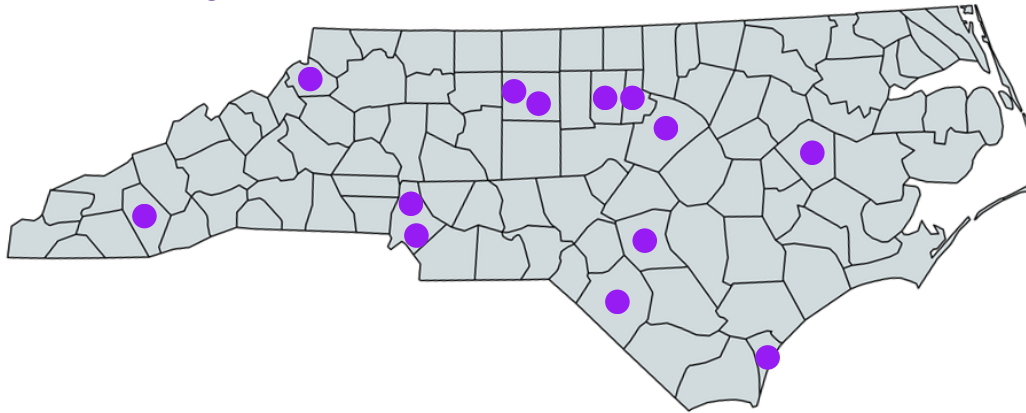


Using Master of Social Work Interns in Your Public Defender Office

Interns from Master of Social Work (MSW) programs can add additional social work capacity to your office at no cost to you. This handout answers common questions about having social work interns and provides contact information for various MSW programs across the state.

Map of MSW Programs in North Carolina



Social Work Intern FAQ

What if there isn't a college or university in my district?

Every MSW program we contacted was willing to place students outside of the school's home county. Plus, four offer online programs, meaning students can be located anywhere in the state.

Who supervises the intern?

Someone in your office will need to provide supervision and oversight for the intern. However, not all programs require the supervisor to be a social worker. Many schools will work with students to provide extra social work supervision off-site, while your office provides the day-to-day supervision on-site.

How many hours a week will the intern work?

MSW interns typically work sixteen to twenty-four hours per week from August to May. The exact schedule will depend on the school and whether the student is in their first or second year of the program.

How do I get an intern?

Using the contact information below, reach out to the school of your choice to ask about being an internship site. Social Work programs refer to internships as "field placements" or "practicum sites." The process to get an intern varies by school, but usually involves a brief application process, a phone call or meeting with the school, and potentially a site visit to your office by a school staff member. Depending on when you reach out, it may take time to get an intern, since students usually start internships in August, at the beginning of the academic year.

MSW Program Information - Updated March 2024

School & Location	Places Students Out-of-County?	Offers Online Program?	Internship Contact Information
Western Carolina (Cullowhee, NC)	Yes	No	Katy Allen, Director of Field Education; cmallen@wcu.edu ; (828) 227-2094
Appalachian State (Boone, NC)	Yes	Yes	Dr. Heather Thorpe, Field Director; thorpha@appstate.edu ; (828) 262-6389
UNC-Greensboro/NC Agricultural & Technical State University Joint Program (Greensboro, NC)	Yes	No	Johnette Walser, Co-Director of Field Education (UNCG); jcwalser@uncg.edu ; (336) 334-4173 Natalie Yates, Co-Director of Field Education (NC A&T); ndyates@ncat.edu
UNC Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)	Yes	Yes	School of Social Work Practicum Office; ssw-practicum@charlotte.edu ; (704) 687-7924
UNC Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)	Yes	Yes	Andrea Murray-Lichtman, Director of Practicum Education; ajmurray@email.unc.edu ; (919) 966-5464
NC Central University (Durham, NC)	Yes	No	Dionne Moore, Director of Field Education; hmoore6@ncsu.edu ; (919) 530-6272
NC State University (Raleigh, NC)	Yes	No	Michelle Guarino, MSW Practicum Director; mhguarin@ncsu.edu
UNC Pembroke (Pembroke, NC)	Yes	Yes	Bobbi Fields, Director of Field Education; bobbi.fields@uncp.edu ; (910) 775-4176
Fayetteville State University (Fayetteville, NC)	Yes - up to 80 miles	No	Dr. Beverly Edwards, MSW Program Director; bedwar11@uncfsu.edu ; (910) 672-2432
East Carolina University (Greenville, NC)	Yes	No	LaTonya Gaskins, Director of Field Education; gaskinsL@ecu.edu ; (252) 328-4211
UNC Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)	Yes - up to 90 miles	No	Lori Dugan, Assistant Field Education Coordinator; duganl@uncw.edu ; (910) 962-7416

This list only includes public colleges and universities and may not be exhaustive.