

Fieldwork Requirements

We recognize that those of you considering enrollment 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.

With the exception of those who qualify for advanced standing or work study models (See detailed descriptions of these models at www.albany.edu/ssw/feducation or proceed to Field Education if you are presently in the school's website) students must work a 500 hour internship at a different agency each year. This equals **two days per week for two semesters each year during September through mid May**. If you adopt a part time schedule fieldwork will occur in the second and fourth year.

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- **First Year Field Philosophy:** Every effort will be made to consider your preferences regarding selection of a field site. It should also be noted that a primary educational objective for students beginning their first of field year is to provide you exposure/experience with the broadest possible range of practice settings. This goal necessarily involves expanding students beyond the scope of their current background. For this reason you will be asked to identify areas of interest for a first year placement that represent alternatives to your previous experience.
- **Second Year Field Format:** During the second year of field 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 throughout this process. Students will target agencies that coincide with their chosen second year concentration of either micro or macro practice.
- **Hourly Requirements:** Students are expected to be in a field setting **two full days a week**. While some flexibility may be negotiable, most sites do not offer opportunities for evening and weekend work with appropriate MSW supervision. This factor may have significance for part time students and those with work schedules might necessitate adjustment..