



WORDEN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

03.27.2020

OLLU WSSS Field Education Department COVID-19 Response:

Greetings to our Faculty, Staff, Community partners and Students,

As you know, the last several weeks have been trying on many different levels because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our offices have sent two formal communication emails and conducted several trainings and student-focused townhall meetings about our response to COVID-19. As a social work program, we have been keeping in step with directions from the Council on Social Work Education and the Council on Accreditation. We truly appreciate your patience as we have been consulting with our accreditation body.

This week we received more direction from CSWE on new regulations and standards to be applied to social work educational programs that we believe continue to address safety measures, preserve the quality of our social work program and provide further relief beyond the alternative field activities to our constituents. The following response is based on what we know to date.

Below you will find a description of COVID-19 Relief Measures approved by the OLLU WSSS Leadership Team.

Be advised, in order for the following relief measures to be applied, students must complete an acknowledgment form.

¹Relief Measure 1

Using guidance from CSWE, OLLU WSSS Field Education Department has determined the following adjustments for all BSW and MSW Students currently enrolled in 2020 Traditional Spring Semester and 2020 Spring B Term. Students meeting these new requirements at a satisfactory level (determined by Field Faculty and Field Instructors) will have completed their field education requirements. We currently determining how we will apply these measures to future cohorts.

Program Classification	Adjusted Field Hour Requirement
(On Campus) BSW	340 hours
(On Campus) MSW Foundation	370 hours
(On Campus) MSW Advanced	365 hours
(Online) MSW Foundation	370 hours
(Online) MSW Advanced	365 hours

²Relief Measure 2

Using guidance from CSWE, OLLU WSSS Field Education Department has determined that Field Seminar, synchronous or asynchronous, class hours may count toward field hours. Based on the program the following calculations apply for students enrolled in 2020 Traditional Spring Semester and 2020 Spring B Term.

¹ CSWE and Commission on Accreditation Statement March 25, 2020, Alexandria, Va.

² CSWE – Accreditation Response to COVID-19 | FAQs & FIELD GUIDANCE March 20, 2020

BSW Field Seminar hour Calculation

32.5 hours will be counted towards field education hours for all Bachelor of Social Work students.

MSW (Foundation and Advanced) Field Seminar hour Calculation

21 hours will be counted towards field education hours for all Master of Social Work students across all MSW programs.

Final Field Education Hour Determination (Relief Measure 1 and Relief Measure 2 applied to all BSW and MSW Students currently enrolled in 2020 Traditional Spring Semester and 2020 Spring B Term)

Program Classification	Final Education Hours
BSW	307.5 hours
MSW (Foundation)	349 hours
MSW (Advanced)	344 hours

³Relief Measure 3

OLLU WSSS program is still requiring that 50% of hours completed in Field Program are direct practice hours. Direct practice hours have been defined as “in-person-contact.” Using guidance from CSWE, “in-person contact” can include remote based field activity. Remote field activity can include engagement such as field-related assignments, trainings, and virtual meetings and will be defined at the discretion of Field Faculty and Field Instructors.

Please continue to review your contingency plan with your Field Faculty and Field Instructor to determine direct contact hours under these new program guidelines.

Be advised, in order for the above relief measures to be applied, students must complete an acknowledgment form.

In closing, it cannot be understated that these times are unprecedented. OLLU WSSS will continue to provide support for all of those navigating the field education landscape during this time.

Best,



Jacob Lomas Sanchez, MSW
Director of Field Education
Our Lady of the Lake University
210-528-6844 office
210-431-4028 fax
jlsanchez@ollusa.edu

³ CSWE and Commission on Accreditation Statement March 25, 2020, Alexandria, Va.