

GUIDELINES FOR BLOCK PLACEMENT

In certain cases, students may be eligible to complete a field placement in a block format. These are full-time placements (35-40 hours/week), completed in 10 to 15 weeks during the summer. Block placements are not final until approved by the Director of MSW Field Education and the Academic Advisor. (See Request for Block Placement form on next page.)

Eligibility

1. **Regular Standing** students may complete one of their two MSW placements in the block format.
2. **Advanced Standing** students may request a block placement in the MSW program **only** if the Senior BSW field placement was not in a block format. (A block placement typically spans one semester and can occur at any time of the year. Students are in the practicum 4-5 days/week over 10-15 weeks. If you have any question about whether your Senior BSW placement was in a block, contact the Director of MSW Field Education.)

Guidelines

1. Required 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. Students submit a completed "Request for Block Placement" form that has been reviewed and signed by their academic advisor. The Director of MSW Field Education reviews block requests for approval.
3. **Block placements are feasible in select agencies only. Students should be prepared to be flexible in their focus and ready for an intensive experience.**
4. Length of block placement:
 - a. *Foundation practicum*: minimum 60 days. At 35-40 hours per week, 10-12 weeks are generally required to meet the 400 hour requirement.
 - b. *Clinical practicum*: minimum 90 days. At 40 hours per week, 15 weeks are required to meet the 600 hour requirement. Students should plan to be in the practicum continually during the summer, with no vacation breaks.
 - c. Summer block placements start in late May and complete in late August.
5. Attendance in field seminar is concurrent with placement. Summer seminars meet biweekly. Students register in GRSW 505 or GRSW 607 in summer 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.
6. Students who enroll in summer block field are eligible for financial aid, as the course meets the minimum of three credits. Students should contact the financial aid office at the University of St. Thomas for more information.
7. Clinical summer block students who have completed all other degree requirements are eligible to participate in the May MSW graduation preceding the summer block placement, or the December MSW commencement following the placement. The final degree will be conferred after all the course requirements are successfully completed.