

Our Lady of the Lake University – Worden School of Social Service

Field Education Overview

Social work field education is considered signature pedagogy of social work education. Through placement in a community setting and the instruction of a social work professional, it is supervised high impact learning that provides students direct practice experiences for applying and integrating knowledge, skills, and values acquired in the classroom. It consists of enrollment in letter-graded integrative seminars concurrent with field education courses assigned a “Pass” or “Fail.”

Field education is a collaboration of the student, field instructor & OLLU faculty liaison. Using the framework established by the CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, and guidance of field instructor and faculty liaison, students complete an education plan & bi-weekly supervisory logs that allow students to chronicle, document, and reflect upon their learning activities.

Foundation students are required to complete 450 hours over three, consecutive 8-week academic terms averaging approximately 20 hours each week. Advanced Standing / Concentration students complete 500 hours over three, consecutive 8-week terms averaging approximately 22 hours each week. Students can opt to complete their hours over four terms if additional time is needed. Students start accruing hours on their predetermined start week (the first week of the term) & not sooner.

Field Instruction – Expectations and Commitments

The field instructor plays a critical role in a social work student's field education. Field instructors should have an MSW from a CSWE-accredited institution along with a minimum of two years post-MSW social work practice experience. Maintaining a professional relationship with the student, the field instructor guides the student in developing their education plan, directs learning activities & events, is routinely & regularly available to students, and conducts weekly, formal, face-to-face, one-hour supervision sessions. The field instructor reviews and signs the student's bi-weekly logs through a web-based software program which allows for electronic submission of fieldwork materials. The field instructor participates in three virtual site visits with

HISTORY & MISSION

As the first school of social work in the State of Texas, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) has been educating social work leaders since 1942. In 2009, the school earned the Presidential Award for Excellence from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), an annual honor reserved for only one of the nearly 500 social work degree programs in America.

In accordance with the catholic teachings of social justice and the philosophy and purposes of OLLU, and in adherence to the purposes of social work education articulated by the CSWE, the mission of the Worden School of Social Service is:

To develop competent social workers for specialized intervention in direct practice with emphasis on Hispanic/Latin@ children and families; to prepare social workers for professional practice in culturally diverse settings, especially agencies that serve clients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and to generate and disseminate knowledge that advances social and economic justice; enhances human well-being; and promotes effective practice with emphasis on Hispanic/Latin@ children & families.

CONTACT US

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both the faculty liaison & student intern throughout the internship. These visits are orchestrated by the student who is also responsible for ensuring the appropriate technology is in place. To facilitate the educational process, new field instructors complete a short, online self-paced training at the onset of the internship.

OLLU Field Placement Process

1. Student identifies placement site along with a qualified field instructor
2. Student completes and submits OLLU's field education application to the field office
3. OLLU's field office contacts field instructor or other identified agency contact to discuss roles & expectations - a verbal commitment is made by both parties
4. OLLU & newly identified placement site formalize arrangement by finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement
5. Field instructor completes and submits OLLU's field instructor profile form
6. Student completes all necessary agency requirements (immunizations, background check, trainings, etc.)
7. Student meets with field instructor to establish internship schedule
8. Student receives academic clearance from OLLU and confirmation from agency that all preliminary requirements have been met
9. Field instructor receives log-in information for self-paced training course
10. Field education begins on predetermined start week
11. Field instructor receives log-in information for IPT, our web-based software program which allows for electronic submission of fieldwork materials, during week one of the internship

