GUIDE TO THE PLACEMENT INTERVIEW

The following material is intended to assist you in preparing for your placement interviews. Prior to the interview, take time to reflect on yourself as a person and as a developing social work professional, **identify your strengths, areas for further development, your goals, hopes and expectations for the learning experience in field.** Also, be sure to check the field agency’s website to familiarize yourself with the agency mission, goals, programs, services and populations served. Bring a copy of your resume and questions that you would like to ask based on your research. It is often helpful to provide examples that incorporate your previous experiences when answering the questions. Draft answers before your interview and bring notes for your reference. **Be punctual and dress appropriately for the interview.**

**Questions you may be asked:**

A. What are your areas of interest?
B. What are your professional strengths/weaknesses? What are some of your positive personal qualities? What personal or professional qualities are you striving to improve?
C. What interests you about this agency and/or population?
D. What are you hoping to learn from this placement?
E. What are your long term/post graduate goals? How will this placement facilitate your achieving these goals?
F. What do you perceive to be the role of a student, and how does it differ from an employee?
G. What was your most memorable learning experience in class and/or your last placement?
H. Describe your prior experiences (be prepared to not only describe where you might have worked, but what you did, how you did it and how it affected you and your decision to pursue graduate education).
I. What are you looking for in supervision?
   1. What is your preferred learning style?
   2. What facilitates your learning/what interferes?
   3. How well do you accept critical feedback?
   4. How do you resolve differences when you don’t agree with clients, supervisors, agency policies?

**Questions you may want to ask:**

Use your research about the agency and/or population to create informed questions about your learning opportunities, service delivery, the agency, field instructor, etc.

A. What are the social work functions within the agency?
   1. What are the clinical practice opportunities?
   2. What are the macro practice opportunities?
B. What is the supervisor’s practice orientation?
C. What is the supervisor’s approach to supervision?
   1. How are process recordings used as instructional tools in the learning process?
   2. What is the supervisor’s approach to the evaluation process?
D. What agency policies could affect students at this site? (i.e. working after hours, home visits, vehicle required, etc.)
E. What preplacement requirements will be needed to start field? (i.e. background check, fingerprinting, State Central Registry clearance, physical, TB test, proof of immunizations, etc.)
   1. Can these requirements be started early so as to not delay the start of field?

If you would like more support or to arrange a mock interview, please contact the Field Office: sswoffice@albany.edu to make an appointment.