

### **Students Graduating in May 2020 (Campus-based & VAC)**

In accordance with recent decisions by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the Field Education Department is offering the opportunity for students in good academic standing (including field) and on target to graduate in May, 2020 to waive up to 83 hours of their spring semester field practicum. The 83 hours represent 15% of the 550 hours expected in the final two semesters of field education. Eligible students must meet expected proficiency levels for all nine competencies and complete SOWK 699b (*Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education*) field placement requirements to receive a grade of Credit. If hours are **approved** to be waived by their field instructor **and** field faculty liaison, the final comprehensive skills evaluation can be completed as evidence that the student has successfully met their field placement requirements.

Field placement requirements refers to the following:

- Appropriate termination with clients and agency with plans in place for continuity of care for clients. Students should recognize that this is a time of significant distress for everyone, especially clients with underlying social and emotional challenges that led them to seek help prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. The NASW professional code of ethics requires that social workers do not abandon clients and that they place clients' needs above their own as long as it is safe to do so.
- The field instructor, agency, and field faculty liaison approve of the student's request to be released early from the expected end of internship.

Students selecting that hours be waived should do so with full knowledge of the following:

**There is no guarantee that state licensing boards will accept these reduced hours as sufficient to register for licensure after graduation. Some state boards have issued statements that their hours expectations have not changed, although there continues to be discussion on this topic.**

Waiving hours may not be possible for:

- Students with certain expectations/requirements because of specialized programs (e.g. workforce development stipends, Pupil Personnel Services Credential).
- Students currently on Student Performance Improvement Plans (SPIPs) who have not met all expectations.



The Field Education Department encourages all students to meet their original spring semester hours commitment through continued service to clients/agencies and further their professional social work skill development through remote learning activities whenever possible. Our field faculty are available to support students, field instructors, and agencies in this endeavor.

### **Students Graduating August and December 2020 (VAC)**

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the long-term impact of COVID-19, we encourage students who plan to graduate in August or December 2020 to accrue the minimum field hours this semester via remote field activities. Any student facing challenges in completing field hours remotely should consult with their field faculty liaison. CSWE provides similar latitude regarding field hours during this pandemic for all students graduating in 2020 and if physical distancing recommendations continue, the school will consider similar waivers in the future. Students who cannot complete their full hours this semester may have the opportunity to make up hours in future semesters.

### **Students in 589b (*Applied Learning in Field Education*) (Campus-based)**

The CSWE announcement does not apply to students graduating in 2021. We strongly encourage students to accrue the maximum field hours via remote field activities. Any student facing challenges in completing field hours remotely should consult with their field faculty liaison. If students cannot complete the required hours via their remote learning plan, they will have the opportunity to make up hours up in SOWK 699a (*Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education*). Students taking this option should review field requirements listed above, consult with their field instructors, and be in consistent communication with their field faculty liaisons for specific approval.

### **Students in 589a (*Applied Learning in Field Education/Virtual Field Practicum*) (VAC)**

The CSWE announcement does not apply to students graduating in 2021. Any student facing challenges in completing the Virtual Field Practicum should consult with their course instructor and remain in contact with their field placement specialist regarding their status for summer internships.

### **Field Seminars – 588 - Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice & 698a/b - Integrative Learning for Advanced Social Work Practice**

Please note that the integrative field seminars (588, 698a/b) are credit classes with associated assignments. Students should continue to attend field seminar sessions and complete assignments in order to receive Credit. They are not considered part of the field practicum experience and will not be counted as field practicum hours.