

August 21, 2020

Welcome to Field Education for Academic Year 2020-2021,

The Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Field Education Team welcomes you to an exciting year of field education. This summer we have been collaborating with our agency partners to adapt to both in person and remote field practicum opportunities, refining our policies to ensure student safety for those who will be going into field in person, and preparing our seminar classes to address the pressing societal issues of the day. While the future of COVID-19 and its impact on our communities remains uncertain, we are trying to prepare for every eventuality. Being flexible and adapting to change is an important social work skill that we can all expect to practice this school year.

The following are some key things to be aware of as you prepare for field education this semester:

- Because student safety is our highest priority, we have developed a COVID Field Practicum Policy to guide you as you prepare to provide client services as an intern, whether in person, remotely or a combination. Most of you have confirmed your understanding of this policy via DocuSign, but if you have not, please do so as soon as possible and before beginning your field internship.
- USC requires that Trojan Check be completed each day before you go to your field agency in person. If you do not clear the check, please contact your field instructor and field faculty liaison immediately and make alternate arrangements to complete your field hours for that day and any future days until you are cleared again to go to field in person.
- Due to the uncertainty of the future impact of the pandemic on your field placement, please maintain close communication with your field instructor and field faculty liaison. We will all work together to design learning experiences and meet the required field hours if for any reason your placement is disrupted.
- If you have any questions about the field program, please consult the [On Campus Program Field Education Manual](#) or the [VAC Field Education Manual](#).
- The Director of Field Education and members of the field department leadership team will host “virtual drop-in sessions” throughout the school year to learn more about your successes and challenges in field. Notice of these sessions will be sent out via email.

This is such a critical time to become a social worker. We look forward to working with you to provide valuable field education experience that will prepare you for the profession.

Fight On!



Ruth Supranovich, Ed.D., LCSW
Director of Field Education

