Field Placement Agreement  
2017-2018

The Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research (GSSWSR) has initiated this agreement between the School and Agencies serving as field education practice sites in order to clarify their work together and ensure the high quality and integrity of the educational experience of the students. This agreement takes effect when a signed contract is received and signed by both the School and Agency. The dates and time expectations for student field placements are as follows, unless otherwise adjusted based on advance written agreement between School and Agency:

**Full time students:** AY 2017-2018 field education placements begin the week of September 4, 2017 and continue until April 20, 2018.

**Foundation/First Year students** are in the field the equivalent of 2 full agency work (or 8-hour) days per week per semester.

**Concentration/Second Year students** are in the field the equivalent of 3 full agency work (or 8-hour) days per week per semester. Specific days of the week in the field can be arranged between the student and Field Instructor. Days and times are determined by agency and student needs.

**Advanced Standing students** are in the field the equivalent of 3 full agency work (or 8-hour) days per week during the summer session (beginning after June 5, 2017 and ending on Friday, August 11, 2017). Students will return to the agency the week of September 4, 2017 and follow the Concentration/Second Year schedule, above.

**Winter & Spring Recess:** Students are not required to be in field practice during the winter recess (December 18, 2017 through January 2, 2018) unless making up required time in field for fall semester. Students are entitled to two to three days (depending on year in program) of vacation from field practice during the spring recess (March 12-16, 2018); if the agency provides a spring recess at a different time from GSSWSR, the student would be expected to carry out their regular field hours during the designated GSSWSR spring break in order to observe the agency spring break schedule away from the field.

**Holidays/agency closures:** The GSSWSR recognizes Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, and July 4th. Students are expected to have these days off from the field if they fall on a day when the student is regularly in the field. Field practice time lost because of holidays established by the School or because of agency closures due to inclement weather, is not made up by the student. Students are expected to make up any field practice time lost due to agency holidays, outside of the above, in which the agency is closed.

School and Agency Agree:
- to make no distinction among students covered by this agreement on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, or physical ability;
- to establish the educational objectives listed on the learning contract for the Field Education experience, devise methods for their implementation, and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the experience;
- to inform one another in a timely manner of any changes in academic curriculum or academic status of a student, availability of learning opportunities, and staffing or supervision affecting the academic preparation or practice experience of students;
- to notify one another in a timely manner of the requested withdrawal of a student from an assignment and to process this request together to reach mutually agreed upon terms;
- to implement coordinated planning and evaluation of the field placement through regular communication between the agency and School;
to be responsible for its own acts or omissions and hold the other party harmless for the consequences of its own acts or omissions in all actions for injuries, losses, and damage to persons and property arising out of the project which is the subject of this agreement.

School Agrees:
- to select students to be placed at the agency after careful discussion with both the student and the agency, and consideration of the student’s ability, practice concentration, goals, interests, and previous experience;
- to assign only those students who have satisfactorily completed or are currently undertaking the required course of study to prepare them for field placement;
- to notify each student placed within the agency that he/she shall not be considered an employee of the agency for purposes of financial or fringe benefits;
- to maintain full responsibility for conducting any student disciplinary proceedings in accordance with its own rules and regulations;
- to assign a member of its faculty or professional staff to serve as liaison to the agency and make at least one site visit and at least one conference call with the student and field instructor to review progress and address any concerns;
- to assume responsibility for assigning a final grade for each student at the end of each semester in consultation with the field instructor and through a careful consideration of the field instructor's written evaluation of the student;
- to maintain all educational records and reports relating to the participation of individual students in field agencies;
- to maintain professional liability insurance for each student, liaison, and practice instructor in the amount of $2,000,000 for each claim and $4,000,000 aggregate;
- to provide field instructors with field manuals and other appropriate forms as well as an academic calendar;
- to provide the agency with student profiles and to provide the agency and students with questions on which to focus during the placement interview;
- to provide seminars for new field instructors as well as educational opportunities for experienced field instructors;
- to advise students of their responsibility to familiarize themselves with existing rules and regulations of the agency including a respect for the confidentiality of agency clients and client records;
- to communicate with the agency immediately (or within a one day window) any safety, ethical, legal, or clinical concerns regarding the field experience.

Agency Agrees:
- to provide a field placement for a student(s) for the entire academic year barring unforeseen circumstances;
- to designate a field instructor mutually agreeable to School and agency with at least two years post-master’s experience;
- to provide the field instructor with time to plan, implement, and supervise the field placement experience;
- to provide each student with a minimum of one hour of individual (and/or alternating weeks of individual/group) face-to-face supervision each week;
- to monitor student field attendance and learning activities while in field and complete required documentations (learning agreement and student evaluations);
- to familiarize students with existing policies and procedures of the agency including, but not limited to, those relating to confidentiality and safety;
- to allow students to use case material within the bounds of confidentiality to complete course assignments;
• to make its facilities available to students, including sufficient desk space and access to office supplies necessary for performance of student’s responsibilities;
• to have a written understanding in regard to reimbursement and insurance with students who are expected to use their own or agency automobiles in performing practicum assignments;
• to provide for all student travel approved by the supervisor and occurring on behalf of the agency or its clients by reimbursing students for use of their private cars at the mileage rate provided to agency employees, or reimbursing students for costs incurred for public transportation.
• to provide the field instructor with time to attend the Field Instructors Orientation Meeting in the fall at the School and the Field Instruction Seminars when appropriate;
• to provide the School with a written description of the field placement experience;
• to meet in the spring with assigned student(s) for the following academic year to discuss learning opportunities and expectations;
• to make available to assigned students learning experiences in line with the agency mission and written description;
• to submit a written evaluation of the performance of each student at the end of each semester by the dates specified on the Academic Calendar unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties, using the evaluative guidelines provided in the Field Instruction Manual by the School;
• to notify the School immediately of any situation or problem which may threaten a student’s satisfactory completion of the assignment;
• to provide written notice of any incident or claim involving any of the students placed at the agency;
• to apprise the School in a timely way of any unforeseen complications which may affect the student’s practicum experience.
• To communicate with the school any potential safety, ethical, legal, or clinical violations or behavior (within a 24 hour period) with the students field education experience.

Additional Agreements:

• This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and all other written agreements or understandings are hereby merged into this agreement.
• No amendment or modification to this agreement shall be effective unless the same is in writing and signed by both parties; minor adjustments may be agreed upon by letter, but shall only be binding if signed by the recipient.
• This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research

School Contact: [Signature]  Title: Chief Financial Officer
Agency Name: [Agency Name]  Date: 2/22/2017
Agency Contact: [Agency Contact]  Title: [Title]
Signature: [Signature]  Date: [Date]

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