



MSW Advanced Field Practice Information

Please review this document prior to completing your Field Practice Application Form

SWRK 7180: Advanced Field Practice

A student directed specialized practice experience where the focus is on the integration of theory, research, and practice. The course requires a minimum of 450 hours of supervised, advanced field practice in an agency setting. Along with SWRK 7190: Integrating Theory and Research in Advanced Field Practice, this course is a key program component activity in the MSW program for those students who choose the non-thesis option.

Co-requisite: SWRK 7190: Integrating Theory and Research in Advanced Field Practice

Note: SWRK 7180 and SWRK 7190 are only offered during the Fall/Winter Terms. Students attend their advanced field placement **two days** per week (16 hours) over 28 weeks for a total of 450 hours.

Course Objectives

It is expected that the student will:

- Develop specialized skills and knowledge through a critical review of relevant theory and research and the application of advanced social work methods.
- Demonstrate a reflective approach to practice through the appropriate use of supervision and assessment of one's own performance in a professional role.
- Demonstrate effective working relationships with professional colleagues, service users and other members of the community.

Educational Supervision

Regular supervision will be provided by the on-site agency staff identified as the Advanced Field Practice Supervisor and arranged by the Field Education Office. The purpose of supervision is to ensure that the course objectives are met and will include: (1) guidance in the integration of practice theory and research with practice; (2) case management and case/project supervision; (3) feedback on progress, reflexive practice, and professional development.

Evaluation

The final grade is assigned as either Pass or Fail by the Advanced Field Practice Supervisor. Student progress is reviewed on an ongoing basis. However, a more comprehensive evaluation of student progress will occur at the midpoint (i.e., when about 225 hours of the 450 hours have been completed) and prior to the final completion of the field hours. The evaluation process will include input from any other staff involved in supervising the student's field practice.

Student Responsibilities

- Prepare an advanced learning contract, which includes relevant personal and practice background preparation, a plan for practice experience that integrates theory and research with practice, and specialized learning goals.
- Use IPT system software to document a minimum of 450 hours of practice, which may include: direct client contact, meetings, supervision sessions, self-reflection on practice, preparation and planning activities. This does not include time spent researching and writing assignments for the SWRK 7190 course.
- Prepare for, and actively participate in educational supervision with the advanced field practice supervisor.
- Continuously reflect on their practice, and actively participate in the evaluation process.
- Demonstrate ethical behaviour per CASW Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in all practice situations and act in a professional manner as a representative of the agency and faculty.

Field Placement Process

Field education is the cornerstone of social work education. For MSW students, the advanced field practice experience is often the most intensive aspect of the MSW program as they integrate their advanced coursework with social work practice in a supervised environment. Because of its importance, the Field Education Office is dedicated to matching students with placements that align with their learning objectives.

***Students are encouraged to contact Karen McKim, Field Education Coordinator, at karen.mckim@umanitoba.ca to discuss field practice interests and potential field placement opportunities during the winter months prior to submitting their field application. Engaging in these discussions early is highly recommended.

Given the complexity of securing placements for many students from different degree programs, the Field Education Office has a structured placement process. Students are not permitted to call, send their resume, or coordinate an interview with an agency without prior permission from the Field Education Office. Please be aware that some field placements ONLY want to be contacted by the Field Education Office and have requested that this process be respected.

If a student hears of a potential placement through networks, volunteering, employment, or if an agency approaches the student, please connect with the Field Education Coordinator to discuss this further. If qualified social work staff (MSW with two or more years of social work experience) are prepared to function as an advanced field practice supervisor and existing learning opportunities meet field curriculum requirements, your placement request will be considered for approval.

Final authority for a field placement referral and confirmation rests with the Field Education Coordinator. Decisions may be based on availability of agency openings as well as the educational needs of the student. Please note, a suitable advanced field practice placement is not guaranteed based on completion of pre-requisite courses and/or submission of a Field Placement Request form.

STEP 1: Students email a completed Field Application Form, along with a current resumé that includes the student's **UM email**, to Patti Kafka, Field Program Assistant, at patti.kafka@umanitoba.ca on or before **April 1st** of the year the field course will commence.

Note: Graduate Student Advisor will email the field application forms to students.

STEP 2: Field Education Coordinator will reach out to individual students to review their application and discuss field placement focus and potential opportunities (if this was not done previously).

STEP 3: Field Education Coordinator will refer the student to an agreed upon Field Placement Agency for consideration. After reviewing the student's resumé, the Field Placement agency will decide whether to interview the student or not. If the decision is to interview, then the student will be contacted directly to set up a time to meet and determine if the placement and the student are a match.

STEP 4: Following the interview, the Field Placement agency and/or the assigned Advance Field Practice Instructor will inform the student and the Field Education Coordinator if they will be accepting the student for placement. If a student is not selected for an interview or was not chosen for a placement, then the student and Field Education Coordinator will meet again to explore alternative options.

STEP 5: Students who are offered a field placement will receive confirmation of the placement by email along with relevant field information documents.