



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 490: Field Education I

Professor:
Email:
Phone: 616-331-6550

Credits: 3
Co-requisites: SW 492

MISSION AND GOALS

BSW Program Mission

The mission of the BSW Program is to prepare generalist social workers who enhance and promote well-being and advocate for social, economic and environmental justice of the citizens, organizations and communities of West Michigan, the state, the nation, and the world; and to further the goals of the University and of the social work profession in this region and beyond. West Michigan's unique setting consists of diverse cultural communities as well as urban and rural settings, creating significant potential for skilled social work professionals to make a profound impact on our community.

BSW Program Goals

Derived from the BSW program mission statement, the BSW program goals are as follows:

1. To provide a generalist social work curriculum in a high quality learning environment that prepares BSW graduates for entry level social work practice that promotes social, economic and environmental justice and endeavors to address poverty and other social problems within organizational, individual, and community contexts within, but not limited to, West Michigan and the state of Michigan.
2. To prepare generalist social workers who exhibit a professional commitment to enhancing social justice, promoting human rights, ensuring the dignity and worth of all individuals, practicing with integrity, upholding one or more of the profession's Code of Ethics, incorporating diversity into their practice, and advancing the profession's reputation and knowledge base.
3. To prepare students for continued professional development opportunities throughout their careers.
4. To maximize the strengths and assets within local, regional, statewide, national and international social welfare and human services communities through civic/community engagement in organizing, leading and participating in effective capacity building and social and political action activities.

University Policies:

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <https://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>. (See *University Policies* [SG 3.04.C](#) for more details.)

Accommodation needs:

Any student in this class, who has special needs because of a learning disability, or other kinds of disabilities, must report to the Disability Support Resources early in the semester. This is a required action if you wish special consideration on class assignments and projects. Also, please feel free to come and discuss this concern with me. For further information check the website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr/> or call 331-2490. The office is located at 215 CON on the GVSU Allendale campus.

Caring for Students:

Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out and we will figure out accommodations.

University Emergency Policy:

Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators. More information is available on the University's Emergency website located at <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency>.

FIELD EDUCATION: THE SIGNATURE PEDAGOGY

Field Education is the signature pedagogy of social work education and offers students opportunities to fully integrate and practice the skills necessary to demonstrate achievement with the School of Social Work's core competencies and practice behaviors. Field Education provides practical application of values, skills and knowledge introduced to students in foundation and advanced coursework. Using carefully selected community partnerships and at the direction of qualified field instructors, students become participating members of the social work community while learning to apply the ethics and values needed for effective service delivery with populations at risk. Participation in the guided seminar class assists the student to assimilate course content with community based learning.

FIELD EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the most recent practice standards outlined by the Council on Social Work Education, the Grand Valley State University School of Social Work recognizes the centrality of field education curriculum in addressing competencies at the MSW and BSW level. Field Education curriculum provides students with an experiential and imitative learning opportunity to explore and use Social Work ideas, concepts and behaviors first encountered in the classroom.

These learning opportunities are designed to further develop professional social work identity, self-reflection and self-awareness, and practice competence in each student. In each semester of field placement students develop concrete and measurable activities that address the competencies using the learning contract and evaluation. The development and monitoring of these activities requires the collaboration of the student, the agency based field instructor and the university based faculty liaison. This model of collaborative competency based Field Education is implemented at both the

BSW and MSW level.

Additional emphasis on the integration of coursework into Field Education is provided by the guided Field Education Seminar coursework, providing students with the opportunity to actively reflect on the connection between classroom theory and agency application. Furthering the centrality and integrative nature of the field experience is the use of tenure and tenure track faculty actively engaged in teaching. This faculty further insures the reciprocal nature of field practice in courses and the field experience.

This Field Education course requires concurrent attendance with SW 492, a Field Education Seminar designed to integrate classroom teaching, supervision and evaluation with the student's placement in a social agency.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Competency 1:

Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Competency 2:

Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Competency 3:

Engage in Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice

Competency 4:

Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Competency 5:

Engage in Policy Practice

Competency 6:

Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 7:

Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 8:

Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 9:

Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course requires 200 hours of involvement in social work activities per semester in a School of Social Work approved field education site. Students have opportunities to apply theories, techniques, and concepts through observation and participation in supervised assignments and show evidence of skill acquisition through supervisor assessment and evaluation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of the course the students will be able to:

1. Application/Apply:

Apply values, skills, and knowledge introduced to students in foundation and advanced coursework.

2. Adaptation/Develop:

Develop professional social work identity, self-reflection and self-awareness, and practice competence in each student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Field Education I requires 215 clock hours in a Field Education setting approved by the School of Social Work. Fifteen of the 215 hours are earned in Field Education Seminar (SW 492). Field Education and Field Education Seminar are inextricably related and must be completed simultaneously in order to receive credit for Field Education.

- a. Students will complete a Learning Contract based on the CSWE competencies and behaviors that demonstrate achievement of the prescribed benchmark for each.
- b. Students will write journals as arranged and/or required by the Field Supervisor and/or Faculty Liaison.
- c. Students will participate in an end of semester performance evaluation meeting with their Field Supervisor and Faculty Liaison each semester.
- d. Students will complete a Field Education Evaluation each semester.
- e. Students will complete a Field Education Exit Survey at the completion of Field Education II.

Recommended text(s)

Grand Valley State University [GVSU], School of Social Work. (2023). *Bachelor of social work field education manual: Policies and procedures*. Grand Rapids, MI: GVSU.

NASW Code of Ethics.

Switzer, H.F. & King, M.A. (2019). 5th edition. *The Successful Internship: Personal, Professional, and Civic Development in Experiential Learning*. Belmont CA: Brooks/Cole.