PART TIME STUDENTS PREPARING FOR FIRST FIELD
PLANNING AHEAD

We recognize that those of you considering enrollment in field have a variety of learning interests and personal plans to consider. We have also learned that early information about the following aspects of field has proven helpful to students as they consider arranging a personal schedule that accommodates field requirements.

Students must complete a 500 hour internship at a different agency each year. This equals two days per week for each semester (Fall and Spring), each year of field. If you adopt a part time schedule, fieldwork will occur in the second and fourth year of your academic program. Please note sites typically do not offer opportunities for evening and weekend work with appropriate licensed MSW supervision. We realize that setting aside two days/wk for field is challenging for part time students attempting to plan a personal schedule, however, it is critical to completing this program.

First Year Field Philosophy: It should be noted that a primary educational objective for students beginning their first field year is to provide you exposure to the broadest possible range of social work practice within a generalist framework. This goal necessarily involves expanding students beyond the scope of their current background. For this reason, your placement is likely to represent alternatives to your previous experience. Feedback from our graduates indicates that this has been very beneficial for their learning. First year students may qualify for a Work Study option (see detailed information about the requirements for this option at http://www.albany.edu/ssw/feducation/student.htm or proceed to Field Education program overview if you are presently at the school’s website).

Second Year Field Format: During the second year field placement, students have considerable autonomy and responsibility in researching and arranging their placement from the settings available. The field office provides a timetable, resources, strategies, guidelines and orientation sessions to get you started. Individual coaching is also available from the field office staff through out this process. Students will target agencies that coincide with their chosen second year concentration of either Clinical or Macro practice. Students in their second field placement may qualify for a Summer or for a Modified Block or for a Work Study option (see detailed information about the requirements for these options at http://www.albany.edu/ssw/feducation/student.htm or proceed to Field Education program overview if you are presently at the school’s website).

We wish you a challenging and rewarding field experience.