

BOSTON COLLEGE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

**Frequently Asked Questions
About the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging
Education**

What is the process for qualifying for HPPAE during my final year of field placement?

First, you must file a Final Year Field Placement application (on-line) and have selected Older Adults/Families as your concentration for the final year. There is a three part process to qualifying for the HPPAE. You must file a separate application for the HPPAE and be interviewed by the Chair of the Older Adults/Families, the Director of Field Education, and a faculty member from the concentration. You must be in good academic standing with BCGSSW and have completed any incompletes by the time you begin interviewing for prospective field placements. You should be interested in one of the available HPPAE placements sites and arrange for an interview with the Field Instructor at that agency. Finally, the HPPAE agency must accept you as the HPPAE student for your final year. A satisfactory interview, an interest in and interview with the HPPAE agency, and acceptance by the HPPAE agency are the three components of the process.

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.

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 at all 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 a HPPAE award affect my financial aid package from BCGSSW?

The HPPAE award consists of three parts. The first is a \$3000 scholarship. If you are already receiving scholarship money from BCGSSW this is included in the scholarship. For example, if you are receiving a \$7000 scholarship, your final scholarship award will remain at \$7000 with the HPPAE scholarship included in this amount. The scholarship does not increase to \$10,000. The second part of the award is a \$4000 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 you may qualify for. Specific questions about financial aid should be directed to Dr. William Howard, Director of Admissions. BCGSSW will pay the BC Student Health Insurance premium as the third component of the HPPAE, if that is the health insurance plan in which you participate. This does not apply to any other health insurance.

What makes a HPPAE placement different than other Older Adults/Families placements?

Three specific elements differentiate HPPAE placements from other Older Adult/Families placements. First, you will be participating in a pre- and post-test about your knowledge of aging and aging services as part of a national research program on the program. Second, you will be negotiating a rotational field placement that provides opportunities for you to either rotate within your field agency (if this has been arranged) OR to rotate between a host agency and another agency to broaden your experiences in working with older adults. Third, you will be attending a monthly Integrative Seminar

hosted by one of the HPPAE agencies that will provide additional educational enrichment opportunities that may not be available at your host agency.