**ECU School of Social Work Internships**

The field internship is a vital component of social work education, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is intended to offer students opportunities to integrate and apply classroom learning to practice situations, develop a professional identity, understand personal and professional values, and cultivate their intervention skills. As an accredited School of Social Work, East Carolina University adheres to the standards of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) for field education. These standards include requirements for supervision, placement types and hours.

**Objectives**

In addition to the general learning objectives for social work education, there are specific learning objectives for each degree level as described below. Students work with their field supervisors to develop an individualized Learning Agreement, which identifies specific activities the student may complete in the placement to fulfill the learning objectives of the program and the student’s individual learning needs. The Learning Agreements for BSW and MSW students can be found on the Field website.

The BSW degree prepares our students to be competent and effective generalist social work practitioners. Areas of learning for the BSW field placement include: social work values and ethics, professional development, preparation for interventions, communication skills, assessment, contracting and intervention skills, evaluation, termination, problem solving and working with individuals, groups, organizations and communities.

The MSW degree prepares our graduate students for advanced social work practice. Learning goals include developing the ability to utilize a broad range of knowledge and skills to analyze, intervene and evaluate practice with a high degree of autonomy and proficiency. Specific objectives include self directed learning, professional development, developing self-awareness, communication skills, evaluating practice, organizational and community context, policy, and direct practice skills including interviewing, assessment, and executing appropriate interventions. More information on MSW learning objectives can be found in the online Field Manual.

**Structure**

There are three social work internships, the BSW internship, the Foundational MSW internship, and the Advanced MSW internship. The full time MSW is a two year graduate degree. A three year, part time MSW program is available. Semesters are 14 weeks long, running August to December and January to May. The internships are structured as follows:

**BSW Internship**
- One semester (final semester of senior year)
- Four days a week- Tuesday through Friday
- 32 hours a week, total of 448 hours
MSW Foundation Internship
One semester (main campus - spring semester of first year of MSW program)
Three days a week (Wednesday through Friday)
24 hours a week, total of 336 hours

MSW Advanced Internship
Two semester sequential placement in same agency (second year of MSW program)
Three days a week (Wednesday through Friday)
24 hours a week, total of 336 hours

Supervision

All social work student interns are required to have adequate supervision that is administrative, educational and supportive. In addition to day to day task supervision, students must have a minimum of one hour a week of educationally focused supervision. This supervision must be provided by a social worker with a social work degree from an accredited school of social work and at least two years of post degree practice experience. A BSW supervisor may supervise BSW students; an MSW may supervise BSW or MSW students. An LCSW is not required. If the student’s day to day supervisor has other training and does not meet these requirements, another social worker can serve as an external Field Instructor. This “external” Field Instructor can provide the educational supervision. Further information and guidelines for supervision are available in the online Field Manual.

Field Seminars

All students are required to participate in a weekly Field Education Seminar while they are in the field. The seminar further promotes the integration of knowledge and practice, development of the professional role and application of social work values and ethics. It provides an opportunity for students to learn from each other and provides for peer support. This field seminar is led by an ECU School of Social Work faculty person, and meets during the days students are not in their field placements. The seminar instructor is the primary liaison between the ECU School of Social Work and the placement agency. Seminars may include assignments such as readings, process recordings or case studies.

For more information, please see the ECU School of Social Work Field Education Website at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-hhp/socw/