

**University of Kentucky**  
**College of Social Work**  
**Guidelines for Practicum Selection**

**Community and Social Development (CSD) Concentration**

The Community and Social Development Concentration is designed to move students from a basic understanding of general social work direct practice to an advanced understanding and application of macro social work skills in preparation for leadership roles in the field. Students take a two-semester CSD Field Practicum that prepares them to engage in macro practice at the advanced level in public and private settings. Students work in community-based agencies and perform a variety of tasks, including: assessment; resource and program development; engagement and collaboration with community partners on effective service delivery; agency policy analysis; and program evaluation. During the Spring Semester students develop an advanced understanding of how to select, design, and adapt intervention strategies to meet identified community needs.

The agency Field Instructor must have a MSW plus 2 years post-degree experience, or arrangements must be made for an off-site MSW Field Instructor.

**SW 741 Practicum I**  
**Fall Semester**

1. Students in the first semester of the CSD concentration placement should be able to engage in the following activities, at a minimum:
  - a. Develop a new resource for the practicum agency
  - b. Design a comprehensive plan for evaluating an agency program or programs
  - c. ACTIVELY participate in an organization or community meeting/planning session/event designed to facilitate community change.
2. In the rare case that a placement is unable to allow a student to ACTIVELY represent the organization in a meeting/planning session/event, the student must be able to attend with an agency representative, observe them participating in the meeting/event, and have the access to interview the agency representative about their professional role in the meeting/event.
3. In the very rare case that a student cannot complete an alternative observation and interview of an agency representative in a meeting/planning session/event to facilitate community change, the student must work with the practicum supervisor/field instructor to create an alternate assignment. Prior to beginning the alternate assignment, the assignment must be approved by the Practicum Instructor, the CSD Concentration Chairperson, and the Director of Field Education.

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### **SW 743 Practicum II**

1. Students in the second semester of the CSD concentration placement should be able to engage in the following activities, at a minimum:
  - a. Analyze an agency policy and present a plan for strengthening the policy to the field instructor and practicum instructor
  - b. Identify and implement one component of the comprehensive evaluation plan created in SW 741 Practicum I.
  - c. **ACTIVELY** engage as a change agent in the policy process as it relates to the needs of the population(s) to whom the agency provides services. (Examples of activities that could be considered engaging in the policy process include, but are not limited to, meeting 1:1 with a state legislator to discuss his/her position on legislation that impacts the population(s) you serve, attending and participating in a planning meeting, a city council meeting, etc.). The activity must be preapproved by and conducted with the supervision of the practicum supervisor/field instructor.
2. In the rare case that a placement is unable to allow a student to **ACTIVELY** engage as a change agent in the policy process related to the needs of the agency population, the student should be able to observe an agency representative participating in the policy change process, and have the access to interview that representative about his/her professional role in this process.
3. In the very rare case that a student cannot complete an alternative observation and interview of an agency representative engaging in the policy change process, the student must work with the practicum supervisor/field instructor to create an alternate assignment. Prior to beginning the alternate assignment, the assignment must be approved by the Practicum Instructor, the CSD Concentration Chairperson, and the Director of Field Education.
4. In the rare case that a placement is unable to allow a student to implement a component of their comprehensive evaluation plan, the student should conduct a review of a recent program evaluation by accessing all documentation related to a recent program evaluation conducted by, or on behalf of, the agency. The student must also have access to interview at least one of the program evaluators about the process of conducting a program evaluation.
5. In the very rare case that a student cannot complete a comprehensive review of an agency evaluation, the student must work with the practicum supervisor/field instructor to create an alternate assignment. Prior to beginning the alternate assignment, the assignment must be approved by the Practicum Instructor, the CSD Concentration Chairperson, and the Director of Field Education.