Field education is considered by social work students and graduates to be the most crucial component in their preparation for professional practice. It is in the field practicum that students learn to apply theoretical concepts, empirically derived knowledge, and social work values, principles, and skills. Students engage in field learning by serving individual clients, communities, and organizations under the guidance of an experienced social worker appointed as a field instructor. Schools of social work use a range of pedagogical approaches to assist students to link knowledge presented in the classroom with practice issues confronted in the field.

Changes to the organizational context of field education, to university expectations for faculty members teaching in social work programs, and to the nature of the student body have stimulated new thinking and empirical studies on field learning. In this book, Marion Bogo, an international leader in social work field work education, synthesizes current and emerging knowledge about field education including relevant concepts from higher education and professional education theories, from practice wisdom about field instruction in social work, and from findings in the empirical literature. The volume is divided into three sections: frameworks for understanding field education; educating for professional practice including principles, methods, and formats for facilitating learning in the field; and evaluation of competence. The text is followed by a series of practical evaluation tools designed for use by instructors. With new emphasis on field education as the signature pedagogy of social work and the importance of using a competency framework in education, the book offers frameworks, approaches, and principles for field education in an in-depth yet accessible manner.

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Achieving Competence in Social Work through Field Education
This book is dedicated to
Norman, Geoffrey, Jonathan, Shona, Lauren, and Dylan