The Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) is a free course offered by Columbia School of Social Work. It provides first-time field instructors with the knowledge and skills to effectively supervise social work students for any school of social work in the tri-state area. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, ALL SIFI classes will be held online for the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 academic year. Continuing Education credits are available and are subject to change due to the online format*.

If you are already SIFI certified and are interested in enhancing your skills as a Field Instructor, we do offer Advanced Seminars which vary according to field instructor need each semester.

The seminar meets for 12 sessions during the academic year and covers the roles and responsibilities of the Field Instructor as they pertain to the effective instruction of social work students enrolled in Field Practicum. The knowledge, skills and values necessary to convey to students through the Field Practicum will be the focus of the course. The purpose of the course is to enhance, promote, and cultivate the collaborative process between the student, Field Instructor and the school.

The general qualifications needed to participate in the SIFI are:

- Have a social work license as required by the state where the social worker practices (*or planning to obtain in 6-9 months of SIFI course)
- An MSW degree
- Three years of post-master's experience (* 2 years if CSSW alumni)

For other specific information regarding the SIFI please email: Ericka Echavarria, eme2116@columbia.edu.

*The following are some important things to note regarding Continuing Education Credits:

- CE is provided as a complimentary benefit to licensed social workers who have met both the SIFI requirements AND NYS CE requirements.
- Number of CE credits will be change due to online format and will be announced at registration.
- CSSW is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers. Provider #SW-0021
- CSSW's CE is also accepted by NJ and CT- please refer to your state's guidelines regarding course format and topics.
- Social workers from other states may be able to use the CE hours depending on their state's regulations. CSSW is a CSWE accredited institution. Please contact your state's licensing board if you have questions.
- Disciplines from other states can be issued a CE certificate but assume full responsibility to ensure their licensing board will accept it.
PLEASE CHECK THIS PAGE in LATE JULY/EARLY AUGUST for REGISTRATION and SCHEDULE OF AVAILABLE CLASSES.