Employment Based Field Placement

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can my work supervisor be my field instructor?

A: No, your field instructor must be a different person than your work supervisor. Your field instructor can be your work supervisor’s supervisor, but not your direct supervisor.

Q: Can I use the same field instructor that I have had before?

A: No, you must have a different field instructor for each internship.

Q: What are the credentials of a field instructor?

A: For internships, BSW internships must have at least a BSW with two years experience post degree. For MSW foundation year, field instructors must be at least an MSW with two years experience post degree. For MSW clinical concentration year, field instructors must have an LCSW or have a minimum of three years experience in clinical social work services after earning an MSW degree.

Q: What if my field instructor does not meet the credentials for a clinical concentration year placement?

A: The field instructor must be an MSW with two years experience post degree and you will need to sign a statement that you understand the field instructor does not meet the criteria for the clinical licensing through the Virginia licensing board.

Q: Does my concentration year have to be a clinical internship?

A: No, but you will be required to sign a statement that you realize it is not clinical and your proposal should clearly state you are aware it isn’t a clinical placement.

Q: Is my proposed field instructor required to complete the field instructor orientation?

A: Your field instructor is required to complete an orientation. Orientation is provided in person or is provided via videos, PowerPoints and other handouts.

Q: What is the definition of clinical social work services?

A: Please review the licensing manual available at the licensing board website, <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/social/>

Q: Can I participate in group supervision with my field instructor and other students?

A: BSW/Foundation year/nonclinical concentration year students can participate in group supervision, but must have individual supervision twice per semester. Concentration year students must have individual supervision weekly.