

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 (Child Welfare 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 (DSSs). Emphasizing public child welfare practice, the Collaborative provides educational opportunities to students who are interested in careers in child welfare.

Students who wish to be placed in child welfare units must complete SW 5535 *Competencies for Child Welfare* prior to placement. This course may count for one of the student's graduate electives. (For MSW students, the course will be offered every summer off campus at rotating sites. On-campus students will need to complete the Distance Education [form](#) to gain permission to register for the off-campus course.)

In addition, students 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 (SW 5535: *Competencies for Child Welfare* and SW 5370: *Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents*) interested students will complete an application for the Collaborative when directed by the Field Director, usually 1-

2 semesters before entering the field placement. Students typically are notified of upcoming Collaborative and Field application periods through announcements in class and via student email lists. The window 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.

School Social Work Placements

The MSW student who desires to receive North Carolina school social work licensure as a school social worker should complete the school social work elective (SW 5270) and complete a field placement in a public school system. Students who have taken SW 5270 while earning their undergraduate degree do not need to repeat the course. Students are highly encouraged to take the school social work course before or concurrent with entering their field placements at a school field placement site. In addition, a graduate education course (SPE 5595 Individual Difference or SPE 5045 Advanced Topics in Diversity) will be required for completion and can be counted as an elective towards the required credit hours for graduation.

Following completion of these requirements and subsequent awarding of the MSW, 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.

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 or office phone (828) 262-8210.