

## **Winthrop University – Department of Social Work BSW Internship Fact Sheet**

BSW students complete a “block style” practicum placement in their final semester before graduation. They are required to complete 450 practicum hours in an approved practicum agency. This means that students are expected to work approximately 30 - 35 hours per week in an agency like a full-time employee.

BSW education and practicum experience is based on “generalist” social work practice. BSW students are expected to achieve competency in generalist practice behaviors that are provided by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). These competencies and practice behaviors make up the practicum learning objectives that are throughout the learning contract and practicum evaluations. These are reviewed and explained during our practicum orientation meeting. You can look at our learning contract or practicum evaluation to see these core competencies and practice behaviors.

Students only have 1 class during this final semester of practicum and it is a practicum seminar class where they have assignments that are related to their practicum experience. However, these assignments are the student’s responsibility and require minimal assistance from the assigned practicum instructor. This class meets weekly on

Tuesday or Thursday, depending on the semester; therefore, students need to be able to leave their practicum agency early on their class day in order to attend class. Attendance is strongly enforced. However, this class time is counted towards their 450 total hours. Travel time to and from the practicum agency and Winthrop is not counted as practicum hours.

Practicum instructors must have a BSW or MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and should be two years post-graduation. They do not have to have a license. A student can work with a task manager with another degree, but needs to have a minimum of 1 hour per week with the BSW/MSW in supervision. That can be scheduled at the same time each week, or worked into the workday as it becomes necessary or questions arise.

Practicum instructors are expected to complete a one-time practicum orientation training via an online training module. Practicum instructors will receive social work 2 hours of CEUs for completing the practicum orientation training.

Continuing education opportunities will also be made available for practicum instructors on a yearly basis.

Paperwork throughout the placement and course is minimal. The students will create a Learning Contract at the beginning of the internship and they will do a weekly time report for the practicum instructor to sign off on their hours, a mid-term evaluation and final evaluation.

Practicum site visits are conducted with the student and practicum instructor twice during the semester – once around the mid-term, and again at the end of the placement around the final evaluation due date.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact the social work practicum office at [scwkfield@winthrop.edu](mailto:scwkfield@winthrop.edu) or 803/323-3387.