

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 (COPA) concentration are in the field the equivalent of three full (8-hour) days, in fall and spring semesters (September through April). Part-time students may elect the two day/week schedule for both the first and second year in field. In this case, the field placement would end in June in the first year, and begin in August, in the second year.

Field Learning Objectives: Advanced Community Practice, Policy and Advocacy Concentration: Student field placement assignments in the Advanced COPA 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 at least one hour/week 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 discipline or profession (e.g., psychology, education, public health, law). Students must be provided with the professional social work perspective either through the agency or, if this is unavailable, through required weekly attendance in a field seminar held at the GSSWSR.
- 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 evaluations. 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, COPA 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, policy brief, analysis, and campaign plan based on a social/health/political issue.

Field Learning Objectives in the Advanced COPA Concentration:

Students enrolled in the Advanced Community Practice, Policy, and Advocacy concentration will focus on policy analysis and reform, community organizing, nonprofit management, research and evaluation, and the development of knowledge of the policy making process. Examples of field assignments might include:

1. Identifying, defining, and helping resolve community and/or organizational issues, problems, and conditions as they relate to the mission and goals of the field placement agency
2. Advocating in political arenas through the development of political action strategies, based on local, state and/or national policy analyses
3. Developing collaborative working relationships with individuals and groups from diverse economic, political, social, and cultural backgrounds.
4. Organizing/staffing effective task groups (standing committees, boards, ad hoc committees, councils, action groups, etc.).
5. Administrative experience including organizing duties and activities, setting priorities, preparing clearly written records, reports, and memos in a timely manner.
6. Research projects, related to agency mission and clearly delineated by the agency/organization and/or its partners
7. Creating/managing social media and other forms of communication for an organization or community

Field Education Staff:

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