Top 10 things to know about picking a placement:

(from students who have been through it… twice)

10. Learning objectives are important.

They will make more sense when you start your placement and will help to direct your learning in placement and with your field instructor.

9. Make your learning objectives broad to start, then more specific as you go.

Start with broad objectives when you apply on Community Connections. Make them a little specific to the agency when you go to your interview. They will become even more specific once you start your placement. For people who have a hard time thinking broadly to start, make them very specific then find the overarching themes.

8. Focus on generalist skills and knowledge, not job specific activities or tasks.

 For example; "learn about and perform assessments" v. "complete CAS intake assignment".

7. Know your passion and interests, but be willing to step out of your comfort zone.

Use your passion, interest and knowledge from previous experiences in a new setting. Be willing to challenge yourself in a new area or setting.

6. Know your learning style and learning needs.

5. Reflect about your fears, concerns and reservations, and be open to challenging them in this supported learning activity.

If there is an area/activity in social work that you have reservations about, placement is a great opportunity to grow and learn while you are being supported. Once you enter the work force, you may have to face your discomfort without as much support.

4. Make connections now that will support you through the placement process and experience.

Make plans for coffee or exchange emails with fellow students while interviewing for placements and during placement.

3. Be patient with the process.

You will eventually get a placement, so try not to sweat the small stuff.

2. Listen to Janice.

She knows field instruction and the process and is a resource.

1. Be prepared for a surprise!

You'll be amazed by how much you will learn and grow, and how much fun you will have.