Mental Health Grant 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- 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 either a standard OYR program with admission in the fall (two and one half years in duration), or a 24 month accelerated program with admission in the spring for student who are applying for the Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families method only.

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. 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.

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.

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 21 credits.

Time Frame II, also known as the “residency” year, occurs during the second year of matriculation. Students enroll for three courses while completing their single 900 hour field work requirement in their chosen method of practice. Students can take classes all on one day during the day, late afternoon and evening and/or Saturdays.

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

The Accelerated OYR program takes 24 months to complete. Students enter in the spring and complete Time Frame I with intense study in the evenings during spring and summer. Time Frame II is essentially the same as in the standard OYR program (see above) with additional study required in the winter session (January). Students complete their remaining requirements in their second summer and the following fall. Because of its acceleration this program is intense and requires a significant commitment of time and energy.

Practicum Requirements: The School will collaborate with the agency to create a mutually acceptable plan for the field practicum. The field work experience must provide opportunities for new learning in a distinctly social work role, and consistent with method choices. Field Instruction must be provided by a qualified field instructor who is not the student’s current supervisor. The field instructor must be a licensed master social worker (LMSW) or clinical social worker (LCSW) or its equivalent if not in New York State. Completion of the Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) is also a requirement (the SIFI may be taken concurrently with the student’s practicum).

The program offers two options in which the 900 hour field practicum can be carried out. Students may elect to do a 28 hour/4 days per week field placement for two semesters (fall and spring) field placement; or a 21 hour/3 days per week, three semester placement (fall, spring and summer) schedule. The choice of option is decided upon by the student and the sponsoring agency.
Mental Health Grant - OYR Program Agency Executive Reference Cover Page

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Please provide your evaluator with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, so that the recommendation can be returned directly to you and included in your application packet. Applicants who waive their right of access must submit recommendations in an envelope that is sealed and signed by the evaluator.

Name of Applicant __________________________________________ Phone: ______________ Date __________

Current Number of Hours Worked Per Week: ______

I hereby waive my right of access, under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, to this letter or recommendation in connection with my application for graduate admission to Hunter College.

________________________  ______________________
Signature of Applicant Date

Note that signing this statement is optional. Under law, refusal to sign the statement cannot be used against you in the admission process.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EVALUATOR

I One Year Residence Agreement:
Acceptance into the OYR One-Year Residence Program is contingent upon agency sponsorship. Sponsorship is a commitment from the agency to provide an educationally sound field placement with a certified field instructor who meets the criteria of the program, and flexible scheduling for the student/employee to attend classes during the residency year. The signing of this form will represent the agency’s commitment to cooperate with the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in developing and implementing an appropriate field placement plan. (Please see enclosed form for complete program description). Given the requirements of the residency year listed on the attached form, please check one:

• The agency can fulfill the school’s requirement of the residency year ______

• The agency cannot fulfill the school’s requirement of the residency year ______

II Practice Method Declaration:
The development of competence is required in one or more of the following social work practice methods: individuals and family, group work, management and community organization and planning. Every student majors in one of these methods. OYR students choose their methods based on their employment responsibilities. Please indicate from the list below which method best describes the majority of your employee’s current work responsibilities. Selecting a method indicates the agency’s capacity to support the student/employee in this method during their field placement.

• Individual, Families and Groups 
  Case management/service coordination
  Individual, pair and/or family interventions. Development and facilitation of group interventions
  Provide group oriented interventions/ works with groups of people

• Organizational Management and Leadership
  Supervisory responsibilities
  Planner, analyst, manager

• Community Organization , Planning and Development
  Community based activities and outreach
  Community/neighborhood advocacy and collaboration

Please Print
Name ______________________  Title / Position ______________________

Agency __________________________________________  Agency Contract #: __________________
(Grant apps only)

Telephone and Email Address __________________________________________

________________________  ______________________
Signature Date

Please attach a separate recommendation letter for the applicant.