

Field Education

Preparing for the Field Interview at Agency

During your interview at your field placement site, both you and the agency contact person will explore your interests, the field placement opportunities, and your expectations for the practicum. Below is a list of questions that you may be asked, or may want to consider asking, during your initial appointment.

In addition to the possible questions listed below, **please confirm whether Field Instruction from an MSW or MSS is available at the agency.** It is acceptable for Advanced Concentration students only, for the assigned field instructor to have a master's degree (or higher) in a related field (e.g., Human Services, Psychology, Education, Counseling, etc.); in such circumstances, however, students must be available to attend weekly field group seminar held at GSSWSR, facilitated by an MSW or MSS, for the purpose of providing the Social Work professional perspective. These meetings are held for one hour on a traditional class day. Time spent in the seminar counts toward required time in field. Please convey this information to the agency, as needed. Please let the Field Office know after the interview if a student placed at this agency would need to attend one of these sessions.

Possible Questions from Agency to Student

1. Tell me about yourself. Why did you enter the field of social work?
2. Why do you want to carry out a placement at this agency/program? Why with this population?
3. Tell me about your previous experience(s) in the field - where things went well and where there were challenges.
4. Have you ever been introduced to a theoretical framework for practice in the field, in class or elsewhere?
5. Is there a specific population with which you would most want to work?
6. Is there a population with which you would have difficulty working?
7. What is your preferred supervisory style?
8. What is your learning style?
9. Tell me about an ethical dilemma you have encountered while at your previous field placement. (If applicable)
10. Do you see yourself working in this area of practice following graduation?
11. Is there a particular area of interest or practice service in which you would like to gain experience?
12. What do you see yourself doing in 5 years? What do you want to do with your MSS degree?

Possible Questions from Student of Agency Contact/Field Instructor

1. What are the services provided by the agency?
2. What kinds of activities, programs and learning assignments does a student typically carry out?
3. Are there opportunities for both direct service and community practice, policy, advocacy assignments? (if applicable)
4. Is there an orientation for new students? If so when?
5. What clearances will I need and what are the dates for submission?
6. What are general demographics of clients and communities served by this agency?
7. What kinds of cases and/or projects do you anticipate assigning to me?
8. What specific skills will I be able to develop at this agency?
9. What is the approach to and structure of supervision?
10. Are there specific days of the week when I must be available at the placement?
11. What type of interaction does a student have with other students and with staff?
12. What opportunities exist for inter-professional collaboration or cooperation?
13. What knowledge or experience do you hope a student will bring to the agency?
14. How are students helped to handle issues of diversity regarding age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, mental and physical ability on both staff and client levels?
15. What types of in-service training or workshops and conferences will be available to me?
16. Is there safety training and a safety protocol plan in place at the agency?