The University of Oklahoma
Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work
Foundation Year Practicum Field Units

School Social Work
Unit Coordinator & Faculty Liaison: Mary Brandt, Ph.D., LCSW
This field unit offers students opportunities to work with children, families, teachers, administrators and the wider community with the goal of assisting children in overcoming social, emotional, and financial barriers to academic success. Students in this unit will be placed at an elementary school, a middle school, or a high school within one of three school systems – Tulsa Public Schools, Union Public Schools, Tulsa Area Community Schools (Union or Tulsa district). Students from outlying areas may possibly be placed in school districts closer to where they live, provided there is a MSW-level social worker who is employed at the placement site, and who is able and willing to act as field instructor for the student’s practicum. Included in this unit will be opportunities to work with the state School Social Work Association.
Students in this field unit will arrange practicum schedules with their site (school) field instructors involving two full days within the Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday time frame. Students in this field unit are required to attend a field seminar conducted by Mary Brandt, faculty liaison, as part of their practicum. This seminar is held once every two weeks. In the spring semester, Concentration Year students placed in school settings will join the seminar.

Child Welfare Families & Youth Development
Unit Coordinator & Faculty Liaison: Cindy Howard, MSW
This is a rotation field unit in which each student will be assigned to one of 4 different sites within a continuum of services provided to children and families involved in the state child welfare system. Each student will rotate every 8 weeks to a new site. In addition to a broad range of learning activities at each site, all students in this unit will be exposed to diverse cultures, diverse social problems, a variety of community resources, Drug and Juvenile Courts, different levels and types of child placements, and the Tulsa County Jail. This is a complex rotation field unit.
Students will set a practicum schedule during the first field unit seminar. This weekly schedule will be set within the Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday time frame. There will be some Friday options during some of the rotations. Students in this field unit are required to attend a field seminar conducted by Cindy Howard, faculty liaison, as part of their practicum. This seminar is held once every two weeks. The sites in this rotation are: Child Abuse Network, Child Welfare (OKDHS), University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS), Tulsa County Family Drug Court, Tulsa County Safe Baby Court, and Adoptions (OKDHS).

Health & Medical Social Work Unit
Unit Coordinator & Faculty Liaison: Gena Roberts Massey, MSSW, LCSW, LSW-ADM
Director of Department of Social Services, OU Physicians School of Community Medicine
Clinical Assistant Professor, Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work
Students will experience medical social work in the following placements:
OU Physicians Clinics: Outpatient Health Care: Primary & Specialty Care
Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and the Wayman Tisdale Specialty Clinic
Hospice: St. Francis Hospice, Rivercross Hospice, and Cura Hospice
Rotation Description: Students will play a role in working as members of the healthcare team to solve problems that impact the biopsychosocial well-being of patients, families and communities of divergent cultures and backgrounds. Some persons receiving services at these sites may have resources and means, while others are indigent, underserved, uninsured and disadvantaged.
Rotation Schedule: In the FALL semester, students will spend First Week at the school and then 15 weeks at their first medical site. Students will be in practicum on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In the SPRING semester, students will spend 16 weeks at their second rotation site. Students in this field unit are required to attend a field seminar conducted by Gena Massey, faculty liaison, as part of their practicum. This seminar is held once every two weeks.

Students can expect exposure to the following:
- Crisis Intervention
- Knowledge of Community Resources
- Case Management
- Behavioral Health Screening
- Prescription Assistance
- Durable Medical Equipment
- End of Life Care/Hospice
- Discharge Planning
- Transportation Issues
- Brief Therapeutic Interventions
- Medical Terminology
- Basic Needs Assessment and Referral
- Nursing Home Placement
- Multidisciplinary Care of Patient
- PsychoEducation
- Advocacy
- Domestic Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Poverty
- Uninsured Persons
- Children with Behavioral Issues
- Abuse & Neglect
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Entire Continuum from Birth to Death
- Parenting Problems
- Chronic Diseases
- Trauma
- End of Life Care/Hospice
- Discharge Planning
- Transportation Issues
- Brief Therapeutic Interventions
- Medical Terminology
- Basic Needs Assessment and Referral
- Nursing Home Placement
- Multidisciplinary Care of Patient
- PsychoEducation
- Advocacy
- Domestic Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Poverty
- Uninsured Persons
- Children with Behavioral Issues
- Abuse & Neglect
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Entire Continuum from Birth to Death
- Parenting Problems
- Chronic Diseases
- Trauma
- Health Illiteracy
- Severe Mental Illness
- Homelessness
- Adjustment to Life Changes/Acute Illness
- Grief

Family & Children’s Services

Faculty Liaison: Mary Brandt, Ph.D., LCSW

Family & Children’s Services provides services through a variety of programs in eleven Tulsa Metro locations and works in collaboration with other organizations in numerous innovative partnerships. For this two semester, sixteen hour a week, Tuesday and Thursday field placement, Family & Children’s Services (F&CS) offers a broad spectrum of family service and mental health programs to children and adults of all ages.

