Placement Within Student’s Current Place of Employment

Students may request consideration to complete one year of their field education requirements in their current place of employment. The field education coordinator is able to grant this exception on a case-by-case review. The process begins with the student and potential field instructor completing an additional field application. (See the Forms section of this website.) The basic rationale for this policy is the recognition that the roles of student and employee differ within agency culture. And as the internship is primarily an educational experience, social work educators share the goal of essentially preserving the “student status” of the student. Therefore, at minimum, the following criteria must be met for approval to be given:

- The field practicum must be structured in a way that ensures separation of the student's “employee” responsibilities from that of the “projected student” responsibilities.

- The agency must agree to relieve the student from employment responsibilities for 15-20 hours a week and to assign different responsibilities to the student than previously carried.

- A field instructor will be identified for the student who is not currently or has not ever been the student's employment supervisor.

- The student will complete characteristically different types of work with or on behalf of a different group of people.

The field instructor must be employed by the agency/organization and meet the Department of Social Work’s criteria for qualification as a field instructor.