



BOSTON COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

June 24, 2020

FAQ's for Fall Re-Opening

How will field placements be structured this fall – remote, in person, or a combination?

BC SSW is working with the agencies to support whatever structure most meets their client/program needs. Some settings can only provide in person services given the nature of the work. Other settings can only provide remote. We anticipate many will try to put together a combination of structures that attend to the health needs of employees and care needs of their community. We anticipate students will need to be flexible and understanding as the semester begins and progresses.

How will I know what my agency expects, in terms of remote versus in person?

The Field team is reaching out to all the agencies to see how they will be able to meet students learning needs in placement. Some of you have already heard from your supervisors about the fall structure. You will hear from the Field department, your assigned Assistant Director or your agency supervisor with the expectations for the fall semester.

Are students able to provide telehealth/remote services?

Yes - The Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) approved remote service delivery for training experiences. BC SSW will also support creative ways that learning can continue while students are remote, including self-study materials provided by the school or the placement.

What are the options if a student does not want to be on premises at placement?

If a student cannot be on premises for health reasons, the school and the agency will assess if any alternative remote learning experiences are possible at this setting. If not, we will work to reassign the student to a new setting that can accommodate them or may move to part-time status for the academic year.

Is there a change to the number of hours required given the COVID crisis?

BC has a minimum requirement of 1200 hours for the degree; 480 for First Year and 720 for Final Year. CSWE has allowed schools to approve 85% completion rate for Field Education courses. We would recommend that the student target the following range of hours

Field I (First Year Fall)	204-240 total semester	14-16 hours per week
Field III (Final Year Fall)	306-360 total semester	20-24 hours per week

If a resurgence of COVID cases should occur and we are ordered to return home, we can work within the CSWE guidelines of 85% of their 900 minimum hours. As a school, we would prefer to stay as close to our curricular requirements but will adjust if conditions require that change.

Can I remain at home, outside of New England and secure a placement there while attending courses online?

Unfortunately, no. BC SSW does not have an online Field placement structure so that is not possible outside of the New England states- MA, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island & Connecticut. If you plan to stay at home outside of New England, you will need to move to part-time enrollment or defer to 2021.

Can supervision be provided remotely?

Yes, it can. The same recommendations for effective supervision would apply – consistent scheduled time, minimal interruptions, privacy during the meetings, etc. It is recommended that there are other check-in opportunities throughout the week to support the student, either by phone, email, etc.

It may be a challenge to fill all the required hours for the placement? Are there alternative assignments available?

We have an extensive resource page in the Canvas site for students, with articles, podcasts and webinars for self-study. Agencies will also be encouraged to share any resources or assign projects that are particular to their setting, services or communities, to support their experience at your agency.

Is there flexibility around using my current job in human services as my Field placement?

Yes, due to COVID, CSWE has broadened its approval of employment-based placements. We will work with you and your work supervisors to craft an MSW learning experience that will compliment your classes. Please consult with your assigned Assistant Director to explore this option.

What is the school providing in terms of COVID training materials and telehealth service delivery?

The Field Education department has a repository of CDC resources regarding health precautions around COVID 19. BC SSW curriculum will include content on the provision of telehealth services. Additionally, the school will be providing self-care resources and support to students in programming, workshops and online materials.

Does the decision to offer courses online effect my current course registration?

The decision to provide classes online does not change the courses that you are registered for in the fall semester. You can see the courses you are currently registered for in the Agora Portal.

I was admitted to the full-time program and would like to change to part time, who do I contact?

Please contact BC SSW admissions to discuss your change of status, swadmit@bc.edu.

I have decided to defer for a year, who do I contact to let them know of my decision?

Please contact BC SSW admissions to discuss your deferment, SWadmit@bc.edu

Contact information:

BC SSW Admissions/Financial Aid: swadmit@bc.edu

Frances Stearns, Assistant Dean of Graduate Enrollment Management, frances.stearns@bc.edu

BC Student Services:

Teresa Schirmer, Associate Dean of Student Experience, Teresa.schirmer@bc.edu

Liz Cinquino, Director of Advising Center, mary.cinquino@bc.edu

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