

## School of Social Work

**Mary Helen Hayden**, *Director*

**Jennifer Abeloff**, *Clinical Instructor and Associate Director*

**Richard Beaulaurier**, *Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Engagement*

**Mario De La Rosa**, *Professor and Director, Latino Minority Drug Abuse Research Center*

**Beatrice Farnsworth**, *Clinical Instructor and Assistant Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*

**Andres Gil**, *Professor and Vice President for Research*

**Victoria Gray**, *Instructor*

**Hui Huang**, *Assistant Professor*

**Rosa Jones**, *Founding Professor and Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus*

**Elise Linder**, *Clinical Instructor and M.S.W. Coordinator of Field Education*

**Mark Macgowan**, *Professor and Ph.D. Program Coordinator*

**Lourdes Martin**, *Clinical Instructor and Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*

**Welker Mitchell**, *Visiting Instructor*

**Adis Orta**, *Clinical Instructor and B.S.S.W. Coordinator of Field Education*

**Miriam Potocky**, *Professor*

**Chris Rice**, *Associate Professor*

**Nicole Ruggiano**, *Assistant Professor*

**Florence Safford**, *Professor Emeritus*

**David Saltman**, *Visiting Instructor*

**Anna Shustack**, *Visiting Instructor*

**Barbara Thomlison**, *Professor*

**Ray Thomlison**, *Professor*

**Eric F. Wagner**, *Professor and Director, Community Based Intervention Research Group*

**Stephen Wong**, *Associate Professor*

Social Work offers graduate and undergraduate studies leading to the Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Science in Social Work degrees. The School also offers a Ph.D. in Social Welfare.

The profession of Social Work requires a high degree of knowledge and dedication. The desire and ability to work effectively with people and to help solve social problems demands a scientific understanding of society and human behavior, skills in social work practice, and identification with the values of the profession.

**Note:** The programs, policies, requirements, and regulations listed in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to serve the needs of the University's, College's and School's regulatory and accrediting agencies. Changes may be made without advance notice. The curricula described in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to respond to the mandates of the Florida Department of Education, Board of Governors, the legislature, the Council on Education for Public Health and the Council on Social Work Education. The School makes every effort to minimize the impact of curriculum changes on currently enrolled students by stipulating that students complete the requirements of their degree program in effect at the time of admission or readmission to the program. In the event that this is not possible due to accreditation standards or the deletion of courses, students may be required to complete alternative degree requirements in order to graduate.

## Master of Social Work

Social Work offers an integrated program that leads to the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The program is designed to give the student professional education for the advanced practice of social work. The curriculum applies a bio-psychosocial model within the context of a social systems framework to understand client systems, address problems and develop interventions.

The Master of Social Work Program at Florida International University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program is grounded in the core competencies set forth by CSWE. Students are expected to meet all core competencies, including foundation and advanced practice behaviors, by the end of their studies. Students are also provided grounding in basic public health knowledge.

All students will be required to acquire or to possess the core competencies in the areas of professional study considered essential in social work education: professional identity, ethics, critical thinking, diversity, social economic justice, human behavior and the social environment, policy practice, research, societal contexts, and practice including engagement, assessment, interventions, and evaluations with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The knowledge acquired in the professional courses will be applied in supervised field experiences in social agencies. As part of field education, social work students may also participate with students from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences in the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood HELP™, an inter-professional team approach in Miami-Dade communities.

The program offers a concentration in advanced clinical practice and students complete a field practicum program that supports practice in that concentration. With the help of faculty, students will develop individualized programs in the concentration to meet their educational needs, advanced practice behaviors, and contribute to their professional objectives. The program provides a curriculum which meets the current educational requirements for clinical licensure in Florida.

Field agencies require the disclosure of conviction records for misdemeanors and/or felonies and current screening for drug use. Therefore, students are required to submit to state and federal background checks and drug screening tests prior to the initiation of the practicum. Findings in the background checks and/or drug screenings tests may affect a student's ability to participate in field internship and, thus, complete the social work program. Students are further advised that Florida and most other states may restrict or deny social work employment and/or licensure for persons with a felony conviction. **Students with a criminal background must consult with the MSW Program Coordinator before continuing in the program.**

Evening and weekend field placements are extremely limited and are granted only as an exception in extreme circumstances for MSW II/MSW III Advanced Clinical students. **The School of Social Work is under no obligation to provide such placements. Consequently, practicum placement cannot be guaranteed even for MSW II/MSW III students who require evening and weekend placements and all students must have at least eight (8) weekday, daytime hours available per**

**week during their practicum experience. Students cannot complete their field placements in an agency at which they are employed.**

For additional information regarding the graduate social work program of study and degree requirements, contact the School of Social Work at (305) 348-5880.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants to the MSW program are required to meet the minimum standards set forth by the Florida Board of Education, the University, and the School of Social Work. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better in all upper-level courses. Application procedures for admission to graduate study are found in the graduate admission section of this catalog. An application to the University, an application to the Social Work MSW program, a personal narrative, and three letters of reference are required for admission. A personal interview may be requested. All applicants are required to have completed college-level courses in biology (including coverage of Human Biology) and statistics and 12 semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences.

