

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
OF
BRYN MAWR
COLLEGE

Field Education Requirements: Community Practice, Policy, and Advocacy Concentration

Master of Social Service (MSS) students carry out year-long field placements in each of their two years in the program. **Second year students** who have elected the **Community Practice, Policy and Advocacy (CPPA) concentration** are in the field the equivalent of **three full (8-hour) days**, in fall and spring semesters (September through April). Students entering the program in the summer with an earned BSW degree (“Advanced Standing” students) are in the field for 10 months (June through April).

Field Learning Objectives: Advanced Community Practice, Policy and Advocacy Concentration:

Student field placement assignments in the Advanced CPPA concentration may focus on any, or a combination of the following:

- policy analysis
- organizational management & administration
- research and evaluation
- policy-making process
- program development, planning
- community capacity building
- engaging neighborhood residents in determining and resolving community-based issues

Field Agency requirements:

- A sufficient number and variety of assignments to develop student knowledge and practice skill; supervised in-depth experiences in one of the areas, above.
- Sufficient time for field instruction to permit individual and/or group conferences with students;
- Adequate space and administrative resources to support student work; and
- Congruence between the student’s field assignments and assignments in the practice course taken concurrently with the field placement.

Field Instruction Requirements:

- Field instruction must be provided by an individual with a master's degree or higher. While the preferred degree is a master’s degree in social work, the school also accepts field instruction provided by an individual with a master’s degree in a related professional field (e.g., psychology, education, public health).
- A minimum of 2 years post-graduate professional experience is required for all Field Instructors.
- If they have not yet supervised masters-level social work students, attendance at a Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI), (either at GSSWSR, or at another social work program/school in their area)
- Minimum of 1 hour/week of in-person individual supervision to the assigned student. The Field Instructor also provides on-going supervision and is responsible for completing the student's end-of- semester and final evaluation. Process recordings or journals are used as a supervisory teaching tool on a regular basis to enhance the learning process.
- Attendance at in-person, three-way meeting with student and Field Liaison (representative from the school) at least once in the fall semester to review learning goals and as needed in the spring semester. (For Advanced Standing students, an additional Field Liaison visit also takes place in the summer semester.)

Major course assignments, CPPA Practice I and II (academic practice course taken concurrently with field practicum):

- Fall semester: students focus on a community or organization issue from field practice, describing it in detail and developing recommendations for addressing the issue.
- Spring semester: students' assignments include a grant proposal, and policy brief, analysis and campaign plan based on a social/health/political issue.

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