



### **Field Practicum Education at Facundo Valdez School of Social Work**

We are excited that you are exploring the opportunity to obtain your Master of Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University!

The field practicum allows students to apply classroom learning to real-life practice in the community. Applicants should understand that field practicum is a large portion of their social work education. Take this time commitment into consideration when applying for the Online MSW Program and determine whether the full-time or part-time program is right for you.

Our field team will work with you to find practicum sites that meet your educational and professional interests that will work with your schedule and in your geographical area; however, it will ultimately be your responsibility to manage your field practicum requirements alongside other classes, work schedules, and personal obligations. Consider the time commitment as you move forward in the program.

➤ **During the Online MSW Program at NMHU, you will complete two internships.**

- **Foundation year practicum (total hours: 448)—SOWK 5320 & 5340**
  - Roughly 16-19 hours per week for two semesters. Students complete their practicum placements in a minimum of 4-hour blocks
  - This first-year internship will build upon your generalist social work values, knowledge, and skills as you discover which field within social work interests you most.
- **Concentration year practicum (total hours: 480)—SOWK 6320 & 6340**
  - Roughly 16-22 hours per week for two semesters. Students complete their practicum placements in a minimum of 4-hour blocks
  - This second-year internship will focus on competencies required for advanced social work practice within your academic concentration.

**Students may apply to do their practicum at their job if they work at an approved agency. Students may complete up to two placements in their place of employment during their academic career at NMHU School of Social Work, and only after approval from the Field Director/Coordinator. To be eligible for two placements at their job, at least one must be in a different department or unit and under an Agency Instructor who is not supervised by the student or has previously supervised the student themselves.**

For more information on these requirements, please refer to the [NMHU Field Education Policy & Procedure Manual](#), which works in part to assure compliance with our accreditation requirements with *the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)*.

Field practicum is an integral part of your graduate level education where you will have the chance to begin practicing your social work skills. You'll gain valuable experience working with clients, systems, and communities in professional settings, under the supervision and mentorship of master's-level, licensed social workers.

NMHU already works with over 300 community agencies, with that number growing every semester as we expand our Online MSW Program!

Thank you for your interest in the Online MSW Program with the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work.

Tamara Thiedeman, LCSW – Field Education Director

Faith Eldridge, MSW – Online Field Education Coordinator

Christine Floyd, MSW – Online Field Education Coordinator