

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

Our mission: University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) prepares diverse leaders in practice and research to address complex challenges and achieve sustainable social, racial, economic, and political justice, locally and globally, through exceptional education, innovative research, and meaningful community engagement.

### WHAT IS THE UH GCSW LOOKING FOR IN A FIELD PRACTICUM AGENCY?

- ◆ A setting which aligns with UH GCSW's mission of serving vulnerable populations, aims towards justice, and honors the values and ethics of the social work profession.
- ◆ (Link to the [National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics](#))
- ◆ A willing and qualified social worker to affiliate and act as the field instructor (see below) This person can be internal or external to the agency.
- ◆ Diverse and appropriate learning opportunities for students that help build competency in following areas: Ethics & professionalism, diversity, inclusion and anti-racist frameworks, advocacy, research, policy, engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with individuals, families, groups, organizations and/or communities.
- ◆ A setting that encourages growth and development through instruction, application, assessment and feedback with social work master's level students.

GCSW works with 2 levels of students:

- ◆ **Generalist.** Generalists students are just beginning the MSW program and seeking opportunities serving any clients from individuals to communities with basic practice skills. Generalist placements help teach roles that social workers fill, basic social work services, and the context of the social work profession or systems in which social workers operate.
- ◆ **Concentration.** Concentration students are nearing the end of their MSW program and seeking opportunities for advanced practice in preparation for post MSW work in areas aligning with their concentration topic: either Macro or Clinical
  - **Clinical concentration** students engage in practice with individuals, families and groups. This may include case management, intake/assessment, client service coordination and referrals, as well as direct counseling and therapeutic intervention.
  - **Macro concentration** students engage in practice with groups, organizations and communities. This may include advocacy, policy work, program development & evaluation, research, organization, community needs, improvement on boards and agency functioning, funding etc.

### WHAT SHOULD MY AGENCY PROVIDE STUDENTS?

- ◆ Social service tasks to help develop social work knowledge, skills, and experience
- ◆ A qualified Social Work Field Instructor (see below)
- ◆ Opportunities for students to attend professional development trainings
- ◆ Adequate office space, technology, administrative support, parking/travel reimbursement, stipend where possible, and connection to agency safety protocols & resources

## WHO CAN SERVE AS A FIELD INSTRUCTOR?

Anyone- either external or internal to the agency who:

- ◆ holds an MSW from a CSWE accredited program (license is not required)
- ◆ has at least 2 years, post-MSW, social work experience
- ◆ is willing to offer weekly supervision to the student (no less than one hour)
- ◆ is willing to become affiliated and complete online, asynchronous training for GCSW
- ◆ is supported by the agency to provide adequate student orientation, training and feedback on tasks, and administrative supervision of students

**NOTE:** Sometimes when field instructors are external or not on-site with students, any personnel from the agency with any credential or background can act as an on-site task manager or preceptor. This person can support the day to day facilitation of field directly with the student

## HOW DOES MY AGENCY BECOME AFFILIATED WITH UH GCSW?

- ◆ Affiliation and connection can be initiated by anyone! (member of the field community, agency personnel, students, GCSW employees, etc.)
- ◆ Initiation begins by contacting the University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work, Field Education Office: 713.743.7848 or [fielded@central.uh.edu](mailto:fielded@central.uh.edu)
- ◆ A member of the field office team will connect for an introduction call/meeting/email to explore the opportunity & ability to meet educational standards, discuss affiliation, answer questions, and provide next steps.
- ◆ Upon approval, a contract, in the form of an Affiliation Agreement, is completed between the agency and the University of Houston. The signatory on the University side is the Provost and we request for a signatory for the agency in an equal position.

If you have any questions please contact the UH GCSW Field Office at:  
[fielded@central.uh.edu](mailto:fielded@central.uh.edu)

Thank you for your interest in becoming a valued partner and supporter of field education at the GCSW!