

# The University of Oklahoma

## Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

### Foundation Year Practicum Field Units

*\*Updated Fall 2023*

Foundation Year Students will be placed into Practicum Field Units, based on their survey responses. However, it should be understood that not all requests can be accommodated. Field Units may be combined depending on size of interest.

**Practicum Field Units:** Students will be involved in regular field unit meetings, either at the school or online, with their liaison. All students are **required** to attend these field unit meetings conducted every two weeks by the faculty liaison as part of their practicum. Liaisons will set the schedules for their Field Unit meetings each semester.

#### **Zarrow Mental Health and Community Outreach Field Unit**

##### **Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison**

- The practicum approach that has commonly been used to expose social work students to direct practice in mental health has relied upon traditional mental health settings as placement sites and has focused on a narrow range of traditionally conceived services. In the future, more people with mental disorders will be living in the community, and fewer and fewer people with mental disorders will receive treatment and services from traditional mental health services. In the future, professional social workers (most all professionals working in the field of mental health) will move beyond the limitations of narrowly defined programs and services to collaborate with people who need mental health services- within the community.
- Collaboration, in part, is based on knowing people in the context of their environment (in the community) and the services they utilize. It is a rare opportunity for social work students to acquire a holistic understanding, in context, of the life experiences and challenges faced by those with a mental health disorder. This experience introduces students to the lives and the world of those living with a mental illness.
- To know this population as people, students will have the opportunity to not only be placed at a site that serves those with a mental illness but could also spend time at other prominent agencies in the community that serve this population in numerous ways. Through these sites, students will experience the well-worn paths through services and institutions frequented by people living with mental

disorders. These community agencies include but are not limited to The Mental Health Association Oklahoma, community mental health centers, David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center, the Day Center for the Homeless, the Tulsa Salvation Army Center, meal programs, and other homeless outreach programs.

## **Family & Children's Services Field Unit**

### **Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison**

- Family & Children's Services provides services through a variety of programs in multiple Tulsa Metro locations and works in collaboration with other organizations in numerous innovative partnerships. For this placement, Family & Children's Services (F&CS) offers a broad spectrum of family service and mental health programs to children and adults of all ages.
- Students will be offered opportunities that allow them to experience service programs and exposure to the intake process, training(s), treatment modalities and program operations. Students will participate in foundational training experiences of case documentation, treatment plan development, ethical considerations, working with culturally diverse populations and professional orientation to the field. Students will be offered program specific training regarding best practice models that are utilized within the agency.
- Students will also be involved in field unit meetings at the school with their liaison once every two weeks. All students are also required to attend these field meetings conducted by faculty liaison, as part of their practicum. The students placed in this field unit may be assigned to one of the following programs: Early Childhood Program, Comprehensive Home-Based Services (CHBS), Systems of Care, Mental Health Services - Case Management, Health Homes, Community Outreach Psychiatric Emergency Services (COPES), Re-entry Intensive Care Coordination Team (RICCT, Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT).

## **School Social Work Field Unit**

### **Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison**

- Includes opportunities to work with children, families, teachers, administrators, and the wider community with the goal of assisting children in overcoming social, emotional, and socio-economic barriers to academic success. Students in this unit can be placed at an elementary school, a middle school, a high school, or an alternative school. Tulsa, Union, Jenks, Bixby, or Broken Arrow public schools have hosted practicum students in the past. Students from outlying areas may be placed in school districts closer to where they live, provided there is an MSW-level social worker who is employed at the placement site, and who is able and willing to act as Field Instructor for the student's practicum.
- Students in this field unit will arrange practicum schedules with their site (school) Field Instructors. Students in this field unit are required to attend a bi-monthly, 1-hour Field Unit meetings as part of their practicum.

