

The manuscript is indeed important, not only for online MSW students but also for those enrolled in other applied programs that require practicum experience. It addresses key aspects of experiential learning and provides valuable insights that can enhance the structure and delivery of online education in these fields. Additionally, the inclusion of citations from existing regulations and council requirements strengthens the manuscript's relevance and credibility. I believe the manuscript could be further enriched by expanding on the implications for other online and applied programs, as many of the suggestions and findings are applicable and transferable across a range of disciplines.

The title is generally suitable, but I would recommend revising it to make it more accessible to a broader audience. The abbreviation "MSW" is not defined in the introduction, and journals typically avoid using abbreviations in titles unless they are universally recognized (e.g., LGBTQ+). As "MSW" may only appeal to those familiar with the field of social work, a more general title would help attract a wider readership. A suggested revision could be: "Key Factors Influencing Field Placement Success in Online and Applied Programs: A Focus on Master of Social Work (MSW) Education." This revision provides clarity while still highlighting the specific focus on MSW education.

Overall, the abstract is well-written and provides a solid overview of the study. However, given that the study places significant emphasis on the history of the field, I would suggest briefly mentioning this historical context in the abstract. Including this aspect would help capture the readers' attention and provide a more well-rounded preview of the manuscript's content, highlighting both the historical foundation and the current focus of the research.

Overall, the paragraph formatting, sentence structures, and lengths are suitable for scholarly communication. However, while reading, I had a sense that the writing might have been polished by an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. This impression stems from the use of certain phrases and structures that are often characteristic of AI-generated text, such as "field education urgently needs to be updated," "need for adaptability—an essential skill," "aims to offer in-depth insights," and "it is imperative for educational institutions to foster." While this is merely an observation, I believe that if AI tools were used in the revision process, it would be beneficial for the author to acknowledge this in the manuscript. Such transparency would ensure clarity in the writing process and align with ethical considerations in scholarly communication.

BSW Introduction: The abbreviation "BSW" is introduced in section 2.0.0, but its meaning is not explained until a later paragraph. It would be clearer for readers if the full term (Bachelor of Social Work) is introduced alongside the abbreviation the first time it appears, to avoid confusion and improve readability. Literature Review: The literature

review is thorough and well-executed, providing a rich discussion of the importance of practice, regulatory requirements, the need for more instructors, and the challenges faced by online programs. However, since the focus of the manuscript is on online MSW programs, I suggest expanding the section on the specific challenges encountered by both students and instructors in online training. A more detailed discussion of these challenges would enhance the manuscript. Additionally, this section could be placed earlier in the literature review to establish context for the reader. Sections 2.0.1 to 4.0.6: These sections provide a wealth of relevant and important information, including a comprehensive discussion of the history of the program and the development of its curriculum. While this historical context is valuable, I believe the formatting of the section titles could be improved to better distinguish the transition from the historical background to the discussion of existing challenges (starting from section 4.0). This distinction is crucial because section 4.0 marks the beginning of the study's main focus and should be clearly separated from the historical content. Conclusion and Implications: Rather than concluding directly with the implications, it would be beneficial to include a dedicated conclusion section that summarizes the key findings before moving on to the implications. This would help the reader better grasp the main takeaways from the study before exploring its broader implications.

The references appear to be appropriate, recent, and sufficient for the scope of the manuscript. They provide a solid foundation for the study and support the key points discussed. No immediate changes or additional references come to mind, as the citations seem to be well-chosen and relevant to the topic.

Other than the potential use of AI-based writing assistance that I speculated about earlier; I do not see any particular ethical concerns in this manuscript. The content appears to be well-structured and free from issues related to plagiarism, authorship, or conflicts of interest. However, if AI tools were used in the writing process, it would be advisable for the authors to acknowledge this in the manuscript for transparency and ethical clarity.

I am unable to determine if there are any competing interest issues in this manuscript based on the information provided. If there are any potential conflicts of interest, it would be important for the authors to disclose them for transparency and ethical clarity.

Based on my review of the manuscript, I do not believe the article is plagiarized. The content appears original, and proper citations are provided for all referenced material. However, I recommend running the manuscript through a plagiarism detection tool as an additional precautionary measure, as I cannot assess this with absolute certainty without access to such tools.

A disclaimer could be beneficial to clarify the history of the manuscript, especially if portions of it have been adapted from previously published articles or chapters in reference books. If the manuscript is based on or extends earlier work, a clear statement acknowledging this would enhance transparency and avoid any potential concerns regarding prior publication. This would also provide readers with context and ensure proper attribution.