The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education

Frequently Asked Questions

What is different about the HPPAE program from regular final year field placements with older adults and families?
The HPPAE program is designed to give final year concentrators in Older Adults and Families a highly specialized educational experience. Students are placed at health, mental health or community service agencies in rotational placement (within or between agencies) or at an agency such as a geriatric mental health center that provides broader services within a specialized context. Students attend monthly integrative seminars, organized and presented by their peers in the HPPAE program, and are asked to participate in two community service projects. Examples of community services are the Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease or Alzheimer Advocacy Day at the Massachusetts State House.

How are agencies selected to be part of the program?
Specific final year field placement agencies have been selected to participate in the HPPAE field placement process based on a number of characteristics:
- Willingness to offer students a wide range of field opportunities to broaden the student’s exposure to the matrix of services to older adults;
- Willingness to host one of the monthly Integrative Seminars and to build the time needed to plan and attend these seminars into field placement time commitments;
- Commitment to working on the goals and objectives of rotational field placements;
- Location in the greater Boston Metro area, qualified field instructors, and some prior experience with the Field Education Program at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

What if I am not interested in doing my final year placement at one of the HPPAE agencies?
HPPAE stipends and scholarships are attached to the specific agencies with HPPAE affiliations. You may select another agency for your field placement and remain in the Older Adults/Families Concentration but cannot be considered for the HPPAE.
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Can more than one applicant for the HPPAE interview at any given agency?
It is possible, depending on a student’s interest, that more than one student may be interviewing at a HPPAE agency although we try very hard not to have that happen if possible. If more than one student is interested and/or qualified for placement, the final decision regarding placement is made by the Field Education Office and the Field Supervisor at the HPPAE Agency.

How does an HPPAE award affect my financial aid package from BCGSSW?
The HPPAE award consists of three parts. The first is a $4000 scholarship. If you are already receiving scholarship money from BCGSSW, this is included as part of the money you have already been awarded, not in addition to an existing scholarship. For example, if you are receiving a $7000 scholarship, your final scholarship will remain at $7000 with the HPPAE scholarship included in this amount. The scholarship does not increase to $11,000. The second part of the award is a $3000 stipend, paid in monthly installments over the nine months of the academic year. You must remain in the HPPAE to continue to receive this stipend. This stipend does not affect any work-study money for which you may qualify. Specific questions about financial aid should be directed to Dr. William Howard, BCGSSW Director of Admissions.