## Child Welfare Families & Youth Development Field Unit

### OKDHS Full Time Faculty Liaison – Misty Stanberry

- Offers students the opportunity to be assigned to a program in the continuum of services provided to children and families involved in the state child welfare system. In addition to a broad range of learning activities at each site, students in this unit are exposed to diverse cultures, diverse social problems, a variety of community resources, various levels, and diverse types of child placements.
- Students will set a practicum schedule with their assigned placement to accommodate student's class schedule. Students in this field unit are required to attend bi-monthly, one hour, field unit meetings as part of their practicum. The sites in this rotation vary by year and availability of practicum placements. Sites that may be available are Child Welfare (Program areas: Permanency Planning, Family Team Meeting Continuum, Family Centered Services, and Foster Care and Adoptions) and Legal Aid Parent Representation Division.

## Health & Medical Social Work

### Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison

Students will experience medical social work in outpatient healthcare.

### OU Physicians Clinics: Primary & Specialty Care

Diabetes, Pediatrics, Wayman Tisdale, Bedlam Longitudinal & Family Medicine

### Students can expect exposure to the following:

\*Abuse & Neglect in Patient Population \*Adjustment to Illness \*Advocacy \*Anxiety  
\*Basic Needs Assessment & Referral \*Behavioral Health Screening & Assessment \*  
Case Management \*Chronic Illness \*Community Resource Linkages \*Crisis  
Intervention \*Depression \*Discharge Planning \*Entire Continuum from Birth to  
Death \*Grief \*Health Illiteracy \*Homelessness \*Intimate Partner Violence  
\*Medical Terminology \*Mental Illness \*Parenting Challenges \*Safety Planning  
\*Transportation Issues \*Trauma

## Social Work with American Indians

### Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison

The practicum programs span behavioral health, domestic violence, and community prevention. The sites are geographically diverse representing urban/rural tribal populations. The field unit will form a collective student educational experience through bi-monthly seminars. Social workers in service to American Indians and Alaska Natives must contend with disparities related to substance abuse, suicide, violent victimization, death, and domestic violence. At the base of all these negative indicators is the highest poverty level of any other ethnic group. The ability of social work to address these injustices resides with the development of practicum content that strengthens social workers policy knowledge to coordinate services, funding, and enforcement across tribal, federal, and state jurisdictions. The knowledge gained from the proposed Social

Work with American Indians Field Unit will be relevant to the hundreds of sovereign tribal nations and numerous urban tribal communities that are located across the United States.

## **Scholars in Aging Services Field Unit**

### **Tulsa Full Time Faculty Liaison**

The primary goals of this field unit are to provide foundation year students (Scholars in Aging) with more knowledge and a greater understanding of the issues faced by the aging population and their families in Oklahoma and to create practice opportunities with this growing fraction of our population. Field education is committed to providing students with the opportunity to apply skills and to deepen their ability to understand and analyze the complexities often found within social work practice. Advanced learning opportunities presented within this specialized field unit will include:

1. Participation in topic specific field unit meetings (1 hours every other week) that will include an advanced curriculum and simulation focused on aging issues and caregiving as well as learning from your peers about a variety of practice settings.
2. Participation in a field practicum during the Foundation year with one of the following approved agencies: Life Senior Services, The Alzheimer Association, Long-term care ombudsmen, Ability Resources, Residential facilities (Continuing Care Retirement Communities, Assisted Living Facilities, Independent Living Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities), Hospice Care Providers, and/or Meals on Wheels.

Possible experiential activities planned for the Field Unit includes:

1. Spending a day in both a skilled nursing facility and an assisted living facility and writing a full comparison of these experiences.
1. Assisting with the development, implementation and/or analysis of a gerontological research project.

*For questions regarding Field Units for Foundation Year students on the Tulsa campus, please contact Tulsa Field Education Coordinator Austin McCoy at [austin.mccoy@ou.edu](mailto:austin.mccoy@ou.edu).*

*Survey preferences will be considered, and every effort made to accommodate specific requests when assigning Field Units, but specific placement cannot be guaranteed due to a variety of factors.*

*If you are located more than 30 miles from the Tulsa campus, you may qualify for an exemption from Field Units. Please contact the Field Education Coordinator to discuss your specific situation.*

