Social Work Practicum – Overview

This document outlines the key points about BSW & MSW practicum:

1. Purpose of Practicum
   a. Get real life practice experience in a community agency setting
   b. Integrate classroom learning into hands on practice
   c. Engage in critical self-reflection & apply social work ethics and theories in practice

2. Practicum Timeline
   a. Practicum starts in the fall (first day of fall semester, usually end of August)
   b. Practicum continues throughout fall and spring until the end of the spring semester (usually beginning of May)
   c. Students are in practicum for a consistent weekly schedule throughout this timeframe

3. Practicum Hours
   a. 450 hours of practicum over fall and spring
   b. This equates to approximately 15 hours per week
   c. Consistent and regular schedule, e.g. three 5 hour days, two 8 hour days
   d. Practicum hours should occur during regular business hours (8am-6pm)

4. Agency & Supervisor Requirements
   a. Ability to assign supervisor on site
   b. FOR BSW: Supervisor must have at least 2 years of experience in a social service setting; a BSW degree is preferred, but a degree in a related field (sociology, psychology, early childhood education, etc.) is acceptable
   c. FOR MSW: Supervisor needs to hold MSW degree & 2 years of post-degree experience (if that is not the case, supervisor can still serve as Agency Field Instructor for student but UMSSW will arrange for additional outside MSW supervisor)
   d. Ensure student training, onboarding, and ongoing support throughout practicum
   e. Regular supervision of student: 30-60 minutes of individual or group supervision per week!

5. Next Steps for Agency
   a. Complete a formal practicum interview with the student
   b. Once student has received and accepted an official offer, student will submit their practicum site in Sonia
   c. If student will be working with a new AFI they will receive a welcome email with details on how to access and utilize Sonia
   d. UMSSW Field Education Program will contact agency directly to finalize placement
   e. Both AFI and student will complete required agency paperwork, including Memorandum of Understanding/Affiliation Agreement prior to the start of practicum

Updated by UMSSW FEP 3/2022