SDSU College of Health and Human Services School of Social Work	**School of Social Work Field Education** **5500 Campanile Drive** **San Diego, CA** **619-594-5197** **Fax: 619-594-5991** https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/field/	**MSW I – Foundation Year** **SW 650 Overview** **Curriculum Course Requirements** **2026 – 2027 Academic Year**

Overview – Refer to Course Master and Supplemental Syllabi for detailed information.

Hours Required: Fall Semester: 16 hours per week in agency; **Spring Semester 16 hours per week in agency** **(Check Attendance Policies for holidays, illness, etc.)**	
Field Instruction	Field Education is an integral part of the MSW program curriculum. Each yearlong field course includes two major components: the practicum agency internship and the field seminar course. It provides the social work student with an opportunity to integrate and apply course theoretical knowledge and engage in social work practice in a community-based agency setting with supervised field experience.
Foundation Year Field Instruction and Practice	Generalist Practice – micro, mezzo, and macro practice caseload and activities assigned. Students will be required to demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes, e.g. individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities. The student is expected to demonstrate foundation competency in generalist practice reflecting core-learning areas in the SW 650 Field Practicum curriculum. *Refer to course syllabus for objectives, competencies, and requirements.*
Supervision	Minimum of 1 hour per week of formalized individual, face-to-face supervision by Field Instructor. Regularly scheduled.
Agency Field Practicum Hours*	Fall Semester: 10 agency hours per week for Week 1 and 2. 16 hours agency hours per week for Week 3 through Week 15. Total agency practicum hours for fall semester = 210 hours. Spring Semester: 16 agency hours per week for 15 weeks. Total agency practicum hours for spring semester = 240 hours. SW 650 total practicum agency hours for the academic year = 450 hours. Student shall be in internships a minimum of 4-hours at a time. No weekend availability. **Refer to course calendar and attendance policies for holidays, university break periods, student illness, etc.*
Field Practicum Orientation and Field Seminar	Field Practicum Orientation (Mandatory) – One week before field instruction begins in fall Semester. Fall Semester – 10 field seminar meetings; Spring Semester – 9 field seminar meetings. School-based field seminar courses are taught by Field Faculty and will focus on experiential skill application, development, and training, utilizing small groups, role-playing, live supervision, vignettes, and exercises.

Practice Expectations Caseload/ Activity Expectations	**Micro: Minimum of 50% (8 hours per week) in direct service provision.** • **4-6 Individual cases** (not in same family or household). • Completion of biopsychosocial assessments for each client. • Assignment of at least two on-going, long-term clients. • Participation in case conferences, including case presentations. • Collaborative experiences with other members of interdisciplinary team. • 1-2 family cases in spring semester.
Students receive initial caseload and project assignments within **weeks 2 to 4 in Fall Semester.** **Field Instructor is responsible for assigning all client cases, projects, groups, and activities to meet course requirements**	**Mezzo:** **One Group experience** (required in spring semester). Group may be an educationally focused group, e.g. parenting class, therapeutically focused group, socialization group, or discussion group. Student has an active role in the group and should not just be an observer or passive member of the group. **Macro: Minimum of 20-25% (3- 4 hours per week)** in macro practice experiences and activities. Integrate social work knowledge from course work with communities & organizations. Examples may include: • Attending & brief summaries of meetings, e.g. Community Collaborative, Trainings; • Community organization / collaborative work; • Needs assessments – grant or contract proposals; • Public Relations & marketing; • Project development – design & implementation of a new project; • Networking-participate in or coordinate networking session with other agencies around a shared concern; • Operations Review-review agency's operations manual and recommend revisions if appropriate; • Technology update-assist agency in improving its use of technology; • Evaluation-conduct literature search on outcomes and write summary paper in evaluating agency programs **Administration: 3- 4 hours per week includes supervision, staff meetings, case conferences, etc.**
Assignments	Field Internship Course Assignments: • Biopsychosocial Assessments – each client; • Learning Plans / Educational Contracts; • Student Orientation Check List; • Community and Agency Description – macro assignment – Fall semester; • In-service Training – Process of Evidenced-Based Practice – Spring semester; • Process recordings; • Field Faculty-Agency-Student Site Visit; • Educational-based recordings; • Student Self-Assessment / Evaluation Review in Comp Skills Evaluation; • Comprehensive Skills Evaluations. **NOTE: All forms are completed electronically via IPT.** **http://socialwork.sdsu.edu/field/instructor-resources/ipt-tutorial/**
Foundation Program Objectives	In field education, students will be required to (but not limited to), demonstrate the ability to: • Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and

	sexual orientation. Students will learn how to define, design, and implement strategies for effective practice with persons from diverse backgrounds. Field Instructors will provide assignments and client cases that differ from student. • Be aware of personal values; develop, demonstrate, and promote the values of the profession; and analyze ethical dilemmas and the ways in which these affect practice, services, and clients. Understands, respects, and integrates social work values, NASW Code of Ethics, and legal issues regulated by and associated with social work practice and the profession. • Integrate empirical based interventions and practice-based knowledge • Apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice. • Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice • Apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions. Use communication skills and supervision in social work practice and professionally function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems.
Foundation Year Practice	Generalist Intervention Practice Model Crisis Intervention Case Management Client-Centered _____ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Short Term Psychodynamic Solution Focused