

WELCOME TO FIELD EDUCATION PART II

Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University
Fall 2019

BEGINNING YOUR FIELD PLACEMENT

- Your field placement begins with an orientation to the agency. Visit your agency's website and review other materials provided by your agency during the orientation period.
- Many students begin fieldwork by shadowing field instructors or other staff. You will not be expected to work independently until your skills and self-confidence increase, and your field instructor/supervisor has assessed your level of comfort and competency.
- Anxiety is a natural part of the field placement process: the anxiety of being a student, and a new social worker.

THE FIELD PLACEMENT SETTING

- You are assigned to an agency/organization and to a field instructor, but everyone in the setting has a role to play in your overall educational experiences.
- You may have a task supervisor- someone who will teach you student a particular task, impart a special expertise and/or oversee certain aspects of your work.
- Pay attention to agency rules and norms, formal and informal communication systems, dress codes, etc. Over time, you should also come to understand and appreciate the organizational culture.
- Begin to understand the agency, services, and population(s), especially in relation to sociocultural issues and community context

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE INITIAL MEETINGS WITH YOUR FIELD INSTRUCTOR

- Further orientation to agency policies and procedures
- Gaining an understanding of your role as a student, and the range of field learning assignments at the agency
- Reviewing required documentation, and the difference between agency records and your process recordings
- Learning which situations require immediate attention from the field instructor or other agency staff (i.e. suicide, self-harm, harm to others, risk of child abuse, neglect, elder abuse).
- Understanding ethical considerations in the context of your work, including client confidentiality.
- Beginning to reflect on your interventions, thoughts, feelings, personal values, beliefs, biases, and how they may impact your work

PREPARING FOR MEETINGS WITH YOUR FIELD INSTRUCTOR

- You are expected to complete two process recordings per week (templates will be available through your field seminar/on canvas).
- Provide your Field Instructor with adequate time to review your process recordings by submitting them well in advance of your meetings.
- Come prepared to review your process recordings, in addition to bringing an agenda with your additional questions and concerns for your field instructor.

BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH A CLIENT

- Prepare for and understand the significance of first contacts with clients whether individuals, families, groups, committees, communities, or organizations.
- Anticipate the concerns, perceptions and reactions (known as anticipatory empathy) of the client, family, group or community.
- Develop realistic goals for the first contact with your clients.
- Think about how clients may perceive and come to understand their difficulties.
- Prepare to introduce yourself as a social work intern/student and think about how clients may be feeling about meeting with you for the first time.

KEY ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL FIELD LEARNING

- Professional Comportment: dress, language, communication, responsiveness, understanding agency structure and your role as a student
- Being mindful of confidentiality, privacy and boundaries across all forms of interactions, and technology/social media.
- Beginning to understand conscious use of self
- Utilizing supervision, process recordings, feedback, and instruction to grow into a beginning professional practitioner.
- Sharing openly and honestly with your Field Instructor. You are in training. You are not expected to know everything!

YOUR LEARNING CONTRACT AND FIELDWORK EVALUATIONS

- Your Learning Contract is due after your 6th week in field placement.
- Mid-year Evaluations are due at the end of the Fall Semester
- Final Evaluations are due at the end of the Spring Semester
- Your Learning Contract and Fieldwork Evaluations will be submitted electronically by your Field Instructor to TK20, a web-based system.
- You will review and electronically sign these documents on TK20
- The Field Education Department will provide additional information in the weeks ahead.

THE FIELD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

The Field Office: Belfer Hall, Rooms 915 and 917

- Christine Ascanio-Acosta, Associate Director of Field Instruction
- Eric Grossman, Director of Field Instruction
- Frances Montas, Executive Secretary
- Field Advisors: Kristy Aristy
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