

Principle/Introduction

The perinatal field work placement shall in all aspects meet the standards and criteria established by the educational and accrediting bodies involved. However, in order to provide the most complete perinatal educational experience, the following standards are set forth.

Prepared by the Standards Committee of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers:
Standards in Field Education Subcommittee:
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Standards for Field Education in Perinatal Social Work

*Every baby, every family...
supported with competent
and compassionate care*

Standards for Field Education in Perinatal Social Work

Standard 1

The decision to place a student in a perinatal field placement shall be made only if both the student and the perinatal social worker/field instructor agree to the placement.

Standard 2

The perinatal field placement shall include a preplacement interview with the student and perinatal social worker/field instructor. This interview shall consist of a description of the student role, a tour of the areas where the student will be assigned, a discussion of counter-transference issues which may arise, and an assessment of the student's life and work experience which may impact performance of duties in this setting.

Standard 3

The perinatal social worker/field instructor shall prepare the team members in advance of the student's arrival.

Standard 4

The perinatal field experience shall include the student's timely orientation to the many disciplines in the perinatal setting. The orientation's focus shall be educating the student to the roles of staff members on the unit and informing the staff members of the student's role and responsibilities.

Standard 5

The perinatal field experience shall include the student's timely orientation to the most commonly occurring medical problems and their psychosocial implications.

Standard 6

The perinatal field experience shall include all orientation and instruction regarding medical ethics and patient confidentiality.

Standard 7

The perinatal field experience shall include a specific and detailed orientation to the medical record including instruction in reading, understanding and writing in the medical chart.

Standard 8

The perinatal field experience shall promote the student's full integration into the perinatal team as well as into the social work department. The student will be given gradually increasing opportunities to interact and intervene with patients and the families based on the field instructor's assessment of the student's capabilities.

Standard 9

The perinatal field experience shall include case material reflective of the setting and the field of perinatal social work. Where the setting does not offer comprehensive perinatal services, the student shall be exposed to a comprehensive range of cases through reading and discussion, contact with other perinatal social workers and/or tours of settings which provide complementary services.

Standard 10

The perinatal field experience shall include exposure to the NAPSWS Standards for Social Work Services and the NAPSWS Code of Ethics.