Field Liaison Visits for MSW Students

The Council on Social Work Education and the School of Social Work requires that school representatives have contact with field instructors and students during the field placement. This can occur at the beginning of field placement especially with new field instructors, during the middle, or at the end of the term. While there are many variations of the structure of field liaison visits during the field placement, there are certain themes that are central to the discussion during these visits.

- How well can the student describe the agency or department, the types of services, clients / consumers / constituents, and interventive processes that are utilized?

- Who are the populations at risk and what is the diversity of the clients/ consumers /constituents that the student is working with?

- What are the quantity and quality of the field learning experiences?

- What are the amount, type of, and quality of field instruction? How has the field instructor furthered the student’s development?

- Give examples of the integration of field and classroom learning.

- Give examples of diversity, ethical, and social justice issues that are observed or discussed in the field experience.

- How has the field experience influenced the student’s development of a professional self?

- How has the student and field instructor prepared for ending the field experience?

Students and field instructors often ask HOW to prepare for this visit. Styles and formality often vary among field liaisons from the School of Social Work, but in some form, students and field instructors should prepare to:

- demonstrate what the student has learned by way of a verbal summarization, discussion of specific cases, groups, projects, or situations;

- demonstrate that the learning is appropriate to and advances the completion of the student’s educational outcomes;

- demonstrate that the learning has been supervised.

If the field liaison has not called to schedule a visit at least one month prior to the end of a field placement, please call that person as a reminder. Do not hesitate to call the field advisor at any time during the field placement for consultation or assistance in problem-solving.