I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

RSSW 650 Field Instruction I - a 3 credit course and RSSW 651 Field Instruction II - a 4 credit course introduce social work practice and provide the initial experience of practice in a social work setting. Students are placed in a social service agency where, under a qualified instructor, they are exposed to experiences that enable them to apply, integrate, and extend the theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom and to develop social work skills and appropriate attitudes, particularly in relation to at-risk and oppressed groups. Assignment to a specific agency is made according to each student's educational needs. Students are in field two days per week (16 hrs.) and are required to complete a total of 250 contact hours per semester.

First field students also participate in a field seminar, which meets five times per semester (Fall/Spring). The field seminar focuses on professional and practice issues and addresses the concerns of the MSW students. The seminar provides learning opportunities that will enable students to compare practice experiences, integrate classroom learning with practice, and increase their critical thinking skills. The course is for Social Welfare majors only.

Co-requisites: RSSW 610, 620 and 630 must be taken concurrently with Field Instruction I (RSSW 650). These courses must be taken prior to registering for Field Instruction II (RSSW 651). RSSW 611, 621 and 631 must be taken concurrently with Field Instruction II.

Grading: The overall S/U grade for Field I and II will include the Seminar and achievement of the objectives listed below. Students must receive an S for their work in Field AND their work in Seminar.
II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Course objectives for the internship match the items on the final Field evaluation and include the following areas:

1. Student as Learner
2. Development of Professional Attitudes, Values and Ethics
3. Knowledge and Skills for Agency-Based Work
4. Communication Skills
5. Assessment Skills
6. Intervention Skills

At the end of the Seminar, students will be able to:

1. Describe the agency mission, history and structure, sources of funding, role in the community service delivery system, relationship to the community in which it operates and role of the social worker.

2. Reflect on their practice demonstrating self awareness, conscious use of self and professional identity development as a social worker.

3. Apply the knowledge, skills and values of cultural competence and cultural sensitivity to work with clients.

4. Apply relevant theories and evidence-based research to practice in Field.

5. Direct their own learning by utilizing supervision appropriately and the development and use of the learning agreement.

6. Apply critical thinking in determining appropriate approaches and social work skills for use with each unique client system.

7. Assess the impact of discrimination, oppression and injustice on populations at risk and employ strategies that promote human rights and socioeconomic justice.

8. Assess and evaluate ethical dilemmas inherent in social work practice situations.