



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

School of Social Work

April 2, 2020

To: Field Education Students

Subject: Field placement assignments

Greetings students,

The Field Office team has completed your specialization field placement assignments for academic year 2020-21. As you know, initially, we were planning to share this information with you in mid-March. Given the similarly timed escalation of the global pandemic, we were forced to delay dissemination of placement assignments. As we're certain you understand, this delay was entirely necessary in deference to our agency partners who were prioritizing their response to the COVID-19 crisis with the vulnerable populations they serve.

Beginning on Monday, April 6, the field office will begin individually notifying each of you by phone about the circumstances of your specialization placement. This personalized approach will allow us to share the nuanced details that pertain to each of you given the variability of placement circumstances. Field coordinators will be able to confirm your understanding of the next steps unique to you. You will need to sign up for a 10-minute time slot using the link provided in the email that you received on April 2. Please indicate the best telephone number where we can reach you at the designated time.

In summary,

- Sign up for a 10-minute phone appointment time slot using the emailed link.
- Beginning Monday, April 6, you will receive a phone call from a field coordinator at the arranged date and time. This call will update you on your specialization practicum for academic year 2020-21.
- You will receive individualized instructions on how to confirm your practicum with the assigned agency OR you will receive an update regarding the status of your placement arrangements.
- The guidance or status updates you will receive may include any of the following:
 - Instruction to arrange a remote interview at the earliest available opportunity; or

- Instruction to WAIT to contact the agency until a specified date; or
- Instruction to WAIT to hear from the agency instead of reaching out to them; or
- Notification that the Field Office is still working to finalize the placement assignment.

You will receive a follow-up email from the field office with placement assignment paperwork. For those of you who will be instructed to reach out to schedule remote interviews, please do so respectfully and with abundant patience in awaiting a response.

Please note: the Field Office made your placement arrangements PRIOR to the U.S. escalation of COVID-19. We are not able to predict with certainty the long-term impact of this global pandemic on our agency partners in the coming weeks and months. Accordingly, please continue to adopt a nimble stance; despite thorough and careful planning, changes may be necessary. Thank you for the continued flexibility that you have shown as we navigate the ripple effects of this global event together and its impact on social work education.

Congratulations on this exciting next step in your educational journey! Your SSW field faculty look forward to speaking with you.

Best,
ZMJ

Zoe M. Johnson, PhD, LCSW
Director of Field Education
Phone: 706.542.5419
Fax: 706.354.3917
zoe@uga.edu | ssw.uga.edu