

Simmons University School of Social Work Campus-Based Field Education FAQs

1. What is the process for students to be assigned to a field placement?

After the Admissions office receives a deposit, incoming full-time students will receive an email from sswfielddeduction@simmons.edu with instructions on how to initiate the field placement process. Students will complete a field application, upload an updated resume and schedule an individual meeting with a Field Department Faculty member. The 'matching' process takes into consideration a student's interests, learning needs, prior experience, logistical variables, and agencies' needs.

2. How many hours of fieldwork will be required?

Simmons students do a three day, 24 hour a week, internship in both the first and second year. The extra day in Field provides valuable additional training and makes Simmons interns highly desired by local social work agencies. The First Year field days are usually Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays with classes the other two days.

3. What if I am an Extended Program student?

Students in the Extended Program do their internships in the second and third years of a three year program, or in the second and fourth years of a four year program. In mid-to-late March, extended students will receive an email detailing the steps for the Year I placement process.

4. What if I am from out of state?

A Field Department faculty member will be happy to connect with you via Zoom for a field meeting to discuss placement possibilities. Some agencies may wait until early September to interview a student but this may impact choice of settings. With advanced planning, agency interviews can be coordinated with visits to Boston to arrange housing.

5. How many interviews can I arrange?

Students interview at one site at a time. If the initial placement plan doesn't work, a second agency will be located. We cannot allow students to interview at several agencies because of the large number of students needing placements.

6. Can I do my placement at my current place of employment?

If you are interested in an Employer-Based Field Placement, you are still expected to meet with a faculty member in the field department to discuss the requirements and

approval process. You will need to fill out a separate Employer-Based Placement Application in collaboration with your agency (*that will be sent to you following your meeting with your Field Department faculty member*).

7. Are there any paid field placements or stipends available?

Social work agencies rarely provide stipends and there are no paid placements. Small stipends are sometimes offered for special skills, like a second language, or in a new program.

8. Are there any evening or weekend placements?

Some agencies offer flexible hours but it is rare. Students should plan on normal agency business hours (9 - 5). An important part of learning is supervision and collaboration with staff and outside agencies that primarily occurs during the day.

9. If I have family or work obligations, can my fieldwork be adjusted to accommodate them?

You may need to consider the extended program since 3 field days and 4 classes cover a 40 hour week. Some classes are offered in the evening and during the summer but the field placement must be during normal weekday business hours. In our experience only flexible part-time jobs work out during the two internship years. We cannot guarantee you a field placement that allows you to maintain a full-time job.

10. If I have a B.S.W. will I have a different placement or placement schedule?

If you are accepted into the Advanced Standing program at Simmons, you will have one placement, three days (24 hours) per week, from early September through early August. The Field Department will collaborate with you to plan the best learning experience, taking into consideration your learning and career goals as well as your prior experience. We will identify appropriate placement options for you and you will interview at an agency prior to the confirmation of your placement. As your field placement ends in early August, you must be prepared to be in placement during the summer months. In thinking about placement possibilities, you should be aware that for various reasons some agencies are not able to accommodate interns during the summer, e.g., public schools.

11. Do I need a car?

Though Boston has a good public transportation system (the 'T') many agencies require outreach or home visits to neighborhoods not easily accessed without a car. We cannot guarantee the type of agency requested will be T accessible. Students without cars may have to compromise their interests to be accommodated locally or near their homes.

12. How far will I have to travel?

Every effort will be made to plan a reasonable commute but students are expected to allow up to an hour of commuting time to the agency. Class schedules usually require being in Boston two days a week.

13. How is the second-year field placement different?

First year internships provide foundation social work practice skills. Second year focuses on advanced clinical skills with an emphasis on conceptualizing the professional use of self in the treatment setting and increasingly autonomous practice. Some agencies will only accept 2nd year students due to insurance regulations, degree of client difficulty, or other requirements of the training program. Outpatient mental health, college counseling settings, and most teaching hospitals will only accept second year students.