



TCU Department of Social Work

MSW Field Education

FAQs for Field Education

What is Social Work Field Education?

Field Education consists of supervised field learning within a social work agency **and** a classroom seminar taught by the TCU Director of Field Education. There are required social work courses taken concurrently with Field Education.

Field provides students hands-on, real-life social work experiences. The student's field placement experience is supervised by an agency-based Field Instructor. Foundation students complete 200 hours in each Field 1 & Field 2 for a total of 400 hours and Concentration students complete 250 hours each in Field 3 & 4 to graduate with a MSW for a total of 500 hours. You should plan to spend approximately 16 hours per week in the agency setting in both the Fall and Spring semester.

Field Seminar provides opportunities to discuss placement experiences with other students and to help students integrate theory and practice. Students attend a two-hour seminar each week and complete Field Integrative Papers and other written assignments such as the research project.

How is Field graded?

Performance in Field Education is evaluated by the Field Director based on a Learning Contract developed by you, your Field Instructor and the Field Director. The final grade for Field includes performance as an intern in the agency, assignments, and participation in weekly Field Seminar. Assignments may include weekly threaded discussions on Pearson Learning Studio (formerly eCollege), Field Integrative Papers, a social work assessment, an agency description, and a research project. All assignments and grading percentages will be detailed in the course syllabus.

Students must receive a passing grade of C or better in each field seminar class to progress to the next level of field education. In addition, students must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0.

How will I know if my progress is satisfactory?

Students must maintain satisfactory progress throughout the field experience. When problems or concerns with a student's performance arise, the student will meet with the agency Field Instructor and, when needed, the Director of Field Education to discuss these concerns. A typical outcome of such a meeting is a written contract with the student that addresses how to address the areas of concern. However, depending on the nature of the problem, the student can be removed from the program.

Students in Field Education are bound by the NASW Code of Ethics, Texas Code of Conduct, and the TCU Student Academic Conduct Policy. Violation of the Code of Ethics or Academic Conduct Policy is grounds for removal from the Social Work Program.

Are there costs associated with Field?

YES. You will be assessed a fee of \$100.00 on your TCU account for each Field 1 and Field 2. You are also required join NASW before Field 3 & to take the social work licensing examination prior to graduation (you are not required to pass the licensing exam to graduate.) The cost for NASW is approximately \$48 and the exam is approximately \$361. You are responsible for all fees associated with these requirements. Related costs may include professional attire and money for gas to and from your agency.