



**MEMORANDUM**

To: FSU College of Social Work BSW and MSW Students

From: Craig Stanley, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Date: March 2, 2021

Subject: Field Policy Modifications for Students Beginning Field Placements in Fall 2021

COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the College, its students, and our field partners. The Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation has allowed for a reduction for hours required to graduate from a CSWE accredited program. The CSWE guidance is available at

<https://cswe.org/Accreditation/Information/Accreditation-COVID19-Response>. This memo seeks to operationalize how the College will amend its field policy to allow students to benefit from this exception. **While the exception allows students to complete their field placements with reduced hours, the FSU Office of Field Education strongly encourages students to participate in their placements completing field hours required by FSU without the exception. Field education is one of the most important components of a social work education and students should attempt to get the full value from that experience.** However, the College understands that current circumstances may create situations where students need to use the exception. Please note that the College's policy may require students who plan to reduce their hours to complete more hours than the minimum requirements specified in the CSWE exception. The Office of Field education has determined that the minimum standards specified in this memo must be obtained to ensure the educational quality of the field experience. For any questions related to this memo, please contact the College of Social Work Office of Field Education.

**BSW Students:** FSU typically requires BSW students to complete 512 hours in their field placements. Students will be permitted (but not required) to elect to make use of the CSWE exception to complete their field placement with a minimum of 400 hours. In order to use this exception, students must work with their Field Liaison and MSW Field Educator to develop an educational plan and weekly schedule based on the number of hours they will complete during the semester(s) in which they will be participating in the field placement. The educational plan will reflect the total number of hours the student plans to complete at the placement. The hours must be spread across the entire semester(s) in which the student is placed. Completing a field placement prior to the end of a semester will not be allowed under this exception.

**MSW Generalist Placements (Traditional MSW Students):** FSU typically requires 1<sup>st</sup> Year MSW students to complete 432 hours in their field placements. Students will be permitted (but not required) to elect to make use of the CSWE exception to complete their field placement with a minimum of 400 hours. In order to use this exception, students must work with their Field Liaison and MSW Field Educator to develop an educational plan and weekly schedule based on the number of hours they will complete during the semester(s) in which they will be participating in the field placement. The educational plan will reflect the total number of hours the student plans to complete at the placement. The hours must be spread across the entire semester(s) in which the student is placed. Completing a field placement prior to the end of a semester will not be allowed under this exception.

**MSW Specialized Placements (Advanced-Standing and Traditional Students):** These guidelines pertain to the SOW5535 field course for Advanced-Standing and Traditional students participating in their final specialized field placement.

**Advanced Standing MSW Students,** FSU typically requires MSW students in their clinical or social leadership final field placements to complete 512 hours. Students will be permitted (but not required) to elect to make use of the CSWE exception to complete their field placement with a minimum of 432 hours. In order to use this exception, students must work with their Field Liaison and MSW Field Educator to develop an educational plan and weekly schedule based on the number of hours they will complete during the semester(s) in which they will be participating in the field placement. The educational plan will reflect the total number of hours the student plans to complete at the placement. The hours must be spread across the entire semester(s) in which the student is placed. Completing a field placement prior to the end of a semester will not be allowed under this exception.

**Traditional MSW Students,** FSU typically requires MSW students in their clinical or social leadership final field placements to complete 512 hours. Students will be permitted (but not required) to elect to make use of the CSWE exception to complete their field placement with a minimum of 432 hours. In order to use this exception, students must work with their Field Liaison and MSW Field Educator to develop an educational plan and weekly schedule based on the number of hours they will complete during the semester(s) in which they will be participating in the field placement. The educational plan will reflect the total number of hours the student plans to complete at the placement. The hours must be spread across the entire semester(s) in which the student is placed. Completing a field placement prior to the end of a semester will not be allowed under this exception.