



PROMISING PRACTICES

SYNOPSIS

The Praxis Search for Promising and Innovative Practices in Field Education provides the findings of a study designed to identify innovative, promising, and best practices in social work field education. This fact sheet focuses on the theme of offering non-traditional practice opportunities to further enhance social work field education.

INTRODUCTION

Promising practices are approaches, interventions, programs, formats, or strategies that show potential for enhancing field education. Promising practices address specific challenges in field education and undergo evaluation for effectiveness and sustainability.



OBJECTIVE

This fact sheet explores the theme of non-traditional practice opportunities and innovative designs that can address enhanced social work field education.

METHODOLOGY

Between July and November 2020, six semi-structured interviews were conducted with field educators, field directors, and faculty advisors across the United States. Interviews were conducted via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Faculty advisors were asked the following questions to explore the interviewees' experiences and knowledge and a consistent was developed and analyzed iteratively.

KEY THEMES

The information gathered from participants identified five themes of promising practices:

1. Community needs
2. Non-traditional practice opportunities
3. Supervision strategies
4. Open-mindedness
5. Group processes



NON-TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

NON-TRADITIONAL PLACEMENTS



"I think in terms of thinking outside the box or being creative and innovative in our field placements, there are opportunities to do more work with those agencies - non-medical/social work agencies - where maybe they don't have on the ground social work supervisors, but they are creating opportunities for our students."



ROTATIONAL PRACTICES

"Whether one that is 1-2 months is rotational models of field where students spend months within the placements. They need to be clearly placed with a supervisor who navigates and helps the process for rotational sessions for the student in addition for the student to have learning opportunities across the placement until it also includes the workload requirements of the field instructor."

SELF-DIRECTED PLACEMENTS



"The thing that I worry the about just ahead governmental is that students are in the center of the placement experience, and they're really now essentially create a unique experience that may involve different agencies."



ONGOING GROUP SUPERVISION

"Whether promising practice or solo practice is challenging the notion that supervision has to be one-on-one. Thinking that social workers in our community are overworked. They just don't have the time (and) the resources to supervise (and) in the same way they do a decade ago. And so, group supervision and peer supervision are something that being a lot of."