



### ***DePaul MSW Field Placement Site Selection***

Students are placed in organizations where they will develop skills in interviewing, data collection, problem identification and formulation, and working through goals with clients within the context of professional social work values and ethics and the auspices of the organization in which the student is based.

DePaul's MSW program offers two concentrations, one in **Community Practice** and the other in **Forensic Practice**. Each concentration is informed by Weil's (2013) bedrock definition of social work which "...engages citizens in problem-solving work to improve quality of life for vulnerable groups and communities and enacts the profession's social justice mission through a variety of practice models" (xi).†

With our newest concentration, DePaul has made specific effort to extend the impact and opportunities of their students to incorporate the intersection of the justice system and human services through forensic social work. By offering content on fund development, social welfare policy, program evaluation, and advanced social work practice, the DePaul University MSW Degree Program connects to both its broadening global community as well as to the resurgence of interest in both community-based and forensic social work practice in professional social work. Field placement agencies can serve foundation, community and forensic practice students simultaneously or indicate a rationale for a specific type of student field learning experience.

DePaul's MSW field program requires two (academic year-long) field placements:

- First year-students have learning opportunities with individuals and families, groups, and communities. Foundation year students are placed in organizations that help students build comprehensive generalist practice skills. Learning opportunities should include client engagement and assessment, problem identification, ongoing intervention and evaluation of intervention. Community can be defined by geography, identity, or concern. Students are required to do a minimum of 540 internship hours over the academic year for foundation placements. Generally, foundation students average 16 hours each week in their field placements – these hours can be completed over as few as 2 or as many as 4 days each week. Each student is responsible with establishing their schedules at the agency upon confirmation of the field placement.
- Upon successful completion of their first year placement, students begin their final or advanced field placement, which requires a minimum of 580 agency hours. Advanced students are placed in organizations that allow the opportunity to build on generalist practice skills developed in the first year placement and to develop macro skills such as research, policy, and fund development within the context of community or forensic

practice. Students are required to develop an understanding of the organization's history and purposes, its programs and services, and its role in the greater urban community. Students must always be able to demonstrate a professional awareness of self in working with clients as well as an understanding of human diversity as it relates to working with clients and working towards restorative and social justice. Students apply specific models of practice and tasks, such as needs assessment and program evaluation. Students are required to do a minimum of 580 internship hours over the academic year for advanced placements. Generally, community and forensic practice students average 20 hours each week in their field placements and these hours can be completed over as few as 3 or as many as 5 days each week. Each student is responsible for establishing their schedules at the agency upon confirmation of the field placement.

### ***Field Instructor Selection***

Field instructors should have the following:

Field Instructors are selected for the quality of their field instruction, attention to professional ethics and values, and commitment to the educational standards of the MSW Program. They are selected on the basis of their interest in and commitment to providing a supervised foundation and/or advanced social work learning experience for the field work student. The Master's level social work Field Instructor must possess their MSW degree from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and have a minimum of two years full time post MSW professional practice experience. They must possess a professional philosophy compatible with that of the organization and the DePaul University Master of Social Work Program. They are required to submit an application which includes a copy of their current resume. Field instructors must make available an hour a week for supervision of the MSW intern. Field Instructors should also have time to regularly review and provide feedback of the intern's written work.

DePaul University recognizes that there are many knowledgeable persons who are well qualified as Field Instructors but do not hold the MSW degree. A human service professional who has a related master's degree and a minimum of three years' worth of full-time work experience in a social work agency setting, with supporting supervision by a MSW, can be acceptable with supporting supervision by an MSW and additional support from the faculty field liaison. The Department holds regular orientations for beginning and continuing field instructors throughout the year; it is expected that instructors will be able to take advantage of the orientations as needed.

Weil, M. (Ed.). (2013). *The handbook of community practice*. Sherman Oaks, CA. Sage

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