

Winthrop University – Department of Social Work MSW Internship Fact Sheet

Winthrop's MSW program has been accredited since its inception in 2007 and we are currently using CSWE's 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. Our program's specialization is **Empowerment Practice**. There are a variety of field placement curriculum models/structures for MSW students enrolled at Winthrop University, depending on the student's program option (i.e. campus-based, full-time, part-time, or online)

1. **Generalist placement** – This placement is expected to provide the students a solid foundation for social work practice where they can better understand the realities of the profession and determine if a career in social work is the right “fit” for them. It is a shorter, one semester only internship – it comes after students have completed basic courses on social work practice and theory. Campus based students complete this field course in the spring semester of their first year; Online students complete this after completing 4 or 5 prerequisite courses, depending on their program admission.
 - a. Campus based Full-time program – 16 hours per week – any 2 days of Wed., Thur., or Fri. or a combination that works best for student or agency – Placement lasts 15 weeks - Jan. through Apr for a total of 225 hours.
 - b. Campus based Part-time program – 12 hours per week – any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are on weekends and one Friday every other month – Placement lasts 20 weeks - Jan. through May for a total of 225 hours.
 - c. Online program (Fall 2018 – Summer 2020 Admits/Curriculum) – 15 hours per week - any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are online, asynchronous, meaning they can be completed at any time suitable for the student- Placement lasts 14 weeks for a total of 210 hours.
 - d. Online program (Fall 2020 – Present Admits/Curriculum) – 12 hours per week - any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are online, asynchronous, meaning they can be completed at any time suitable for the student- Placement lasts 21 weeks for a total of 240 hours.

2. **Specialized placement** – This is often called the “advanced” internship where students will be expected to fully perform social work duties (at an entry-level MSW role) before the internship is completed and the student graduates with their MSW degree. It is a longer, multi-semester internship; it is two semesters (Fall & Spring) for campus based full-time students; four semesters (two academic years, excluding summer months) for campus based part-time students; three semesters (consecutively, including summer) for online students admitted Fall 2018 through Summer 2020; and four semesters (consecutively, including summer) for online students admitted Fall 2020 to present.
 - a. Campus based Full-time program – 24 hours or 3 days per week – for the whole academic year.
 - b. Campus based Part-time program – 12 hours per week for two academic years - any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are on weekends and one Friday every other month.
 - c. Online program (Fall 2018 – Summer 2020 Admits/Curriculum) – 17 hours per week - any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are online, asynchronous, meaning they can be completed at any time suitable for the student; Placement lasts three semesters (Fall, Spring, and Summer in any order based on start date) for a total of 714 hours (238 hours per semester).
 - d. Online program (Fall 2020 – Present Admits/Curriculum) – 12 hours per week - any schedule that suits the student and agency because their classes are online, asynchronous, meaning they can be completed at any time suitable for the student; Placement lasts four semesters (consecutively, including summer) for a total of 660 hours (165 hours per semester).

Students will either be enrolled in a “traditional” 60 credit hour MSW degree program or an “advanced standing” 39 credit hour MSW degree program. Students enrolled in the advanced standing MSW program are exempt from completing a generalist field placement because they have a BSW degree from an accredited program where they were required to complete a generalist field placement as part of that degree requirement. Students in the traditional program (regardless of their undergraduate degree) must complete both a generalist and specialized field placement. Winthrop has an advanced standing option for all 3 MSW program options – full-time campus based, part-time/weekend campus based; and online.

All students in field are expected to have a field site supervisor to oversee their learning activities and help “teach” the students while in the field, thus allowing students the ability to develop and demonstrate their social work competencies while in the field course. Site supervisors will either be a “qualified field instructor” who are MSW level practitioners, having a MSW degree from a CSWE accredited program and 2 years’ post-graduate experience (state licensure is not required); or, a “task supervisor” who have an educational degree other than MSW or do not meet the other requirements listed for a “qualified field instructor” – these are called “alternative field placements” at Winthrop University. Students who have a “task supervisor” in their field setting will work with the field office to ensure that the social work perspective is reinforced either through MSW level supervision with a qualified field instructor or through their field course/field faculty – this will be established as part of the field placement vetting and confirmation process.

All site supervisors are expected to complete a one-time field orientation training via an online training module. Participants will receive 2 social work CEUs for completing the field orientation training. Continuing education opportunities will also be made available for site supervisors on an annual basis.

Winthrop uses an electronic software system for all course assignments completed within the field placement. The field instructor/task supervisor has access to this system online via a username and password (provided to the field instructor/task supervisor through the university), and they will use this system to approve the students weekly time logs. The student field evaluations are also completed through this system.

For more information about Winthrop’s MSW Field Program, please contact us!

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