The main purpose of the field fair for Foundation Year students is to provide students with an opportunity to learn more about Advanced Year (AY) placements by speaking directly with agency representatives.

Other benefits of the Field Fair include:

Networking opportunities – increase your knowledge about the agencies in the WNY area. This information will be educational and will assist to better understand a wide variety of programs for; linkage and referrals, volunteer opportunities and future job searches.

Volunteer opportunities – do you wish you had more human service experience to better prepare you for this demanding job market? Would you like to increase your knowledge of a particular population that isn’t/ won’t be in your field placement? Do you have some free time this summer? Consider volunteering! (Please make sure that you are not going to volunteer at an agency that you will want to be placed at due to possible conflict of interest issues. Questions? Please contact the Field Department.)

Our hope is that all students will speak with each program representative to learn more about opportunities and services and to help agency representatives feel welcome.
Here are some suggested questions and conversation starters when speaking with agency reps at the Field Fair…

- I’m intrigued by the information on your display table. Can you tell me what opportunities might be available for an Advanced Year intern?

- Have there been MSW interns in this program/agency in the past? If so, have they been foundation or advanced year or both?

- What kinds of activities might a student intern be involved in if they came to this agency?

- Perhaps the agency representative could give you some examples of situations that a student would encounter in their setting.

- What population(s) would students work with at their agency?

- Would students have an opportunity to attend additional training at their agency?

- What qualities do you look for as indicators of a successful student match with agency?

- Following an internship experience, might there be potential job opportunities with your agency? Has this happened?

- What is the general atmosphere in the agency – faced paced, relaxed?

- I was hoping to have ________ experiences at my next placement; do you think there might be opportunities for that?

- I find the program very interesting, if I end up being placed at a different agency, are there volunteer opportunities? If so, can you give me a sense of what the time commitments and opportunities would be?

Our hope is that this will be a fun and rewarding experience for all attendees.
Preparing for the Field Fair - FAQ’s …

Q: Who is required to attend?
A: All full-time Foundation students whose placements are in Erie or Niagara Counties. (Part-time students and/or advanced year students are welcome to attend.)

Q: What will foundation students get out of field fair day?
A: Increased knowledge regarding the variety of agency/placements available. Expand horizons about what placements students may think about trying. Increased networking with professional social workers in WNY.

Q: What agencies will be at field fair?
A: There will be approximately 60 agencies/programs represented. You will receive an email approx. 1 week prior with a list of the agencies in attendance.

Q: What should students wear?
A: Use your best judgment, wear comfortable shoes (you will be on your feet most of the morning) possibly business casual or an outfit you would usually wear to field placement.

Q: What should students bring with them?
A: Please print out and bring: the information in this email and the agency list that will be emailed to you. Also bring Pen and Paper. Students have found it helpful to take notes regarding agencies and their programs.

Q: How do we decide what agency tables to visit?
A: It is our hope that you will visit each agency table to get a sense of the variety of placement opportunities and areas of practice available to you.

Q: I am supposed to be at my Field Placement on the day of the Field Fair, will the hours count toward my field hours?
A: Yes.

Don’t forget to be curious, ask questions and have fun!!