Senior field is much more exciting and meaningful than your junior practicum (SW 341). What to look forward to:

- You are there 16 hours per week and become much more involved with clients
- You have more opportunity to get to know staff and feel a part of the agency
- You will be working directly with clients, and will eventually have a caseload
- You may be working alongside other interns and/or MSW interns
- In other words, you will feel much more a part of the agency!

1. Senior field consists of 450 hours for the full academic year.

2. You will be in your field placement two or three days a week. Normal agency hours are 8AM - 5 PM. You need to be in your placement for one full eight hour day. The other eight hours may be split over two 4-hour days. Day students will be in class Monday and Wednesday, and will have only Tuesday, Thursday and/or Friday available for field. Evening students will potentially have Monday – Friday as field days.

3. You will begin your field placement approximately two weeks after the semester begins upon completion of the Field Education Lab. (Week of September 3, 2018.)

4. You will remain in the same placement for the entire academic year.

5. How many of you are nervous or anxious, wondering what to expect?? To prepare you for your internship, we are devoting four hours of training, called a Field Education Lab. You will all meet together during your first two regularly scheduled seminars as one large group. You will receive lots of important information and will participate in some exercises! There will be a
$10 Lab field fee which is due on the first day of the Lab. This fee is paid by cash only. (There are no books for this course.)

6. The internship experience consists of the 16 hours per week in the agency, AND a mandatory field seminar that meets every Wednesday from 1:00 pm - 2:45 PM (day students) or 5:00 pm – 6:45 pm (evening students). The purpose of the seminar is to help you to integrate what you are learning in the classroom with your agency experiences. It also becomes a “professional support group” in that all of you are in the same boat, and you will be able to support each other while developing personal and professional insight.

   a. Attendance in the seminar is mandatory.

   b. The hours you spend in the seminar do not count toward the 450 internship hours.

   c. You will remain in the same seminar, with the same students and seminar instructor, for the entire academic year. This way, you will get to know your seminar instructor as well as the students very well!

   d. Seminar assignments will be made by the field faculty. You will be informed of your seminar assignment during the summer. You must register for the specific seminar to which you have been assigned.

   e. The seminar is small - composed of about 12 students, and led by the seminar instructor/field liaison.

   f. The seminar is a place to talk about what you are learning in the classroom, and how you are applying it to your work with clients.

   g. The seminar is an opportunity to examine the role of the professional social worker, social work values and ethics, and issues and concerns that arise regarding the clients with whom you are working.

7. While you are enrolled in your field placement and your field seminar (SW495), you must also be enrolled in the following:

   a. In the fall semester:

      SW 442 - Social work practice with individuals and families.

      SW 440 - Social work practice with groups.
b. In the spring semester:

   SW 441 - Social work practice with communities and institutions.

   SW 465 - Research Methods in Social Work

8. The key people in your field experience are:

   a. Your field instructor. This is the person in the agency who actually supervises you. The reason they are called instructor is that they are there to teach in addition to providing supervision. You may also work with a preceptor-for example, you may be assisting the preceptor on a case.

   b. Your field liaison is also your seminar instructor. This is the person who is the link between the university and the agency. Their role is to provide guidance and support, to visit you in your agency once each semester, and to help deal with any issues or concerns that arise.

9. The field experience during your senior year:

   a. is more intensive than your earlier practicum 450 hours vs. 80 (you will feel “part” of the agency)

   b. You will be working directly with clients. This will give you an opportunity to integrate what you are learning in your practice classes – and applying it with your clients.

   c. Some of the specific skills you will be putting into practice are:

      1. learning about the agency and locating resources (purposeful case management)

      2. developing the professional relationship

      3. interviewing skills

      4. learning about documentation

      5. making beginning assessments
6. setting goals and priorities

7. time management

10. Continuity with your clients will be very important. Because of this, you may be asked to spend some time in your field agency during holiday and semester breaks. This is important to keep in mind before you make any plans that cannot be changed—in other words, before you schedule that cruise, please talk to your field instructor. Field will end officially on Friday, December 9th and will begin again the first week of January (even though classes do not begin until January 22, 2018). This is a long break - so again, check with your field instructor regarding this issue.

11. The Application Process:

You will need to very carefully complete the “BASW Fieldwork Application” which will give us all of the information we will need in order to match you with an appropriate agency.  *(Have students begin to write on the application as you review it; they can later download the form and do it on the computer):*

Review the form page-by-page with special attention to

- e-mail address (encourage a CSULB e-mail address)
- What is most important to you (priorities)?
- Type of agency
- Location of agency
- Accommodation
- Special Circumstances (discuss in detail)

If students have special circumstances or accommodation needs that they need to discuss, please make sure they are aware they will need to make an appointment to see Roderick De Los Reyes.

YOU MUST ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT DRIVER’S LICENSE AND PROOF OF CAR INSURANCE TO THE APPLICATION

THIS APPLICATION IS DUE WHEN YOU MEET WITH A FIELD FACULTY FOR YOUR SENIOR FIELD INTERVIEW
12. Agency Interview Process

You will be matched with an agency in early summer. You will first receive an e-mail, and you will be directed to Beachboard “Student Corner” to locate more information. When you receive the information—please, keep an open mind. You may not be matched with the exact type of agency you requested or the specific agency you were hoping for. Our list of agencies changes every year—and includes a wide variety of settings you may not even have considered. You will need to call the contact person and schedule an interview at the agency ASAP. Keep in mind:

- We have limited agencies because we share with the other universities
- It’s hard to know much about an agency just from the name!
- You may be interviewing at a different office from the one you will actually be placed with, which may be farther away from your home. So, don’t panic!
- We tried to choose an agency that is not terribly far from your home (less than 45 minutes away). Check MapQuest/Google Maps on your computer, it may closer than you think.
- Even if it is not what you wanted, it will be a new learning experience!

Why complete a pre-placement interview and what to expect:

1. This is an opportunity for you to learn about the agency and the activities in which you will be involved. Be prepared with specific questions to ask. It is helpful to look up the agency on the Internet so that you know something about the agency, its services, and the population served.

2. The field instructor will be learning about you. Be prepared to discuss:
   a. Your past social work (related) experiences (paid and volunteer)
   b. Your practicum experience
   c. Your interests and goals; strengths & challenges
3. This is a professional interview. Please dress appropriately. Present yourself with interest and enthusiasm. We don’t want a call from an agency stating they won’t take you because of lack of interest; or, the student seemed bored!

4. Complete the Student Resume form and bring it with you to your agency interview. Do not bring your own personal resume form; this is not a job, but a learning experience. (Show them a few copies of the Student Resume form, and let them know they can access it on our website)

CalSWEC Orientation:

1. Please submit your CalSWEC applications to Dr. Elizabeth Pringle-Hornsby, Program Coordinator.