



Stony Brook **Medicine**

**School of Social  
Welfare**

Office of the Dean  
Health Sciences Tower, L2, 093  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8231

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March 29, 2020

Dear Students,

I write to provide an update about CSWE's revision to field education hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic and what it means for you. This information is relevant for students whose field completion dates are expected to occur by December 31, 2020. Students whose field placement completion dates occur after December 31, 2020 will be expected to complete the full 400 or 900 hours.

As you are aware, the field education component of your program requires a minimum of 400 hours for the BSW degree and a minimum of 900 hours for the MSW degree.

CSWE has amended this requirement as follows: students who have completed 85% of the required placement hours (i.e., 340 hours for baccalaureate programs and 765 hours for master's programs) to a satisfactory level may be evaluated as having met the field placement requirements.

The evaluation refers to the requirement that students must master social work competencies as defined in the educational policy and accreditation standards. Those standards are included in both the SSW Student Handbook and the SSW Field Education Manual.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?**

While CSWE is our accrediting body, this amended policy for reduced hours, does not take into account New York State's required hours for licensing or for completion of the BSW degree. We need to ensure that you, - our graduating students are in a position to sit for the licensing exam pursuant to NYS Education guidelines. Thus far, the NYS Education Department has not changed that requirement. If and when they do change the requirement, we will inform you. Until then, the Office of Field Education will continue to work with you to create alternate plans that include remote learning opportunities to meet State requirements.

Sincerely,

Warren K. Graham, LMSW, ACSW, CASAC  
Director of Field Education  
Clinical Assistant Professor



