

YOUR GUIDE

TO WIDENER UNIVERSITY'S ONLINE MSW FIELD PLACEMENT PROGRAM



GAIN THE REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE YOU WANT TAILORED TOWARD YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS

Widener University's online Master of Social Work (MSW) program offers you the opportunity to take the skills and knowledge you've gained in the classroom and put them into action with our field education program. This guide will help to answer many common questions that students have while beginning the search for a successful field placement.



FIND A FIELD PLACEMENT THAT MEETS YOUR CAREER GOALS

Social work is a multifaceted field; thus, you can complete your field placement with an array of different organizations such as:

- Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Facilities
- In-Patient Behavioral Health Facilities
- Adult School Districts
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Parole & Community Service Centers
- Hospitals
- Department of Child & Family Services
- Child Protective Services
- Homeless Shelters
- Mental Health Agencies



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COMPLETE YOUR FIELD PLACEMENT AT YOUR CURRENT ORGANIZATION

Widener understands that returning to school, managing a full-time career, and completing a field placement can be a heavy workload. So, if you are already working in your desired field, you may be able to complete your field placement with your current employer as long as you meet the following requirements:

- Your field placement is clearly differentiated from your paid work assignment.
- Your employer will agree that the required hours for the field placement do not overlap with those you are already compensated for as part of your job.
- Your field placement supervisor is a different person than your work supervisor and has an MSW degree plus two years of relevant work experience.



FINDING A FIELD PLACEMENT

We understand that you have specific career objectives, which is why we work closely with you to develop a suitable field placement. We assist in the process to ensure the location chosen is a positive environment that meets the requirements of the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) and will be a valuable component to your overall MSW educational experience.

"I was worried about the field element, but I love it. In fact, I think I am going to stay in this field. I am really thankful for it."

— Jennifer O'Brien

TIME COMMITMENT AND SALARY

- Each field placement is 2 semesters in length (4 semesters total)
- Students are required to spend 450 hours in the field for the first year and 560 hours for the second year placement, typically averaging 16 hours per week for the first year and 20 hours per week for the second.
- You may extend the 2nd year placement to 3 semesters of 16 hours per week if needed.
- Most often field placements are unpaid, but you may find one that provides compensation to some degree.



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