

GRANT WRITING

(Points – Refer to last paragraph of this document)

As part of the Social Work Field Practicum experience it is important that the student seek opportunities to add value to the agency where they are receiving their field instruction. Agencies and organizations that provide social services are generally dependent on public funding sources to support their program operations. There is a high demand for public funding from all levels of government. These resources are limited and requests for these funds are extremely competitive.

Most social service agencies are not-for-profit. Subsequently, administrators and managers are challenged with meeting program needs with limited fiscal resources. These organizations seek to obtain a diverse funding stream to meet the fiscal demands of their agency programs. Public funding seldom meets all of the fiscal needs for program maintenance and development.

Large organizations generally have administrative personnel who seek out and apply for grant funding. Smaller agencies rarely have the resources to afford a full-time grant writer. Subsequently, this responsibility often falls on supervisory and management staff. Occasionally there exists an opportunity for a student with exceptional writing skills, and previous social work experience, to write a *request for funding proposal (RFP)*, or a grant or foundation request. These proposals often require extensive and precise documentation, including statistics, demographics, outcome measurements and objectives and a detailed description of the agency history and structure. A proposed budget must also be included as well as a narrative describing the process of outcome measurements.

The application for agency funding may be an opportunity for a student to complete a proposal for a *major* assignment for their field practicum. The student should discuss the details of their role in the funding proposal and confer with their Faculty Field Liaison to determine whether this assignment will meet the criteria for a *major* assignment in the last semester of their field program.

Points credited for this assignment vary widely depending on two variables:

- Whether the student coordinates this project independently or with the assistance of others
- The length of narrative of the final work product (**not** including the attachments)

Please refer to the following chart to determine the point value of this assignment.

# of pages double-spaced	Independent Project	Group Project
2-4	2 points	1 points
5-8	3 points	2 points
9-12	4 points	3 points
13+	5 points	4 points