

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY
Department of Social Work
Office of Field Education

Field Instructor's Selection Criteria

The selection criteria for field instructors are addressed in Section 2.1.4 of the 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). In keeping with these standards, the UTRGV Department of Social Work requires that the Field Instructors for a BSW intern will meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Holds a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program with a minimum of 5 years post-degree experience, or a MSW/MSSW from a CSWE accredited program with a minimum of 2 years post-graduate experience.
- ✓ Embraces views and philosophies compatible with the UTRGV Social Work Department's mission, goals and objectives.
- ✓ Have a generalist training and experience in direct practice with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and/or communities.

In the event that an agency who wants to participate in our Field Education Program does not have a staff member who meets the criteria for field instructor, the Office of Field Education will consider assuming responsibility for reinforcing a social work perspective, as permitted by Section 2.1.4 of the EPAS. Specifically, faculty members or other qualified instructors may assume field instructor responsibilities in such field placements, while a task supervisor is assigned for the daily supervision. This may be done for the purpose of developing placements in key areas of social work practice and to support the educational interests of social work students. However, the agency must commit to hiring social workers that can assume field instructor responsibilities within a reasonable time frame agreed upon by the Office of Field Education and the agency. This practice will promote the profession of social work by assisting in the agency's development in acquiring a social work perspective.