



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

School of Social Work

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWING

Students interviewing for their field placements have sometimes wondered what to ask a prospective field instructor. The following is a list of questions that have been suggested by first and second year students who have been in field placements. It is not expected that you would ask all of these questions; they are simply meant as a guide. **You may also want to bring a copy of your resume to the interview and give it to the interviewer.**

- ◆ What has been your experience with the School of Social Work?
- ◆ What knowledge, skills, attitude, goals, background, etc., do you value most in an intern?
- ◆ What are the most significant things I might learn in this placement?
- ◆ What has been your experience with previous student interns?
- ◆ How many students typically intern at your agency, including students from other programs?
- ◆ What sort of interaction do students have with each other?
- ◆ How would you describe your supervisory style?
- ◆ Can you describe a typical day?
- ◆ What would be my duties as an intern?
- ◆ What kind of hours do you prefer a student to work (days, weekends, evenings)?
- ◆ Can you describe diversity among the staff and client populations?
- ◆ What is the designated workspace for students? What's the space like?
- ◆ Is there a private space available for supervision?
- ◆ Are you available for informal supervision other than the time scheduled?
- ◆ Will I be working with other staff members? Who supervises them?
- ◆ How does your agency handle conflict/conflict resolution between staff?
- ◆ Is there an orientation process that I can go through?
- ◆ Can I have a tour of the premises?
- ◆ Is there another location where the agency's services are provided?
- ◆ Is there a flowchart of the agency's lines of responsibility available?
- ◆ What are your expectations regarding the U of M's breaks and holidays?



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- ◆ Where does this agency get its funding?
- ◆ What research methods are used for assessing or examining the client population?
- ◆ Is there follow-up evaluation to determine client and/or program outcomes?
- ◆ What meetings will I be encouraged to attend? Are there any meetings, which I am required to attend? (Refer to your class schedule if possible)
- ◆ Are there any safety issues?
- ◆ Are there opportunities to participate in advocacy/social change issues?
- ◆ Do you assign outside work or readings?
- ◆ What materials or resources about the agency and its services are available for self-directed learning?
- ◆ Personal information can be very helpful as well. If you are comfortable doing so, you could ask some of the following questions:
 - How long have you worked here?
 - What are your responsibilities?
 - How did you come to work here?
 - What is the communication like between workers here?
 - What is the “feeling tone” of the agency?
 - What things do you most and least like about your job?

I hope you find these questions useful. Remember the interview is to help you establish whether or not the agency will fulfill your educational needs. It is not a job interview! Good luck!