

Mental Health Scholarship - One Year Residency (OYR) Program

(Work Study Program)

The OYR Program has provided increased access to professional career ladders for many qualified baccalaureate level agency workers since its inception in 1971. The program is open to applicants who meet all admission requirements and have a minimum of two years post BA/BS full-time employment and must work in a Mental Health contracted agency. The applicant must have provided administrative or direct care with individuals, families, groups, or communities.

Admission is available to the OYR Program beginning in the fall semester each year. This work study program is two and one half years in duration.

The program sustains the same requirements, educational challenges, and demands as the Two Year Program. However, in this work-study model of social work education, the student's field work requirements are met at the agency of employment. As a result the student is able to remain employed full time while completing the 60 credits required for the MSW degree.

Applicants must be sponsored by their employers for admission to the OYR Program. Sponsorship requires the agency to agree to provide the student with an educationally sound field work assignment during Time Frame II. The field placement could expand on the student's current work assignment, incorporating new opportunities for learning in a social work capacity; for example the addition of new cases, groups or projects. The agency must also provide a field instructor that is a licensed social worker as well as flexible scheduling for the student to attend classes during the residency year (Time Frame II).

The program is organized around three **Time Frames** which include both part-time and full-time study. Students admitted to the program can expect to complete their MSW education in five semesters and two summers of study. The program offers opportunity for acceleration for students who are in good academic standing (four semesters and two summers of study).

Time Frame I is completed in evening or day classes over two semesters and one summer. Most students complete the first time frame in one year, earning 24 credits.

Time Frame II, also known as the "residency" year, occurs during the second year of matriculation. Students enroll in three courses, during Fall and Spring Semesters, while completing their single 900 hour field practicum requirement in their approved method of practice. Students may take classes all on one day during the day, late afternoon and evening and/or Saturdays, according to their method class schedule. (See paragraph 2.)

Time Frame III represents the culmination of course work requirements. Classes are typically held in the evenings.

Practicum Requirements: The School will collaborate with the agency to create a mutually acceptable plan for the field practicum. The field work experience needs to provide opportunities for new learning in a distinctly social work role, and be consistent with the practice method. Please note: OYR students' practice methods must reflect their employment responsibilities. Field Instruction must be provided by a qualified field instructor who is not the student's current or past supervisor. The field instructor must be a licensed master social worker (LMSW) or clinical social worker (LCSW). Completion of the Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) is also a requirement. The SIFI may be taken concurrently while the student completes the practicum.