July 20, 2020

Dear Human Service Students:

The COVID-19 situation is fluid and unpredictable and presents a challenge for planning on-site fieldwork (face-to-face contact) this fall.

In April, we surveyed agencies to see who could offer virtual fieldwork experiences for students but we realized this list was not large enough for the number of students in our major. I began to gather data to include more “on-site” fieldwork for students in the event our department was able to offer this type of experience. Safety is our highest priority in considering whether or not to allow students to go out in the field. We were waiting to hear from the university regarding any final policy about internships. When the numbers began to spike a few week ago, the department decided NOT to allow face-to-face fieldwork in the fall.

However, after consulting with the University Risk Management Office this week, we were notified that it is acceptable to begin to allow in-person fieldwork experiences, just as other departments on campus will be doing this Fall. We were notified that there is guidance from the Chancellor’s Office, CDC, OC Health Care Agency, and the Dept. of Public Health to implement internships. Moving forward, we will follow the guidance from the Chancellor’s Office to insure that we are in compliance with offering on-site fieldwork and our department will work diligently to provide all relevant instructions to you. This information will be provided on the Fieldwork website and an email will be sent to you in the next couple of weeks providing detailed instructions. You will have the option to do virtual or on-site fieldwork in the fall.

Thank you for being flexible and patient during this unprecedented time. I will update you as soon as I learn more.

Regards, Juli Martinez – Fieldwork Coordinator