

## GUIDELINES FOR BLOCK PLACEMENT

Students may consider a block format for their field placements. Block placements are approved by the Director of MSW Field Education in consultation with the faculty field liaison and Academic Advisor. (See Request for Block Placement Form on next page).

### Guidelines

1. Scheduled coursework must be completed before beginning a block placement.
  - a. Foundation students must complete GRSW 501 & GRSW 502 before beginning a block placement.
  - b. Clinical students must complete GRSW 603 & GRSW 604 before beginning a block placement.
2. Only one of two placements may be a block for regular admission students.
3. Advanced standing students may request a block placement if the senior undergraduate placement was not a block.
4. Students complete a “Request for Block Placement” form signed by their academic advisor. The Director of MSW Field Education approves block requests.
5. Block practica are feasible in select agencies only. Students should be prepared to be flexible in their focus and ready for an intensive experience.
6. Time frame: Block placements are only available in the summer. *For Weekend Cohort students only* the following points apply: 1) The summer block format is typically not available for students completing their clinical placements who live a distance from the Twin Cities, and 2) under certain circumstances, Weekend Cohort students may be eligible to arrange a block placement in the spring.
7. Length of block placement:
  - a. *Foundation practicum*: minimum 60 days. At 40 hours per week, 10 weeks are generally required to meet the 400 hour requirement.
  - b. *Clinical practicum*: minimum 90 days. At 40 hours per week, 15 weeks are generally required to meet the 600 hour requirement.
  - c. Agencies vary, but generally summer block time frame is mid-May to mid-September.
8. Attendance in field seminar is concurrent with placement. Summer seminars meet biweekly. Students register in GRSW 505 or GRSW 607 in session one and GRSW 506 or GRSW 608 in summer session two. Generally, one seminar is offered, with a mixture of foundation and clinical students. Seminar requirements, however, are different for the two levels.
9. Clinical summer block students who have completed all other degree requirements are eligible to participate in the December graduation at the University of St. Thomas. **Students electing to complete clinical practica in summer block are not eligible to participate in the May graduation proceeding the summer placement.**