

## **Specialized Field Opportunities and Placements (SBIRT, DSS Child Welfare Collaborative, and School Social Work)**

### **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)**

The Department of Social Work provides training to students, field instructors and community members in the universal screening tool, SBIRT. In addition, Nursing, Athletic Training, and Public Health Departments in the Beaver College of Health Sciences also participate, affording the student the opportunity to be involved in interprofessional learning. Each student will receive substance use disorder content in the social work curriculum, which will include the first module of the three-module SBIRT program. Students may then choose to complete modules two and three and receive a certificate of completion from the Beaver College of Health Sciences. Module two consists of a day long training. Module three consists of practicing SBIRT at your field placement site, our interprofessional clinic or other approved site, receiving feedback from your supervisor or other SBIRT-trained employee and completing assignments on AsULearn.

### **Department of Social Services Child Welfare Placements (North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative)**

Emphasizing public child welfare practice, the [North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative](#) provides educational opportunities to BSW and MSW students who are interested in careers in child welfare. As North Carolina grows in both population and diversity, the changing social landscape highlights an increasing need for professionally-trained child welfare workers to help our children. Recruiting students who are new to child welfare as well as seasoned professionals who want to move forward in their careers, the Collaborative aims to ensure safe, permanent and nurturing families for North Carolina's most vulnerable citizens.

The NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative is the overall initiative working to strengthen public child welfare services by increasing the number and diversity of well trained and highly committed BSWs and MSWs in local Departments of Social Services (DSS). Emphasizing public child welfare practice, the Collaborative provides educational opportunities and/or financial support to students who are interested in careers in child welfare.

**Prior to field**, BSW students wishing to complete a field placement in a County Department of Social Services Child Welfare unit **must** have completed:

SW 4002: *Competencies for Child Welfare*, offered in fall semester for on campus students and when needed in the summer for Distance Education students.

SW 4365: *Social Work Practice with Children and Families*, offered in the spring for campus students and in Distance Education cohorts as needed.

**Students should take these two courses in the semester just before, or the semester close to entering field to prepare for DSS Child Welfare placements.**

Students typically are notified of upcoming Collaborative and Field Application time frames through announcements in class and via student email lists. The windows for the

Collaborative Applications are typically open once in the spring and once in the fall, for approximately 1-2 months.

Following submission of the field application for a DSS Child Welfare placement, students will be asked to meet with a member of the Field Faculty to review the application, discuss short and long term interests and specifics for the placement. **If approved to proceed in the Collaborative, the Field Faculty member will assist in locating the placement site. Students will need to complete all components of the Collaborative, including meeting all ASU requirements and Faculty approval to receive Pre-Certification.**

All students completing the Collaborative program will be pre-certified to work in DSS, increasing their marketability and improving services to families and children. Students are not required work in a state DSS following graduation.

### **School Social Work**

The BSW student who desires to receive North Carolina school social work licensure as a school social worker should complete the school social work elective (SW 4270) and complete a field placement in a public school system. Students are highly encouraged to take the school social work course before entering their field placements at a school field placement site. In addition, two education courses (SPE 3300 *Creating Inclusive Learning Communities* and FDN 2400 *Critical Perspectives on Learning and Teaching*) will be required for completion and may be counted as general electives towards the required credit hours for graduation. [Students interested in school social work practice in North Carolina should discuss their interest with Ms. Janice Koppenhaver, the Social Work Academic Advisor, when initially meeting with her in order to include the school social work elective and education courses in their course plans.](#)

Following completion of these requirements and subsequent awarding of the BSW, graduates who wish to be licensed as a school social worker must send an email request to the Field Director asking for verification and that a recommendation be sent to the College of Education (COE) for school social work licensure. The Department of Social Work along with the COE has been approved by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) to be a recommending body for social work school licensure. COE will contact NC DPI to recommend the eligible graduate for licensure. From that point, the process is managed by NC DPI.

BSW students who plan to earn an MSW degree and seek school social work licensure at the graduate level, may be eligible to take the graduate level school social work course, SW 5270, so they only have to take one school social work course [between the two degrees](#). Undergraduate students who wish to enroll in SW 5270 must have Senior standing (90 or more earned credit hours) and a 3.0 or higher GPA. Note that BSW students who choose to take SW 5270 cannot transfer that course to earn elective [or graduate](#) credit toward their graduate degree, because the course has been applied to their undergraduate degree. Students must complete the Graduate School's *Senior Undergrad Request Form*, completed online from the Graduate School's website, and submit it to the Graduate School when they register. BSW students can only take undergraduate level education courses, so they will need to complete one required graduate level education course in order to seek licensure at the graduate level.

In some cases, individuals who may or may not have completed all the requirements may wish to seek school social work licensure at some point in their future. For additional and current information related to school social work licensure, please contact Kayla Warren, Program Specialist, at [warrenka@appstate.edu](mailto:warrenka@appstate.edu) or office phone (828) 262-8210.