Frequently asked questions

What is the BHWET Program?
BHWET is the University of Missouri Collaborative Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training for Professionals Program funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the federal government.

What is the Program's purpose?
The program is designed to prepare MSW students for the unique demands of the adolescent and emerging adult populations (16-25) who have unmet behavioral health needs.

Who is eligible to apply?
MSW concentration level students interested in future careers working in integrated health settings with adolescents and emerging adults with behavioral health needs. Students must meet the academic and course requirements to begin the concentration practicum.

How do I apply?
Plan to attend the concentration practicum planning meeting the semester prior to beginning the concentration practicum. Notices of the meeting date will be sent out at least one month in advance on the MSW listserv. After attending the meeting complete the practicum application form located on the Field Education page of the School of Social Work web site, AND complete the BHWET application located on My Gateway. From your My Gateway home page go to My Organizations, and then click on STU-MSW-Information-Site. The application will contain additional instructions.

What benefits will I receive from participation?
- $10,000 stipend for two semester 600 hour commitment
- Specialized training in integrated behavioral health
- Opportunities for professional networking that can potentially lead to post graduation employment

What is my commitment?
Students selected as BWHET Scholars agree to:
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, community collaboration, and leadership in working with children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth/young adults who are at-risk for developing - or who have developed - a recognized behavioral health disorder.
- Complete a concentration level practicum/final field practicum in an approved site.
- Register for and participate in a 1 credit hour concentration field seminar each semester.
- Participate in additional trainings and networking opportunities.
- Seek employment after graduation working with children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth who are at-risk for developing - or who have developed - a recognized behavioral health disorder.
How do BHWET Scholars select practicum sites?

As with any practicum experience at UMSL students engage in a structured self-selection process. When interviewing with potential practicum sites, keep in mind that the organization needs to provide the following experiences in order to host a BWHET scholar.

- The majority of time/caseload is must be spent with adolescents and emerging adults (ages 16-25);
- The organization must provide opportunities for the student to work with integrated behavioral health teams (e.g., physicians, nurses, counselors, psychiatrists, behavioral therapists);
- Opportunities for linkages to primary care settings and inter-professional learning experiences;
- Incorporation of families (as feasible) into the prevention and treatment of behavioral health conditions.

Students can inquire at the practicum site interview about whether or not these opportunities might be available. Once a student selects a potential site a member of the BWHET committee will call the organization and confirm that it can provide these experiences. All sites and supervisors must be approved by the Office of Field Education.

What practicum sites are hosting current BWHET Scholars?

BJC Behavioral Health  
Bridgeway Behavioral Health  
Mercy Behavioral Health  
Great Circle

Other sites that have agreed to work with the BWHET program

Crider Center - Compass Health, Inc.  
Places for People  
Epworth Family and Children’s Services  
Covenant House

This is not an exhaustive list. Students are welcome to explore other sites as well. Any site that can provide the opportunities mentioned above and meets the School’s criteria for site and supervisor approval will be considered.

How are selections made? When will I be notified?

Scholar selection is a competitive process. Applications will be reviewed by the BHWET Scholars Committee promptly after the application deadline. Applicants will be notified regarding selection sometime prior to the semester in which they plan to complete the concentration practicum.

Questions? Call or e-mail a member of the BWHET Committee. Professors Sharon Johnson, Patti Rosenthal, Sha Lai Williams, Baorong Guo, Joe Pickard and Lois Pierce.