

Student Interview/Confirmation Meeting Tips for Preparation

1. Get directions and confirm a date and time
2. Drive by the location – check out parking, etc.
3. Research the agency/organization on the web
4. Have some self-awareness about your interview behavior challenges and practice to keep those in check. (i.e. fidgeting, eye contact, “um...um...um...”)
5. Look at recent news items that might involve or effect the agency/organization
6. Talk to other students who are doing their internship there currently
7. Google your field instructor to see if you can find anything out that might be helpful in the meeting
8. Know if your field instructor is an alum of the UVM Social Work Department
9. Think about how much of your personal life you will share – especially with regard to issues that may overlap with the content of the work the agency or program. For example, substance use, child abuse, suicidal history, etc.
10. If you have committed a crime and the agency requires a Criminal Background Check, know how you will talk about his during this meeting
11. Prepare questions
12. Prepare answers to the following questions:
 - a. What interests you about social work?
 - b. What interests you about doing your field placement here in this particular agency/organization?
 - c. What do you have to offer?
 - d. What might be challenging for you?
13. Think about what you will wear to show seriousness and professionalism
14. Review your resume to remind yourself what it says and doesn't say so you know what to fill in or explain or highlight
15. Get a good night's sleep
16. Turn your cell phone off
17. Bring two copies of your resume
18. Plan to arrive 10 minutes early

Possible answers to the question: “What interests you about doing your field placement here specifically with our clients/patients/participants,/service users?”

- I want to be helpful and contribute to the world
- You can only learn so much in the classroom
- I have a great deal of curiosity about the work and who I am in this work
- I know I have a lot to learn from the people I'll be working with
- I know and am eager to learn from my professional colleagues
- I want to know how agencies work, programs get started, funded, etc.
- I want to develop and deepen my social work skills
- I've had other experiences in this field and it has encouraged me to want to do more
- I've had some personal experiences that have drawn me to this work