POLICY FOR MSW PROGRAM EXEMPTION FROM THE GENERALIST YEAR OF FIELD SW 400 & SW 401: FIELD AND INTEGRATIVE SEMINARS I & II

In general, students who received their BSW degree from an accredited school of social work WITHIN 5 years (from the date the student graduated to the date of enrollment into the MSW program), with a grade of B or better in the field course (in a pass or fail system, demonstrated that they have attained the equivalent of a B or better level), may be exempted from the generalist year of field, SW 400 & SW 401: Field and Integrative Seminars I & II. Students who have questions about this exemption would need to see their school advisor.

Students who received a BSW degree from an accredited school of social work MORE than 5 years ago (from the date the student graduated to the date of enrollment into the MSW program) are encouraged to complete the field program as designed. However, you may apply to be considered for the exemption test-out from the first year of field if all of the following conditions apply:

1. You attained a B or better in your field course while completing your BSW. In a pass/fail system, you must be able to demonstrate that you attained the equivalent of a B or better level.

2. You have kept current in the field of social work since graduation. Typically, this is demonstrated through significant post-BSW social work experience for no less than the equivalent of two full-time years within a five-year period prior to the date you begin the MSW program along with professional development and training.

With both of these conditions met, you may apply to be considered for exemption from the first year of field by completing a request form and then, if eligible to proceed, you would complete a test out (portfolio) that covers both the integrative field seminar and the field placement. The generalist year of field, SW 400 & SW 401 is a field course sequence comprised of both the integrative seminar and the field placement.

To apply to be considered for the test out, you will need to complete the student portion of the “Exemption Eligibility Process Request Form (FTP-E-1) and submit it, with the Student Field Unit Preference Form, to the Full-time MSW Program Field Office (room 317 Social Work Building) no later than June 8, 2015. The forms are available at the School’s website: http://socwork.wisc.edu/fieldfiles. You will be notified by late June regarding your eligibility to continue with the exemption process. If eligible, you will receive instructions regarding the completion of a portfolio. In the portfolio you would provide documentation demonstrating that you have achieved the 10 competencies as measured by the 42 corresponding generalist practice behaviors for SW 400 & SW 401. Students who pass the test out (portfolio) are then granted the exemption from the integrative seminar and field placement. If you have questions about this exemption process, please contact the Full-Time MSW Program Field Office at 263-4813.

Students who want to be exempt from SW 440 (Practice I: Foundations of Generalist Practice), a separate course in the full-time program, would need to take and pass the SW 440 course exemption exam. Please contact your advisor to set up a time for the SW 440 Exemption exam.

Updated 1/15/2015