

FULFILLING FIELD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS DURING CORONAVIRUS EVENT

Field agencies may work with students to allow/support telework. For example, students might do client case/paperwork on a secure server, call in for meetings, work on projects from home, engage in professional development activities, and meet virtually with their field instructors. Of course, these ideas might not replace all field hours missed during a crisis, but perhaps they can help close the gap. Such telework solutions can be temporary until the program convenes to develop long-term solutions.

Components of student field education can be temporarily facilitated via technology. Some programs have had students work on crisis response policies, procedures, notifications, and education (e.g., handouts, PowerPoints, webinars, public service announcements) based on the crisis or natural/manmade disaster.

For example, a field education program in Puerto Rico developed a list of crisis response tasks students could accomplish specific to their agency regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. This included having a student at a mental health agency create fliers with information about local services for basic needs and support groups that offered to help with healing after traumatic experiences.

In another example, students worked with local religious congregations during the Flint, MI, water crisis to organize bottled water collection and distribution.

In the case of a public health issue, students may engage in activities such as these:

- Help with public education about staying healthy
- Connect clients to Medicaid/Medicare or other affordable health-care plans
- Propose revisions to agency policies and procedures about safety
- Contact clients to inform them of changes to regularly scheduled services
- Create lists of referrals to other community resources that clients might need
- Work on projects or plans for future events or initiatives
- Engage in virtual professional development to support their work at the placement (e.g., webinars, DSM review, informational interviews with partner organizations)
- Develop awareness posts to be used on the placement's social media accounts
- Write advocacy communications to elected officials about issues and legislation the agency is connected to or populations it serves