Field Instructors for the MSW@USC

The USC School of Social Work works with thousands of selected agencies and centers across the country that represent the complete range of social services, providing MSW@USC students with the opportunity to apply what they learn in class and work with real-life clients and the communities they serve.

Field placements are approved on the basis of the quality of their professional practice, commitment to social justice and addressing social work problems, interest in participating in professional education and the ability to make personnel and resources available.

Becoming a field instructor for the MSW@USC program can be a rewarding experience and a chance for you to give back to the social work profession. Join colleagues nationwide in contributing to the future of social work education and take part in a unique endeavor to deliver a top-ranked school of social work's curriculum to your local community.

Criteria for Becoming an MSW@USC Field Instructor

The USC School of Social Work uses the criteria below for prospective instructors:

- Employment by an agency that agrees to provide field instruction to students.
- Professional competence and interest in teaching.
- Possession of a master's degree in social work from an accredited school of social work.
- Two to preferably three years of post-master’s social work experience.
- Agreement to attend a course for new field instructors, meeting virtually over the course of the fall semester.

Please note that all coursework will be provided virtually through our Learning Management System.

CEUs will be provided (free of charge) for participation in this course.

- Possession of the following qualities and/or skills:
  - A desire to teach.
  - Demonstrated skills in practice.
  - Identification with the social work profession and support of the Social Work Code of Ethics.
  - Independence, creativity and flexibility in the use of professional self.
  - Knowledge of the community and its resources.

- Knowledge and capacity to deal with:
  - The authority inherent in the role of an educator.
  - Students with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and interests.
  - The structure and function of the social work agency and its relationship to the community.
  - The organization and implementation of agency resources in meeting the educational needs of the student.

- Potential for teaching demonstrated in:
  - An ability to conceptualize theory and practice.
  - An interest in designing and organizing varied content in the field instruction course.
  - A willingness to cooperate with the school's field education department in designing and implementing curriculum and working with the student.

- The ability to give the necessary time to the student in planning, preparation, review and individual supervision.
- An ability and willingness to evaluate the student’s work on an ongoing basis and in formal written evaluations required at the end of each semester.

Help Us Provide Hands-On Training in the Field

The USC School of Social Work invites social service agencies, government entities, schools, hospitals and businesses to join our national field education network. If you or your agency is interested in hosting local students from the University of Southern California's Master of Social Work program for their field practicum, please contact us at 858-350-4422.

www.usc.edu/socialwork