

Simmons University School of Social Work On Ground Practicum Education Year I FAQs

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

After the Admissions office receives a deposit, incoming full-time students will receive an email from sswogpracticum@simmons.edu with instructions on how to initiate the practicum placement process. Using the practicum placement platform Tevera, students will complete a practicum intake form, upload an updated resume, and be directed to a page that will allow them to schedule a 30-minute placement meeting with a Practicum Faculty member in the Practicum Education Department (this person will be the student's Faculty Placement Advisor). During this meeting students will discuss their learning goals, preferred populations, and related logistics (geography, access to a vehicle, previous experience, enrollment in a certificate, etc.). Students will then submit official applications through the Centralized Application Process for review. If an agency is interested, the student will be invited in for an interview. If the arrangement seems sound, the placement is finalized for the next academic year. If the match seems unpromising, students submit additional agency applications through the Centralized Application Process and the cycle process begins again.

2. How many hours of practicum 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 practicum provides valuable additional training and makes Simmons interns highly desired by local social work agencies. The Generalist Year (Year I) practicum 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?

Faculty Placement Advisors will be happy to connect with students via Zoom for a practicum meeting to discuss placement possibilities. Many agencies can accommodate by hosting a virtual interview over Zoom. Some agencies may wait until early September to interview a student in person, but this may impact choice of settings. With advanced planning, agency interviews can be coordinated with visits to Boston.

5. How many interviews can I arrange?

Students can have up to 2 active applications processing at the same time. This ensures that agencies are given priority based on student interests, and that spaces are available to the large group of students in an active search. If a student is accepted by an agency they have up to 1 week to accept or reject that offer (unless the agency requests a different timeline), even if another application is pending. If a student has multiple active applications and decides to accept an offer at one of the agencies, the student should rescind from any pending agency applications and alert their Faculty Placement Advisor of their decision.

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

If a student is interested in an Employment-Based Practicum Placement, they are still expected to meet with a Faculty Placement Advisor to discuss the requirements and approval process. The student will need to fill out a separate Employment-Based Placement Application in collaboration with their agency, found on the [Practicum Education website](#).

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

Some agencies are now offering funding for MSW practicums, however the large majority still do not offer funding.. Additionally, 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 practicum be adjusted to accommodate them?

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

10. If I have a BSW will I have a different placement or placement schedule?

If a student is accepted into the Advanced Standing program at Simmons, they will have one placement, three days (24 hours) per week, from early September through early May. The Practicum Education Department will collaborate with the student to plan the best learning experience, taking into consideration their learning and career goals as well as their prior experience. We will identify appropriate placement options and the student will interview at an agency prior to the confirmation of the placement.

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 practicum 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.