

Employment-Based Practicum Information for Agencies

Social work practicum is an essential component of social work education. Practicum provides students with hands-on experience in a social work setting. Students working in eligible social work-related organizations may have the option to complete their practicum at their place of employment. An employment-based practicum placement must achieve all of the placement objectives for a social work student. The employing agency is expected to help the student and the university to create and maintain an environment for learning to take place.

Length of placement	BSW students begin August 26 and finish May 9 MSW students begin September 9 and finish May 9
Hours per week	Students must complete 16 hours per week
Supervision	1 hour per week of social work supervision (included in 16 hrs/week)

Supervision Requirements:

Students must participate in 1 hour per week of social work supervision with a qualified social worker who will serve as their Practicum Instructor. This may or may not be the same person as the student’s day-to-day supervisor.

Practicum Instructor Requirements:

Supervising BSW student: obtained a BSW or MSW and has 2+ years of post-graduation experience

Supervising MSW student: obtained a MSW and has 2+ years of post-graduation experience

*If there is no one at the agency who meets this requirement, the Chico State School of Social Work can provide the student with an off-site Practicum Instructor. The student will still need a task supervisor (does not have to be a social worker) at the agency to oversee their day-to-day tasks.

Types of Employment-Based Placements		
Same Work	Combo Work*	Different Work*
Student keeps their current role at their job and counts work hours towards 100% of practicum hours (this is only approved if the student is a new employee or in a new role with the employment agency)	Student counts some current employment tasks towards their practicum hours (70%) and also completes tasks in a different role/department (30%)	Student completes 100% of their practicum hours in a different role/department doing different tasks other than their current employment role (this is most common when the student’s employment tasks are not directly linked to the social work competencies)

*It is up to the agency to determine whether the student interested in doing “combo work” or “different work” can complete these practicum tasks within their normal working hours or if these tasks will require additional hours on top of the student’s current work schedule.

Students must be able to meet all 9 Social Work Competencies, as outlined by the [Council on Social Work Education \(CSWE\) 2022 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards \(EPAS\)](#). See pages 8-13 of the linked document.

Student Placement Agreement and Next Steps

In order for a student to complete a practicum placement with a specific agency, there must be a fully executed Student Placement Agreement between the agency and the university. Once students have applied and been approved by the Practicum Education Program for an employment-based practicum placement, the office will initiate the contract process. This process can take several weeks to months, depending on the agency. While it is rare, the agency and the university may be unable to agree to the required terms laid out by each party, meaning the student would be unable to complete their practicum with that agency.