

## **Specialized Field Opportunities and Placements (SBIRT, 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 and Public Health Departments in the Beaver College of Health Sciences also participate, affording the student 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 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)**

The NC Child Welfare 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 and/or financial support to students who are interested in careers in child welfare.

- **Prior to field**, MSW students wishing to complete a field placement in a County Department of Social Services Child Welfare unit **must** have completed: one SW 5000 level course, SW [5535](#): *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 Distance Education 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 (one SW 5000 level course, 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. Students typically are notified of upcoming Collaborative and Field application periods 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 in Child Welfare, 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.**

The term “Waiver” refers to the status of a student enrolled in the Collaborative, completing the expected courses and DSS placements. **Please note:** The term “Scholar” refers to the status of a student enrolled in the Collaborative who is receiving a stipend from the Collaborative. **The stipend is not currently available to students.** However, if monies become available by the state, students will receive notification via email they are able to apply to be a scholar/trainee, and they can update their application if they choose. In addition to completing the application, students wishing to receive a stipend will also be required to complete an interview. Not all students who interview receive a stipend. Students receiving a stipend and are getting financial aid are required to contact the Office of Student Financial Aid as soon as they are notified they are receiving the stipend. Scholars are required to work 18 months in a state DSS following graduation. Scholars who do not complete the 18 month work requirement in a state DSS following graduation are required to pay the stipend back to the state.

All students completing the Collaborative program will be pre-certified to work in DSS, increasing their marketability and improving services to families and children. Waiver 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. In addition, an education course will be required for completion and can be counted as your graduate electives in your *Program of Study*.

Following completion of these requirements, graduates may pursue licensure through the Regional Alternative Licensing Centers located throughout North Carolina, but they must first be employed with a North Carolina School System as a school social worker. The Department of Social Work is seeking to become a school social work licensing authorizing site along with ASU's College of Education so that students may pursue licensure through the Department in the future.

For additional and current information for the above specialized field opportunities and placements, please contact Heather Thorp, Field Director at [thorpha@appstate.edu](mailto:thorpha@appstate.edu), office 828-262-6389 or cell, 828-406-9686.