SUMMER BLOCK GUIDELINES

Advanced (2nd) year students only
Application Deadline: January 4, 2019

The summer block program allows students to complete their second field placement over 15 weeks between May and August. The dates this year are from May 13 to August 23, 2019. The student spends 37.33 hours per week in the field, and takes the final two concentration courses (IGFP 5302 and 5303) concurrently with the block placement.

Students must apply for this option and it must be approved by the Chair of their concentration. This special arrangement is not guaranteed.

Summer block placement is an option only if there are enough qualified students to offer the program over the summer.

Block placements are limited to agencies which are active with the School and which can provide field instruction through a field instructor who has partnered with the School for at least one year. No new field instructors will be accepted, because the Seminar in Field Instruction is offered only in the Fall Semester and must be taken before serving as a field instructor. Some evening or weekend hours at the placement will likely be required. As a result, there are a limited number of agencies that can be utilized for summer block placements, and students may need to be flexible as to the location or setting of the agency.

Since the block placement is so intensive, it is not possible for students to work while they are in a block placement. It is also not possible to have an Employed Placement in a block format. Applicants should be aware that the block placement is extremely demanding, and they are strongly discouraged from engaging in major life events or transitions, such as getting married or moving, during the program.

Criteria for Block Placement

Acceptance into the block program is based solely on educational appropriateness. In order to qualify for the block placement, students must demonstrate their educational readiness through exceptional work in the classroom and in their field placement. Students must provide evidence of strong practice skills, as well as the ability to reflect critically on their practice. Applicants for the summer block should have successfully completed all but the final two concentration courses (IGFP 5302 and 5303), and have no “I” (incomplete) grades. Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0, with greater weight given to concentration/practice courses, and demonstrate exceptional performance in the first-year field placement. Please note that first year students in 15-hour placements are ineligible for a second-year summer block placement.
Application Process

Students should **first** discuss their interest in the block placement with their advisor. Students then complete the application package. Please see the Summer Block Field Application for more information.

- the Field Block Application
- the advisor recommendation form
- the instructor recommendation form
- a current transcript (please download from your student administration account)
- a copy of your most recent field evaluation
- an updated resume
- copies of two process recordings, with your field instructor’s comments, each on a different case, including a brief case summary of each
- a written statement

**The entire application is due on January 4, 2019.** Materials should be submitted to Dr. Ellen Smith, co-chair of the IGFP summer block committee. **Please submit all the application materials, except for the recommendation forms, together in an email to ellen.smith@uconn.edu.** Please ask your advisor and instructor to email their recommendation forms directly to ellen.smith@uconn.edu.

Materials will be reviewed by the IGFP summer block committee, which consists of IGFP faculty members and field staff. The committee may also consult with the student’s instructors and advisors. Students will be advised of the committee’s decision by email by late February 2019.

**Other procedures**

- Once a student is certain about applying for summer block, the student should complete and submit the online graduation form sent by OSAS (the Office of Student and Academic Services) in an email in late October/early November. When completing the form, please indicate August block as the graduation date.
- August graduates may participate in the School of Social Work Recognition Ceremony and the UConn Graduate School Commencement.
- OSAS will send information regarding graduation to students’ UConn email at a later date; students are encouraged to check their email regularly and thoroughly read through the information.
- If accepted for summer block, a Plan of Study must be submitted to the OSAS office. Information will be emailed by OSAS at a later date.
- If accepted for summer block, please apply for financial aid as needed.