

**NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative**  
**Appalachian State University**  
**Department of Social Work**

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 to students who are interested in careers in child welfare.

---

• BSW Students

✓ **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*

SW 4365: *Social Work Practice with Children and Families*

✓ SW 4002 will be offered in the fall on campus and in the summer off campus. SW 4365 will be offered in the spring on campus and off campus as needed. **Students should take these two courses in the regular semester just before, or the semester as close to, entering field to prepare for DSS placements.**

• MSW Students

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

A SW 5000 level course, *Competencies for Child Welfare*

(Note: This course will count for one of your graduate electives)

✓ For MSW students, the course will be offered every summer off campus at rotating sites. Students will need to complete the DE form to gain permission to register for the off-campus course.

✓ **In addition** they must take SW 5730 Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents **prior to or concurrent** with field placement during their concentration curriculum.

---

In addition to taking the required courses (BSW-SW 4365 & SW 4002; MSW- The SW 5000 level course, *Competencies for Child Welfare* & SW 5370), interested students will complete an application for the Collaborative when directed to by the Field Director of Child Welfare Coordinator.

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 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.

For additional information, refer to the student handbook and/or contact Heather Thorp at [thorpha@appstate.edu](mailto:thorpha@appstate.edu)