

March 26, 2020

Dear MSW Specialization Students,

In response to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our accrediting body – the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation – has released new supportive measures regarding field education hours. In a March 25 statement, a reduction in field hours was announced. Graduating students who have completed 85% of the CSWE required placement hours to a satisfactory level may be evaluated as having met the field placement requirements.

For UGA's MSW program, the resulting implications for MSW specialization students is as follows:

MSW specialization students slated to graduate by no later than December 2020 who have achieved 153 hours this semester AND are evaluated satisfactorily on the field instructor final evaluation can conclude their field practicum engagement.

We are communicating with faculty liaisons and field instructors a parallel message, so that all impacted constituencies are similarly informed. The Field Office would ask that eligible students work with their field instructor and faculty liaison to create and execute a responsible termination plan with their agency, clients, and constituencies.

Next steps for MSW specialization students slated for May graduation:

1. Secure your electronically signed timesheet for spring semester 2020 reflecting at minimum **153 hours**. Submit a copy of this document to your faculty liaison and the field office by emailing it to sswfield@uga.edu. The timesheet template is available at <https://ssw.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Time-Sheet-of-Practicum-Hours.pdf>
2. Ask your field instructor to complete the Final Field Instructor Evaluation of Student
 - a. Evaluations are specific to your concentration (i.e. Micro, Macro, Combined) and are available at <https://ssw.uga.edu/academics/field-education/evaluations/>
Be sure to send them the correct link for completion based on your concentration focus area.
 - b. Your completed evaluation will go directly to the Field Office. We will send it to your faculty liaison for distribution to you and your field instructor for their records.
 - c. If you have demonstrated adequate competency (rating of 3 or higher on all 9 competency areas), you have completed your field education requirement. You may responsibly terminate with your assigned agency, clients, and constituencies.
3. Complete the student field placement evaluation available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPVWYTV>
4. Complete the student evaluation of faculty liaison available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W6FHXKC>

Please let the Field Office know if you have questions. You may contact your faculty liaison or field coordinators. We look forward to continuing to support you as you conclude your field education engagement for spring 2020.

Best,
Zoe M. Johnson

Zoe M. Johnson, PhD, LCSW | Pronouns: She/Her/Hers | Director of Field Education | School of Social Work | The University of Georgia | 279 Williams Street | Athens, GA 30602 | Phone: 706.542.5419 | Fax: 706.354.3917 | zoe@uga.edu | ssw.uga.edu