

Overview of Employer-Based Placements

What is an employer-based field placement?

An employer-based placement is an internship at your place of employment where there are designated hours for your internship separate from your hours of employment. The placement must offer different learning opportunities, and also a different supervisor who is designated for field learning purposes only. Field education is a fundamental component of social work education; it provides the opportunity to integrate classroom knowledge and practice. It is very important that an employer-based placement not be viewed as a job but as a learning experience providing a setting for the acquisition of knowledge and skills and a professional social work identity. **A placement arranged in student's employing organization is the exception rather than the norm.** Employer-based placements allow students to complete a required internship while remaining employed.

What is the process for getting an employer-based placement approved?

These placements are approved when it is determined that new knowledge and skills can be achieved in the student's workplace. Arrangement and approval of employer-based placements require the participation of the student/employee, job supervisor, an agency administrator, potential field instructor and the field education department. Extra attention is necessary to assure that the planned placement meets all of the school's requirements and learning objectives and does not duplicate current job tasks and responsibilities.

The student/employee must be allowed the time and opportunity to become involved in discrete learning activities with specific learning objectives, which are related to the school's learning objectives. Structural changes will likely be necessary to protect the learning environment from employment demands. For example, a student may be an employee for two days and a student for three days. The student must have a qualified LICSW field instructor who meets all of the criteria of the school and is not the student's current supervisor.

Who can serve as a Field Instructor?

The field instructor must have an LICSW, and must have completed (or be willing to register for) the Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) supervision seminar offered by the School. They must also agree to supervise the student for two hours a week and review weekly process recordings, complete evaluations, and participate in field visits. The Field Instructor cannot be the student's job supervisor. If the agency does not have a qualified field instructor on staff they may look to other qualified social workers associated with the agency such as contract staff, volunteers, or board members. If an off-site supervisor is selected, the student should

have an on-site task supervisor who, again, is not the supervisor for the employment portion of the experience.

What are the benefits of an employer-based placement?

Because the student/employee already knows and is oriented to the agency, the learning curve may not be as steep at the start of placement. The student /employee brings new learning back to the agency from the school which can enhance agency practice. The agency demonstrates commitment to professional development and retains a quality employee and protects its investment in the employee.

What are the challenges of an employer-based placement?

It can be difficult to maintain the separation of student and employee roles. It can be challenging for the student, and fellow staff, to navigate the shifting roles the student/employee occupies. A disruption in a student's job may also disrupt placement and vice versa.

What are the optimal conditions for an employer-based placement?

The most successful employer-based placements are in agencies that are supportive of social work education and workforce development, and large enough to accommodate the student's/employee's current job and a different setting for their placement. Employer-based placements work best when the agency is committed to retaining the student and the student has been employed in the agency for a significant length of time (preferably more than 2 years) and has demonstrated a commitment to the agency.

APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYER-BASED FIELD PLACEMENT AGENCY AGREEMENT AY'2021-2022

Application Process

Student must meet with a member of the Field Faculty during the placement process to discuss the feasibility of an Employer-Based Field Placement. Once discussed, the student will email completed application to their Field Faculty Member by the due dates outlined. Student should include a copy of the proposed Field Instructor's resume with the application. Or, student should request the proposed Field Instructor email the resume directly to the student's Field Faculty Member.

Application Checklist

Before proceeding, student must review the following checklist for eligibility.

- Students must be in both good academic standing and with the employing organization. The student should not be a probationary employee or the subject of disciplinary action within the agency.

 The identified Field Instructor must be an LICSW who is not currently the employee supervisor for the student and has not previously supervised the student. The Field Instructor must complete and [submit the field instructor profile online](#).
- The Field Instructor must agree to provide 2 hours of individual supervision each week. The field instruction must have an educational focus and incorporate process recordings as a learning tool. At minimum, 1 ½ hours of this time should be individual supervision, the balance can be provided by task supervisors or group supervision.
- The Field Instructor is required to attend a half-day Orientation to Field Instruction at Simmons University School of Social Work in early August. If not previously completed, the Field Instructor must also participate in a [Seminar in Field instruction \(SIFI\) series](#) during the 2021 -2022 academic year and download and review the Simmons Campus Based [Field Education Manual](#).
- The student must be assigned to a different department or program from student's job and have the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in new methods, modalities, interventions, and populations. The student cannot provide the same services to the same clients that they are serving in the role of employee and the role of intern during the internship.
- The student's educational goals should be the primary focus of the internship position.

