

FAQs Regarding COVID-19 Impact on Field Education and My Summer Classes

Questions about Field Education

- **How many total hours of field education do I have to complete if I plan to graduate in May, August or December 2020?**

All May, August, and December 2020 graduates must complete at least 340 total hours (including junior and senior placement) for BSW placements and 765 total hours (including generalist and specialization placements) for MSW placements.

- **I am already enrolled in the program, but I won't graduate until May 2021 or later, how many total hours of field education do I have to complete?**

If you are already enrolled in the BSW or MSW program, but will not graduate on or before December 2020, you will need to complete 400 total hours if you are a BSW student and 900 hours if you are an MSW student.

- **How many total hours of field education do I have to complete for graduation if I enroll in the MSW program for the first time in summer 2020?**

You will have to complete a minimum of 900 hours (generalist and specialization placements combined).

- **How many total hours of field education will BSW or MSW students who enroll in the program on or after fall 2020 have to complete for graduation?**

All BSW and MSW students who enroll on or after the fall 2020 semester will have to satisfy the existing degree requirements, which for field education include 630 total hours for BSW students (including all hours completed in the junior and senior field courses) and 1020 total hours for MSW students (including all hours completed in the generalist and specialization field education courses).

- **I'm a clinical specialization MSW student and want to get my LCSW--will the reduced hours satisfy the 600 hours in a clinical placement requirement for licensure eligibility?**

Not necessarily. You have to calculate the total number of hours you will complete in your clinical specialization placement and the number of hours below 600 will have to be

added to the number of hours required for post-master's professional clinical experience. You are required 3000 hours of professional practice experience, if you are short 100 hours from the 600 required in a clinical placement, you would add these 100 hours to the 3000 required post-master's. For more information about this, please consult the Virginia Department of Health Professions Board of Social Work Licensure Process handbook [here](#).

- **Can I count the additional hours I completed at my placement towards the new reduced total?**

You may count all the documented hours you've already completed towards the total hours required. If you completed more hours than were required in the field placements you have already completed, you can count these additional hours towards the minimum requirement.

- **Can I just stop working remotely with my placement if I have reached the total number of hours I need?**

No--you must still plan the termination process with your field instructor, faculty field liaison and with others at your placement, including any clients with whom you are working so as to not disrupt services for them. Proper termination is not only required for satisfactory completion of your field education courses, it is also an obligation under the NASW Code of Ethics and our Technical Standards.

- **I'm a BSW junior currently enrolled in junior placement this spring. Can I stop my placement right now? How many total hours of field education do I have to complete for graduation?**

Your senior placement will provide the total of 400 hours of field education required for graduation. Thus, you may discontinue your spring 2020 junior placement at this time in consultation with your field instructor and faculty field liaison and following proper termination process.

- **I'm a BSW junior and I'm supposed to be enrolled in practice and junior field this summer and my senior placement during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters--how many total hours of field do I have to complete for graduation?**

You will need to complete a minimum of 400 total hours of field education by the time you graduate. You will complete 400 hours during your senior placement over the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. In this case, there will be an appropriate course substitution for SLWK 393 (junior placement) to prepare you for your senior placement. More information on this will be sent to summer field students.

- **I'm a MSW generalist student currently enrolled in SLWK 693 or 694. Can I stop my placement right now? How many total hours of field education do I have to complete for graduation?**

You have to complete a total of 900 hours of field education for graduation (including all hours completed in your current placement and those you will complete during your specialization placement, which requires 600 hours). You may discontinue your generalist placement if you have already accrued at least 300 hours over the course of your two semesters. Discontinuing your placement should happen in consultation with your field instructor and faculty field liaison and following proper termination process.

- **I'm an MSW student who already completed 420 hours of generalist placement and will graduate on or before December 2020. How many hours of specialization field education do I have to complete and how will this affect me if I want to be a LCSW in the Commonwealth of Virginia?**

If you have already earned 420 in your generalist placement, you must complete a minimum of 345 hours in your specialization field placement for a total of 765 hours of field education. Please note that if you are also in the clinical specialization and want to earn the LCSW, you will need to make up the difference between 345 and the 600 hours required for licensure eligibility after you graduate. For more information see the [Code of Virginia](#).

- **I'm a MSW student completing the school social work certification. Will my placement still count for that certification?**

The Certification in School Social Work requires that students complete “a supervised practicum or field experience of a minimum of 400 clock hours in a public or an accredited nonpublic school discharging the duties of a school social worker. One year of successful, full-time experience as a school social worker in a public or an accredited nonpublic school may be accepted in lieu of the school social work practicum.” For more information see the Code of Virginia. Specialization students have likely fulfilled the 400 hour minimum at this point in the semester. For more information see the [Code of Virginia](#).

Summer 2020 Classes and Beyond

- Will I have any face-to-face on-campus classes this summer?

No - All courses offered by the School of Social Work during Summer Session 2020 will be in remote or online format. No classes will take place face-to-face on campus.

- How will my fall 2020 classes and field education be affected by what's happening now?

At this stage the School is planning that fall 2020 classes and field education will occur as they usually do. The COVID-19 crisis is evolving, and decisions about fall will be made as information is available.