BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at Kennesaw State University (KSU) is organized around the belief that structured supervised graduate level internships are a critical foundation for the education and training of competent clinical social workers. To that end, the program requires concurrent field practicum experiences for students such that first year foundation level students are in field practicum two days per week and second year advanced level students are in field practicum three days per week.

While the KSU MSW program does not conduct formal background checks on potential or current students, MSW program applicants and current students may be required to self-disclose their criminal history to Field Sites with whom students interview. By signing below, KSU MSW program applicants and students agree that they may be required to self-disclose their criminal history to Field Sites with whom students interview.

Field Sites may require a comprehensive criminal background check for MSW students requesting placement, and may utilize various criteria, including the results of background checks, to determine the suitability of MSW students interested in working with their clients. The results of a background check may result in KSU’s inability to place a student in a particular Field Site. If this circumstance arises, students will be contacted by the Field Education Director regarding the matter. **KSU will use reasonable efforts, a maximum of four (4) agency interviews to secure a MSW student’s placement with a Field Site.** In some situations, despite efforts to secure an alternative placement, a student may not be able to secure a Field Site.

While a criminal history does not necessarily preclude admission to the MSW degree program, past legal issues may limit or prevent placement into a field site. **Successful completion of Field Education Placement is required for completion of the KSU MSW degree program.** In addition, some backgrounds may render a KSU MSW graduate ineligible to receive a social work license and/or unable to obtain employment in the field. Students should determine how past or pending felonies, criminal charges, convictions, and/or penalties may affect their ability to be licensed as a social worker.


Please contact Naynette Kennett, LCSW at (470-578-7560) or n.kennett@kennesaw.edu with questions about this policy.

I hereby certify that I have read, understand, and agree to the Policy on Background Checks and the disclosure of the “Criminal History Background Information” to Field Sites with whom I interview.

________________________________________  ________________________________
Student’s Signature  Date

________________________________________  ________________________________
MSW Field Education Director Signature  Date