6. Only one employment-based field placement is allowed unless the student is a participant in an approved Simmons Educational partnership or has had prior approval from the field department.

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYER-BASED FIELD PLACEMENT

DUE DATES:

- **April 2, 2021** deadline for Specialized Year (YR II) applicants
- **June 25, 2021** deadline for Generalist Year (YR I) applicants

Student should submit completed application to their Field Faculty Member. This is the Field Faculty Member you met with during the placement process. Student should include a copy of the proposed Field Instructor's resume with the application. Or, request the Field Instructor to email the resume directly to the student's Field Faculty Member.

APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED IN FULL

STUDENT NAME: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Agency Website: _____

Simmons Email: _____

CURRENT JOB: _____

How many years have you been employed by this organization? _____

Have you satisfied your probationary period? _____

Yes

No

If applicable describe other positions held in this organization:

Briefly describe your current work duties below: Identify current title/position population served and interventions utilized.

CURRENT WORK SUPERVISOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Unit Name: _____

Name of Proposed Field Placement and Name of Program/Department:

Physical Address: _____

Specify how proposed placement activities will differ from current/regular work responsibilities. Be specific when responding to the following prompts.

Proposed learning activities:

Describe what different intervention methods you will utilize?

If applicable, describe how the placement will entail work with a different population:

Who will be providing field instruction/supervision for proposed internship?

Is proposed Field Instructor a different supervisor than work supervisor?

- Yes
- No

PROPOSED FIELD INSTRUCTOR

Name: _____

Unit Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

School and year MSW earned: _____

Does Proposed Field Instructor have an LICSW?

- Yes (LICSW #: _____)
- No

If no, when do you plan to take the examination?

Has proposed Field Instructor completed a Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) for new field instructors?

- Yes (Name of school and year: _____)
- No

Note:

Field instructor is required to submit a current resume and a [Field Instructor Profile](#). Resume should be sent when the application is submitted.

PROPOSED WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Specify planned hours in placement, work, and classes at Simmons University. Complete each section with specific times/hours, a check mark is not sufficient.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Placement						
Work						
Classes						

- * Typical field placements start in September and end in May.
 - Year I field placement days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for a total of 24 hours.
 - Year II field placement days are Monday and Thursday plus a 3rd day (excluding Tuesday) for a total of 24 hours.

- * Some students request a 16 hour/week field placement. These placements start in September and end the first week of August. If a student is approved for a 16 hour/week placement they are required to register for Section 02 of their field class.

FIELD PLACEMENT HOURS WILL BE (CHECK THE OPTION BELOW):

- Paid by the agency/employer
- Over and above paid hours
- A combination of paid/unpaid time

EMPLOYER-BASED FIELD PLACEMENT AGENCY AGREEMENT

We have discussed the use of (Agency and Department/Unit)

_____ for (Student/Employee)

_____ as a Simmons School of Social Work

field placement site during the 2021-2022 academic year. We agree that it is a feasible plan for this student/employee to complete an employer-based field placement. The student will be released from regular work duties for 24-hrs/week, September-May (or 16-hrs/week; September-August, if approved) to fully attend to the internship. The student's internship time will focus on learning, not on the work demands of the agency. The field Instructor/supervisor will be allowed adequate time to: attend to the student's supervision; attend a half-day August Orientation; attend a Seminar in Field Instruction series (if needed); and other internship-related matters. The School's expectations can be met within this agency (for details, please refer to the attached Policy for Employer-Based Field Placement and the [Field Education Manual](#).)

REQUIRED SIGNATURES:

Agency Director Signature:

Date: _____

Print name of Agency Director: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Student's Current Work Supervisor Signature:

Date: _____

Print Name of Current Work Supervisor: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Student's Proposed Field Instructor Signature:

Date: _____

Print name of Proposed Field Instructor: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Simmons Field Faculty Member Signature

Print Name: _____

Date Approved: _____

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Field Faculty member you are working with, or the Campus Based Field Education Department at sswfieldeducation@simmons.edu or 617-521-3943