications, time for instruction, and continuity.
6. The provision of adequate office or work space,
7. An interest, where possible, in participating in the student's research.

In order for an agency to be considered for a practicum site, the Director of Field Education or designee conducts an in-person visit at each prospective field agency in order to determine the agency's commitment to the mission, goals, and objectives of the MSW Program, ability to meet students' learning needs, and to determine the appropriateness of agency commitment and resources. Provided the agency meets these criteria, the Director of Field Education coordinates the completion of an Agency Information Form along with a Contract for Clinical and Instructional Programs Form. The contract is signed by both agency personnel as well as University administrative faculty as a means of ensuring a mutual understanding of field policies and responsibilities.

FACTORS IN SELECTION OF FIELD INSTRUCTORS

A field instructor must meet certain qualifications. It is essential that either a social worker with an **MSW** degree from an accredited school of social work and two years' experience or an **LCSW** oversee and monitor the field practicum. It is important that the field instructor's assignments are adjusted in order to have sufficient time for the development and implementation of the student field practicum.

If a qualified MSW is not employed by the host agency, arrangements may be made with other agencies or with the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology to provide this educational component. It is permissible for a non-MSW to only assist in the daily implementation of the educational outcomes and have the title of preceptor. However, the provision of a preceptor does not replace the requirement of a qualified MSW level supervisor. The following are essential qualities needed for a field instructor:

1. Demonstrated skill in practice.
2. Conviction about and identification with social work as a profession.
3. Independence, creativity, and flexibility in the use of professional self.

FIELD INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

The Department of Social Work and Social Ecology provides an orientation for all field instructors. The purpose of this component of the program is to orient field instructors to the mission of Loma Linda University, the philosophy and operation of the field work program, and to provide an opportunity for field instructors to enhance their skills in the area of field instruction and supervision.

The field instructor training is held before the beginning of fall quarter. Included in this orientation is training related to the development of the Learning Plan Agreement Form and the process of evaluating the student. Other areas discussed include characteristics expectations of field performance needs of adult learners, techniques of field instruction and supervision, termination issues, specific content of legal issues in supervising students; dealing with problems in student behavior and cross cultural dynamics. A certificate of completion will be provided to participants who attend the entire training series.

DEVIATIONS FROM A TRADITIONAL FIELD PRACTICUM MODEL

When unique circumstances directly impact a student's ability to complete a traditional field practicum schedule, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Director of Field Education immediately. The process begins with written notification to the Director of Field Education and will then be reviewed by the Field Education Committee. Each circumstance will be independently evaluated and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

INTRODUCTION

From time to time special situations arise, directly or indirectly affecting the field practicum program for a particular student. Several of these situations are addressed below. In all instances, including those listed below and others that may occur, the special situation must be cleared through the Director of Field Education.

PLACEMENT AT THE STUDENT'S CURRENT JOB LOCATION

It is possible for a student to obtain a placement at the agency where she/he currently works providing that the educational experience includes substantial "new learning" in the areas of knowledge, values, and skills. Students requesting a field practicum at a current job site must complete a Use of Employment Agency as a Field Practicum Site form. The proposal will describe the student's current work assignments and identify how fieldwork activities will be significantly different from employment responsibilities. The proposal will be reviewed by the Field Committee. Students receiving approval to complete their practicum assignment at their current job site will be allowed this approval for one academic year only. One year of field practicum must be completed outside the student's job site.

In all cases, the following items will be reviewed by the Director of Field Education and approved on a case-by-case basis:

1. Social Work practice can be clearly distinguished from other employment roles
2. The employment site meets all MSW Field Education Requirements
3. Change of primary work assignment: The practicum assignment for the students is vastly different from employment functions
4. Internship Supervisor must be different from the employment supervisor and must meet the requirements to be a MSW Field Instructor

CHANGE IN PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

The student enrolled in the MSW program may seek a change in her/his field practicum when problems make continuation of the practicum an issue. It is the function of the student's designated field liaison to review the request for a change in field practicum. Examples which might generate such requests:

1. Inadequate agency resources to support the field practicum (i.e., lack of student office space, lack of clients for student case, insufficient supervisory time, loss of practicum instructor due to illness, change of job, etc.).
2. Learning experiences in the agency are too narrow (i.e., the student lacks opportunities to work with individuals, families, and groups). Placement error based on needs of student or practicum site. For example, agency learning experiences are too advanced for the student, or the converse. It is more a problem of an unanticipated "mismatch" than a difficulty in student performance.
3. Agency reorganization. For example, during the academic year, the agency substantially changes its administrative structure that creates a chaotic situation for the student and adversely affects available learning opportunities.

PROCEDURE FOR CHANGE IN PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

The student attempts to resolve the issues with the field instructor. If this is unsuccessful, the student is to submit in writing to the field liaison a brief, specific review of the issues.

The faculty liaison, student, and field instructor meet to discuss the issues and explore alternative solutions. If a solution is not found within the agency, a request to terminate the practicum is then made to the Director of Field Education and the Field Committee.

The final decision regarding a change of field practicum is determined by the Director of Field Education and the Field Committee.

The field liaison function will continue to rest with the student's current liaison even in the event that placement in a new practicum agency is completed.