School of Social Work
Field Placement Statement of Understanding

The purpose of a field placement is to provide each student with a solid educational experience when staff, including the MSW field instructor, is present and meetings and activities are happening. Because no agency is able to provide a quality experience during evening and weekend hours alone, students of the UNE School of Social Work who are working full-time (more than 32 hours per week) should be prepared to decrease or shift work hours and create a flexible plan with their employer to allow for a sound educational placement as determined by the UNE School of Social Work.

Field placements consist of four semesters of supervised practice in approved settings such as programs for refugees and immigrants, shelters for battered women, youth programs, government agencies, state agencies that address policy issues, hospitals, mental health clinics, schools, substance abuse settings, child protective services, elder agencies, and other social service agencies. Each semester includes 280 hours of professionally supervised field practice experience and weekly participation in an integrating seminar. A total of 1120 hours of supervised field practice is required over four semesters for full time students. For advanced standing students, 560 hours of professionally supervised field practice and participation in integrating seminars are required at a minimum. If an advanced standing student is admitted with less than 560 hours of fieldwork from their BSW degree, they may be required to make up all or part of the difference in hours.