

# Student Communication: Field Education Policy for Long Term Closures

We understand the possible impact that a Pandemic Flu such as COVID-19 can have on academic programs and field placements. If this type of event impacts the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University, please review the following information regarding Field Education:

- Students should contact the Field/Task Instructor at the field agency to see if there are mandatory agency closures and follow the directive of the agency.
- If field is in a setting where additional support is needed, such as a hospital or disaster relief agency, we encourage students to make every effort to attend field as scheduled while closely monitoring their own health.

## Contingency Plan

If a decision is made by a student or the agency to stay home for a period of time, the field education team has developed the option for students to be able to continue acquiring field hours. **Field Education Virtual Activities** are meant as a supplement to internship experience and not in lieu of agency learning. In addition, students **must request** this option by emailing the field instructor **and** field liaison. The student should include: the selected activities the student will pursue along with the specific date, times and location for each activity. The student should keep a log of all completed activities so that the Field Instructor can comment on these activities in the evaluation section of the Learning Agreement. The request must be approved by both the liaison and field instructor prior to the activity. The student must submit written verification of activity completion to receive hours. **No more than 48 hours will be approved for such activities.**

## Field Education Virtual Activity List by CSWE Competency

### Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

- Select a standard in the NASW Code of Ethics. Reflect in writing on differences or points of tension between the Code and agency policy/procedure and/or services.
- Read literature on the Code of Ethics and summarize in writing how it applies to social work practice.
- Review ethics-related case study identified by Field Instructor, OR reflect on personal experience regarding ethical quandary in field and respond in writing to factors that must be considered.
- Review history of NASW Code of Ethics. Write a reflection on its evolution to address gaps in ethics and identify specific areas where further ethical guidance is needed.
- Identify Ted Talks, YouTube videos and podcasts related to social work practice. Write a 1 page personal reflection on each podcast/video on how what you have learned can be applied to your field agency's ethical and professional practice.

### Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

- Utilize self-reflection to think about personal identities and biases in practice. Write a 1-2 page summary.
- Read and write a reflection on current literature related to diversity and difference.
- Write a 1-3 page reflection on how personal intersecting identities impact work and relationships in a field agency and with client/community groups being served.



- Review the NASW Code of Ethics standards related to oppression, discrimination and marginalization. Write a 1-3 page reflection suggesting improvements.
- In writing, identify the unique cultural composition of the client population served by the agency. Identify ways in which the agency meets the needs of the client population and identify how this could be improved.
- Research, identify, and complete an online training focused on a population served by the agency. Identify how this information could be used to better advocate for the needs of this population in practice. Provide your field instructor with proof of completion of this online training.
- Identify Ted Talks, YouTube videos and podcasts related to social work practice. Write a 1 page personal reflection on each podcast/video on how what you have learned can be applied to your field agency's ethical and professional practice.

### **Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**

- Complete a 1–3 page written assignment on strategies that promote social justice and human rights and apply these strategies to your specific field agency's mission and practice.
- Create a list of ways the agency could advocate for social, economic, environmental justice and human rights in the agency's work.
- Review an advocacy agency website and write a summary of how the work within that agency could impact the work completed by field agency.
- Research a human rights issue of interest and write a 1-3 page summary about how human rights organizations are working to ameliorate the condition.
- Identify Ted Talks, YouTube videos and podcasts related to social work practice. Write about personal reactions and how your learning applies to advancing human rights.
- Identify advocacy issues through NASW's website: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy> or other sources. Use this information to write letters to the editor or send emails/letters to your legislators. Keep a copy of these communications to share with your field instructor.
- Create a blog or website with providing information on an issue that social workers can advocate for. Share statistics on the problem, research the issue and it's impacts, and action points. Share this resource with your friends, family and community via social media.

### **Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice**

- Research and write an evaluation of articles that inform field agency's practice.
- Develop focus group questions or survey instruments related to an identified agency need.
- Develop research questions that emerge from work with the client system and agency setting.
- Discuss with Field Instructor resources that inform (or answer) the research question.

### **Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice**

- Explore local, state and federal policies that impact field agency and/or the affected community. Write a summary of findings.
- Write a letter to the editor about a policy issue impacting field agency.
- Complete an analysis of a political candidate's plans for policy change. Write a 1-2 page paper reflecting what you have learned.



**Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- Reflect in writing about how personal experiences, beliefs and identities impact professional relationships in field. Give concrete examples from your personal experience. Write a 2-3 page paper on this topic to share with your field instructor.
- Plan and participate in virtual/remote meetings, support groups, or other engagements. Provide documentation of attendance to your field instructor.
- Review literature related to culture and cultural humility and write a 2-4 page paper about how it impacts field work in the agency and how services are delivered.

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- Research assessment instruments used by agencies offering similar services. Discuss the instruments with your field instructor through a virtual platform such as Zoom or Skype.
- Create an assessment instrument (survey, focus group questions, interview questions) to better understand community/client needs.
- Review case studies for strengths, challenges and systemic factors impacting the clients and/or client group. Write a 1 page reflection for each case study or discuss with your field instructor.

**Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- Review effectiveness of evidence-based practice models and discuss with your field instructor ways that model could be implemented in field agency.
- Review case studies for strengths, challenges and systemic factors impacting the intervention and or implementation of the intervention. Write a 1 page reflection for each case study or discuss with your field instructor.

**Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

- Assess agency process for seeking client feedback and develop recommendations for improvement. Share with your field instructor or share recommendations in writing.
- Review literature on termination of relationships within the workplace setting (with agency staff, community partners, clients, etc.). Develop a written set of tips for students around how to terminate from field placement.
- Think about and plan discussions for terminations with task groups, community members/clients, and agency staff considering current circumstances. Create a termination form for you own use with clients.
- In writing, identify the structures in place for evaluating the field agency's outcomes. Compare and contrast this evaluation mechanism with structures in place for similar agencies (in other counties, states, countries). Write a 1-2 page reflection on what you've learned and share with your field instructor.

We express gratitude to the multiple contributors who shared resources in the development of this policy (Regis College, University of Denver and UNC Chapel Hill).

Please direct any questions about this policy to your OSU CSW Field Liaison or to [cswfield@osu.edu](mailto:cswfield@osu.edu).