

Misericordia University
Social Work Program
Acknowledgment of Risk in the Field Practicum

1. Liability insurance. Students are required to carry professional liability insurance. Every student will be assessed the current University rate for coverage.

An important aspect of professional practice is knowing the limits of your knowledge and skills and avoiding helping situations that are not in your area of competence. Whenever you have a question about the handling of a particular case or whether or not a given intervention is appropriate, consult your field supervisor.

2. Automobile liability insurance. If you will be using your personal vehicle in field, it is recommended that you check with your insurance company for a clear understanding of your coverage. Ask specifically what coverage you have if something happens while transporting a client. Check with your field supervisor to find out if the agency provides coverage for you if you use your vehicle to transport clients. Many agencies consider students “volunteers” and this allows them to provide some coverage through policies for volunteers. **Whenever possible, use an agency vehicle to transport clients.**

3. Personal Safety. You may encounter risks to your personal safety during the field practicum when dealing with angry or hostile clients making home visits, or being exposed to clients who have an infectious disease. It is important to learn what you can do to minimize the risks to your personal safety. You need to discuss personal safety issues with your field instructor early in the practicum so you can be informed of agency policies and procedures and any recommended courses of action.

4. TB skin test. The prevalence of TB in society has seen an increase in recent years. If you anticipate a field practicum setting that serves populations at risk for TB, it is recommended that you take this test prior to entering the field. Some settings may require this test. You can get this test through the student health clinic.

5. Hepatitis B vaccine. If you anticipate a placement setting where there is the chance of being exposed to blood-borne pathogens, it is recommended that you get this vaccination. This involves a series of three injections over a six month period of time. The second injection is given one month following the first with the third coming five months later.

I have read the above and understand the field practicum does present some risks. I also understand that prudent choices and exercising caution can minimize these risks. I further recognize that it is my responsibility to become informed of agency policy and practices regarding the above situations.

Student

Date