

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE FIELD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY PRACTITIONERS AND MSASS FACULTY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRATION IN A DYNAMICALLY ORIENTED PRACTICE ARENA.

Field Education affords students opportunities to apply theoretical concepts from the classroom to professional practice sites structured to enhance opportunities for skill demonstration and application. These collective experiences provide students with a forum to develop social work skills, integrate and operationalize the values and ethics inherent in professional practice, and confront social injustice as self-reflective, competent developing practitioners.

Field Education provides a forum for students to integrate the knowledge, skills and values that comprise the core of the professional social work practice with a self identity as competent beginning professionals. The practice setting affords students opportunities to apply didactic theory to practice, give and receive feedback regarding skill development, and experience the realities of the social work profession. There is the potential for a mutual exchange of practical and theoretical knowledge that may serve to enhance innovative change in both the clinical and academic venues. The Field Education Department endorses this expansive view of the opportunities that students and Field Instructors share to re-define both social work education and social work practice for the future.

The Eight Abilities form the structure of the Field *Learning Contract* which is developed each semester through a collaborative process involving students, Field Instructors and Field Advisors. This document captures the field learning opportunities essential to maximize the integration of the academic and practice experience central to graduate social work education. Students are encouraged and expected to articulate and incorporate the skills necessary for successful field performance in the *Learning Contract*. Opportunities for the development of critical thinking skills, self-assessment, offering and receiving professional feedback and flexibility of approach are valued elements inherent to the field site.

CASE defines education as a “transforming” opportunity. The Field Education Department provides students with the contextual format for this transformation to be realized.