

Social Work Education

College of Health
and Human Services

Department of Social Work Education

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B.A. in Social Work

M.S.W., Master of Social Work

Certificate in Alcohol/Drug Studies

Certificate in Cross-Cultural Competency

Social Work Education

The profession of social work is dedicated to meeting the diverse social service needs of special populations of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. As a practice-oriented profession, social work deals with social concerns that range from societal oppression to people's emotional/behavioral problems. The social work practitioner helps at-risk populations which typically include people of color; women; people who are recent refugees; those who are aged, poor, and/or homeless; children and adults who are abused/neglected; people who have chronic mental illness; those who are developmentally disabled; those who have physical illnesses or disabilities; and those who abuse substances or engage in criminal activities.

In focusing on disadvantaged groups, social workers use a range of traditional and nontraditional methods to promote well-being, personal growth, and social justice. These methods include client and systems policy advocacy, brokering, and consulting, as well as individual, family, and group counseling/psychotherapy. Other methods include education, research, and professional supervision.

While the discipline of social work is deeply rooted in a rich, 100-year history of service, what social workers "do" is no longer traditionally defined. The role of the social worker is constantly expanding into innovative service fields wherever a compassionate response to human need is indicated.

The Department of Social Work Education offers two degree programs to educate beginning and advanced social work practitioners who can meet complex client needs in a broad range of public and private human service settings and who can perform in a variety of roles using a multisystems approach. The Bachelor of Arts degree program prepares students for beginning generalist social work practice as well as for graduate study in the human service field, including social work. The Master of Social Work prepares the learner for advanced multisystems social work practice as well as for doctoral study in social work and related human service arenas. Both the B.A. and the M.S.W. programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Faculty and Facilities

The faculty members of the department represent a wide spectrum of theoretical orientations and approaches to professional social work practice. All have substantive practice experience and many engage in active research programs and social policy interests. In addition to the on-campus facilities of the university, the department uses the San Joaquin Valley's unique urban-rural configuration of people, agribusiness and social-political institutions, and the accompanying host of social service needs as the setting for in-the-field learning. Numerous public and private social service agencies in our region make their facilities and professional social work staff available for the internship/practicum element of the department's programs. Internship/practicum experiences are available in the schools and mental health, probation, and social services departments in the counties of Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare. A representative sample of other settings include the California Youth Authority, Community Medical Centers of Central California, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Children's Hospital of Central California, Fresno Unified School District, and Kings County Department of Children and Family Services.

Career Opportunities

Graduates from the B.A. program typically find employment as social workers in county or state departments of social services; private agencies offering individual, group, or community services; and programs addressing issues such as poverty, mental health, social rehabilitation, and human resources development. Graduates work with diverse groups

of people, including those who are disabled or aged and those who have special needs. Graduates also work with those who may be involved with major systems and institutions such as public social services and government assistance, health care, corrections, or education.

M.S.W. graduates continue to work with the above groups. They can expect to assume additional responsibilities and engage in more advanced clinical practice, case management, training, administration, program development, or policy making/administrative practice in a broad spectrum of human service organizations.

The U.S. Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook 2005-2006* projects the employment of social workers to increase. In July 2006, the *Wall Street Journal* listed social work among its eight best careers. Special mention must be made regarding increased job opportunities in child welfare, mental health, substance abuse programs, school systems, and services for elders, as well as increased opportunities in serving rural areas.

Faculty

E. Jane Middleton, *Chair*

John B. Franz, *Undergraduate Coordinator*

Mitzi Lowe, *MSW Admissions*

Jane L. Yamaguchi, *Graduate Coordinator*

Kris I. Clarke

Benjamin Cuellar

Betty J. Garcia

Mark G. Hanna

Donna L. Hardina

Debra M. Harris

Virginia R. Hernandez

M. Lynn Jacobsson

Salvador M. Montana

Anne S. Petrovich

Richard O. Salsgiver

Roger A. Simpson

Martha Vungkhanching

The Bachelor of Arts Program

The bachelor's degree program prepares students to enter supervised professional social work practice and/or pursue admission to a range of graduate study programs and professional schools. This includes graduate study in social work leading to a master's in social work. Both the bachelor's and master's degree programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Students majoring in social work must do the following before being permitted to enroll in restricted, 100-level social work courses (courses with prerequisites):