



Fairleigh Dickinson University Online Master of Social Work Program

Field Internship Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will I find a fieldwork site?

A: The Director of Field Education and/or another faculty member will gather information from you about where you live, your interests and experience, and availability for the internship. We will then match you with an agency that best suits your needs. We are student-centered in our placement process and strive to connect you with the best learning opportunity possible.

Q: How many hours are required for fieldwork?

A: For regular track students, there are two field placements. The first field experience (foundation level) is 400 hours. The second field experience (concentration level) is 500 hours. Advanced standing students only complete concentration level fieldwork.

Q: Can I complete my hours at my place of employment?

A: Yes, in some cases. If you are interested in exploring your place of employment as an field placement site, please discuss this with the Director of Field Education as early as you can. Employment-based placements must offer learning opportunities that align with core competencies as well as FDU MSW program expectations.

Q: How far will I have to travel for fieldwork? Can I complete a virtual-only placement?

A: It is expected that students entering field have access to reliable transportation. We will make every effort to connect you to an agency that is within 45 minutes from your home. Virtual-only placements are only offered under extenuating circumstances and cannot be guaranteed.

Q. When does field begin?

A: Fieldwork begins in early January. Students have the option to complete all field hours in the spring semester only or through the spring and summer semesters combined.

Q. I have a full-time job. Can I still get my MSW at FDU?

A: Yes! We have students juggling many different roles, responsibilities, and schedules. We will do our best to place you with an agency that has a flexible schedule. However, you will need to set aside several hours a week, consistently, to ensure you complete fieldwork requirements.



Q. What types of agencies do you partner with?

A. FDU MSW program maintains a growing list of partnerships with a diverse set of agencies. We place students in hospitals, child welfare agencies, outpatient mental health clinics, home visiting services, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities, agencies for individuals experiencing domestic violence, agencies serving homeless youth, after school programs, public and charter schools, and beyond.

Q. Can my field placement site be changed if I don't like it?

Once a student begins field placement, they are generally not allowed to switch unless there are very extenuating circumstances. Additionally, students are highly discouraged from prematurely ending their field placement. Students are encouraged to speak with their MSW faculty liaison and/or Field Director if concerns about a field placement site arises.

For additional questions, please reach out to the Director of Field Education, Dr. Andrea Cole, at a.cole@fdu.edu