Field education remains at the heart of social work education. While the MSW@USC utilizes advancements in technology to reach students in the far corners of our nation, the value of our degree is on the strength of traditional field internships.

During the course of completing the MSW@USC program, students across the country will spend a minimum of 16-20 hours a week in select social service agencies, government entities, schools, hospitals or businesses near where they live and work. These placement sites provide an experienced social worker to supervise students as they take part in hands-on learning experiences relevant to their emerging skills.

Field Placement Sites for the MSW@USC

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Field Agency Benefits

Your agency has the opportunity to help shape the next generation of social work leaders by becoming a part of the MSW@USC national network of field placement agencies, facilitating social work education beyond the boundaries of Southern California. The benefits of participation include:

- Partnering with a prestigious research university
- Working with an accredited MSW program ranked #8 by U.S. News & World Report
- Gaining access to high-quality students to augment your services
- Teaching talented social workers to work in your community
- Hiring MSW graduates from a top-ranked school

Criteria for Becoming a Field Agency Site

With the national expansion of USC’s Master of Social Work program, we are seeking quality field placement sites in both urban and rural settings in locations across the country. We strive to give students exposure to diverse populations that offer a range of experiences in a variety of practice areas.

The USC School of Social Work invites social service agencies, government entities, schools, hospitals and businesses to join our national field education network and help us educate the next generation of social work leaders in your local community.

We welcome agencies interested in partnering with us and serving as field placement sites for MSW@USC students. To qualify as a field placement site, agencies and organizations must have:

- An interest in participating in the student’s learning and research and the capacity to provide a sufficient number and variety of assignments to develop the student's knowledge and practical skills.
- Experience with individual, group, family and community social work. At least two of these modalities must be available in some depth, and half of the student's time should be spent in direct contact with clients.
- Ample time for field instruction to permit both individual and group conferences with students.
- Adequate office space, telephone availability, clerical support and travel reimbursement for students.
- Student opportunities for in-service training and access to agency consultants.
- Congruence between the agency’s practice framework and theories taught in the classroom.

The USC School of Social Work will work with prospective agencies and organizations to mutually determine whether criteria have been met for a field placement relationship with the MSW@USC program.

If your agency/organization joins USC’s growing network of field education sites, students will complete their fieldwork on site at your agency under the supervision of an experienced field instructor (an MSW with a minimum of 2-3 years experience).
If you currently do not employ an MSW but are interested in working with social workers at your organization, we will work with you to identify an external field instructor who can work with the MSW@USC student in collaboration with a preceptor at your agency. A preceptor provides supplementary instruction for the student and is responsible for a limited portion of the student's assignments. Preceptors are not required to be social workers, but they do participate in the day-to-day supervision of the student.

**MSW@USC Field Instructor Responsibilities**

- Selecting the preceptor and clarifying their role and purpose.
- Orienting the preceptor to social work field education and student teaching.
- Helping the preceptor develop realistic and appropriate goals with the student, facilitating the experience, evaluating the experience with both the student and the preceptor.
- Incorporating these evaluations into the student's overall mid-year and end-of-year field evaluations.

**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.