

YOUR GUIDE

TO WIDENER UNIVERSITY'S ONLINE MSW FIELD EXPERIENCE PROGRAM



GAIN REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE AS YOU MOVE TOWARD YOUR PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK CAREER

Widener University's online Master of Social Work (MSW) program will build your foundational knowledge in social work and give you vital transferable skills, empowering you to tie theory to practice. This guide will help to answer common questions that students have while beginning the field experience process.



COLLABORATE WITH A MEMBER OF THE FIELD EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TEAM TO FIND A GREAT FIELD EXPERIENCE

Social work is a multifaceted field. Widener has many partnerships with agencies across the nation, specializing in the following areas:

- 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 EXPERIENCE AT YOUR CURRENT ORGANIZATION

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

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



FINDING A FIELD EXPERIENCE

We understand that you have specific career objectives, which is why we work closely with you to develop a suitable field experience. 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.

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"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 '18

TIME COMMITMENT AND SALARY

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



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