

**University at Albany
State University of New York
School of Social Welfare**

**FIELD WORK FACTS – PART-TIME GENERALIST STUDENTS
FALL 2008**

The following questions are most often asked by first year social work students beginning their first year part-time field experience:

WHEN DOES FIELD BEGIN THIS FALL?

Field placement actually begins on **Monday, September 8, 2008**.

HOW MANY DAYS WILL I BE IN FIELD?

You are in your field placement two (2) days a week (or the equivalent) over two semesters- **Fall and Spring**. Generally, first year students are in field **Monday and Tuesday**, although many agencies are willing to be flexible and spread the hours over other days as well.

HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK WILL I BE IN FIELD?

First year students spend 16 hrs/wk in field for a total of **500+** hours over the two semesters.

HOW DOES THE SELECTION MY OWN FIELD PLACEMENT?

You are encouraged to choose from new and different areas of practice that will allow you to have new and challenging experiences. You have the opportunity to identify areas of interest, previous experience and skill areas that you wish to develop as you prepare for your first field experience. Field Education staff and faculty will identify those agency settings that can best provide these educational opportunities and arrange one or more pre-placement interviews. Students are asked to advise the Field Office of any direct contact with agencies. You will be able to discuss with the prospective instructor, how this placement will provide you with the field experience you need.

I WORK FULL-TIME; ARE PLACEMENTS AVAILABLE WHERE I CAN I DO FIELD EVENINGS AND WEEK-ENDS?

It is important that students be in settings (during work hours) that will enable them to develop staff contacts, make collateral (agency) contacts, obtain supervision and otherwise participate in the business of the agency. While some agencies welcome students who can complete their hours from 1-9 pm, or are available one to three nights/week, the majority of agencies require at least one full day or more to be scheduled between normal business hours, Monday - Friday. **It is imperative that students be supervised by an M.S.W. during their field placement.**

There are options such as **Work-Study** and the **Block** option that may allow you to complete the field experience in the agency where you work or over one full summer (second year only).

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT THESE OPTIONS?

To apply for a **Work-Study** option, a student must have at least three years paid, full-time work experience in human services, and be able to do a placement in an area of their work environment that is: **1)** different than what their current job requires; and **2)** supervised by an MSW with two years post MSW experience, who is not your current supervisor. Students may apply for the **Block** option in

their second year of field for either the direct practice or M.A.C.R.O. concentration. The work requirement is necessary for this option as well. Work-Study and Block applications are available on the Libraries E-RES system, or from the Field Office, RI-116, or you may call Carol DeRose at 442-5321 to obtain a copy.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT WHERE I AM ASSIGNED?

Once you have returned your field work questionnaire and resumes, we will begin the process of matching students with available field placement agencies. Assignments will be given out at a **required** orientation meeting on **Monday, July 21, 2008**, although you may be asked to meet with an agency representative earlier. *(You will be given a contact information sheet at orientation in case you need to update us. Please return this during orientation or within one week from the orientation date).*

In addition to your assignment, we will also discuss: scheduling the pre-placement interview, preparing for the first day of field, learning agreements, process recordings and other field expectations.

WHAT COURSE DO I REGISTER FOR WITH FIELD?

You need to register for **RSSW 650 (4594)** Field Instruction I and also **RSSW 620** Micro Practice in SW I. These two courses must be taken concurrently.