Interested in a Hospital Setting for your Year II Field Placement?
Please consider the following:

Hospital settings are fast paced, acute care settings that have specific expectations of social work interns. With the goal of setting students up for success, we ask that you review the following before considering a hospital for your Year II placement:

- Hospital settings typically require students to arrive on time, and the pace allows for minimal down time. Are you a punctual person who is able to manage a demanding schedule?

- Hospitals require students to have considerable autonomy and the ability to independently seek out resources. How are you at taking initiative, problem solving, and prioritizing tasks?

- A hospitalization represents a crisis for patients and families which brings with it intense emotion. Are you prepared to tolerate the strong affect that may accompany such situations - especially grief and anger?

- Effective and time-sensitive written and verbal communication is critical for all social workers. In a hospital setting, concise clinical notes are required with a quick turnaround via an electronic medical record system. In fact, most hospitals require that all notes are entered into their system before you leave each day. An entire team of professionals will be dependent on the information you have to share in your notes. Do you feel comfortable with your writing skills? Do you envision the ability to complete progress notes and formulations immediately, even if it means that your day will be extended?

- Students in hospital settings often receive feedback from colleagues of different disciplines. Do you have the professional disposition to receive feedback from a range of professionals in addition to your Field Instructor?

- Are you prepared to work in a multi-disciplinary team within the medical model, where the social work voice may not be as valued or prominent?

- Reflect on your own loss history; are you prepared to work with patients and families who are entering the end of life, or actively dying? It is important to know that this will be a part of any hospital placement.

- Are you comfortable with the sight and the smell of bodily fluids, and the instruments and tools connected to patients for medical care?

- Interns in hospital settings are often considered essential workers, and may be required to work on holidays and during inclement weather. Can you commit to making every effort to safely get to your placement when it snows, even when classes at Simmons are canceled?

- Working in a hospital requires flexibility; you must be prepared to be paged in the event of a crisis, often necessitating a sudden change in your schedule. Are you able to be flexible when planning your day?

- You will be entering patients’ rooms when other members of the medical team or family members are present, and may be interrupted by a medical professional during a social work session. Do you have a temperament that will allow for a more “public” presence, tolerate interruptions, and unanticipated “derailments” of your plans?