Students will be offered opportunities that allow them to experience multiple service programs and exposure to the intake process, trainings, treatment modalities and program operations. Students will participate in foundational training experiences of case documentation, treatment plan development, ethical considerations, working with culturally diverse populations and professional orientation to the field. Students will be offered program specific trainings regarding best practice models that are utilized within the agency. The students will also be involved in a field unit seminar at the school with their liaison once every two weeks.

The students placed in this field unit will be assigned to one of the following programs: Early Childhood Program, Comprehensive Home Based Services (CHBS), Systems of Care, Mental Health Services - Case Management, Health Homes, Community Outreach Psychiatric Emergency Services (COPES), Re-entry Intensive Care Coordination Team (RICCT, Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT))

The Zarrow Mental Health

Unit Coordinator & Faculty Liaison: Tiffany Adamson, LCSW

The practicum approach that has commonly been used to expose social work students to direct practice in mental health has relied upon traditional mental health settings as placement sites, and has focused on a narrow range of traditionally conceived services. In the future, more and more people with mental disorders will be living in the community, and fewer and fewer people with mental disorders will receive treatment and services from traditional mental health services. In the future, professional social workers (the majority of all professionals working in the field of mental health) will move beyond the limitations of narrowly defined programs and services to collaborate with people who need mental health services.

Collaboration, in part, is based on knowing people in the context of their environment. Social work professionals have historically been removed from the living environment of people with mental illness. This field unit is a rare opportunity for social work students to acquire a holistic understanding, in context, of the life experiences and challenges faced by those with a mental health disorder. This practicum experience introduces students to the lives and the world of the mentally ill. In order to know this population as people, students will begin with housing – where the mentally ill live. In this framework, the housing programs which have been developed by the Mental Health Association mirror the future of social work practice with individuals who have mental disorders. From
there students will follow the well-worn paths through services and institutions frequented by people with mental disorders. These agencies include but are not limited to The Mental Health Association of Oklahoma and their partner agencies, community mental health centers, David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center, the Day Center for the Homeless, the Tulsa Salvation Army Center, meal programs, and other homeless outreach programs. Students in this field unit will also experience youth outreach and mental health screenings in school settings, as well as explore all aspects of non-profit management. Students in this field unit will be in practicum two full days a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students are required to attend a field seminar conducted by Tiffany Adamson, faculty liaison, as part of their practicum. This seminar is held once every two weeks.

**Social Work with American Indians (policy)**

Unit Coordinator and Faculty Liaison: Lisa Byers, MSW, Ph.D. (Cherokee)
Associate Professor-Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work
Affiliate Faculty-Native American Studies

The practicum programs span behavioral health, domestic violence, and community prevention. The sites are geographically diverse representing urban/rural tribal populations in a state with American Indians representing the largest ethnic group. The field unit will form a collective student educational experience through bi-monthly seminars with policy experts and by collaborating on a policy research project focused on grandparents raising grandchildren (grand families). The project will be centered at the urban site, Indian Health Care Resource Center. Students will analyze agency data and conduct secondary interviews with service providers to identify policy needs and model policies for grand families that will be shared with the other sites, a needed area of focus in Oklahoma.

Social workers in service to American Indians and Alaska Natives must contend with a number of disparities related to substance abuse, suicide, violent victimization and death, domestic violence. At the base of all these negative indicators is the highest poverty level of any other ethnic group. The ability of social work to address these injustices resides with the development of practicum content that strengthens social workers policy knowledge and skills at federal, state, and tribal levels. Oklahoma plays an important role in this educational effort given that AIAN represent the largest ethnic group in the state. In addition, Oklahoma has the largest number of sovereign tribal. This has vast policy implications for social workers that must coordinate service eligibility, funding, and enforcement across state and tribal jurisdictions. The knowledge gained from the proposed Social Work with American Indians Field Unit will be relevant to the additional 528 sovereign tribal nations and numerous urban tribal communities that are located across the United States.