In addition to the College and University policies governing transfer credit the following regulations apply:

1. Courses taken in a Master of Social Work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, in which the applicant was fully admitted, may be transferred up to a maximum of 6 semester hours.
2. Graduate courses taken in other than CSWE accredited Social Work programs may not be transferred.
3. Required concentration courses (6000 level) are not transferable.

### Advanced Standing Status

Applicants with a B.S.W. degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) within five years prior to matriculation and a minimum of 3.25 GPA (last 60 hours/upper division of undergraduate studies) **may be considered** for Advanced Standing status. Advanced Standing is **not automatically granted**. All students admitted to the MSW Program are required to take 30 semester hours of concentration courses in addition to the course in public health. Students who are admitted with Advanced Standing status will not be required to take the graduate foundation courses if they earned a 'B' or better in the corresponding course(s) at the bachelor's level. Students admitted with Advanced Standing Status will not be awarded any transfer credit, substitutions, or exemptions.

### Degree Requirements

The Master of Social Work program is a 60 semester hour program composed of a 30 semester hour foundation followed by 30 semester hours of concentration courses in the second year. The Master of Social Work for students with Advanced Standing Status is composed of 33 semester hours of concentration courses.

An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation. Any required course in which a student receives a grade lower than 'B' must be retaken. (A grade of 'B-' is not acceptable.) However, a grade of 'B-' in an elective does not have to be retaken. A passing grade in field practicum courses is required for continuation in the program. Field courses cannot be repeated.

Students in the MSW program who fail a required social work course (a 'B-' or lower) three (3) times may not take the course again and will be automatically dismissed from the program.

A student must successfully complete all work applicable to the Master of Social Work program within 48 months from initial admission. In unusual circumstances, and if the reasons warrant it, a student may petition the School Director for an extension of the time limit.

### Required Courses: (60)

#### Block I FOUNDATION COURSES

|           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| SOW 5105  | Human Behavior and the Social Environment I        | 3 |
| SOW 5235  | Social Welfare Policy and Services I               | 3 |
| SOW 5342  | Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families | 3 |
| SOW 5379L | Interviewing Skills Lab                            | 2 |
| SOW 5404  | Social Work Research Methodology                   | 3 |

#### Block II FOUNDATION COURSES

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| SOW 5324 | Theory and Practice with Groups                        | 3 |
| SOW 5629 | Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations          | 3 |
| SOW 5532 | Field Practicum I                                      | 4 |
| SOW 5344 | Theory and Practice with Communities and Organizations | 3 |
| PHC 6500 | Foundations of Public Health Practice                  | 3 |

#### Block III CONCENTRATION COURSES

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| SOW 6125 | Human Behavior & the Social Environment II – Psychopathology | 3 |
| SOW 6236 | Social Welfare Policy and Services II                        | 3 |
| SOW 6435 | Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice            | 3 |
| SOW 6425 | Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning                | 3 |
| SOW 6533 | Field Practicum II   | 3 |
| PHC 6500 | Foundations of Public Health Practice                        | 3 |

#### Block IV CONCENTRATION COURSES

|          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| SOW 6351 | Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice | 3 |
| SOW 6534 | Field Practicum III   | 6 |
| SOW      | Social Work Clinical Practice Elective                          | 3 |
| SOW      | Social Work Clinical Practice Elective                          | 3 |

**Students are required to complete all of the Foundation Courses and be fully admitted to the MSW Program before enrolling into any of the 6000 level Concentration courses.**

### Juris Doctor/Master of Social Work Joint Degree Program

1. Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements for and be accepted by both the College of Law and the School of Social Work. Both schools must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second school that the student intends to pursue the joint degree.
2. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned one degree.
3. For law students, enrollment in the M.S.W. program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the J.D. program. For M.S.W. students, enrollment in the J.D. program is required no later

than the completion of 30 credit hours in MSW Program.

4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The School of Social Work will allow 9 credit hours of approved law courses to be credited toward both the M.S.W. and J.D. degrees. These 9 credit hours of law classes will be in lieu of Social Work electives and must be selected from an approved list of law classes. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the J.D. degree for courses taken in the M.S.W. curriculum upon completion of the M.S.W. degree curriculum with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
5. A full-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may spend the first year in either the College of Law or the School of Social Work. A part-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may begin the student's studies in either the College of Law or the School of Social Work, but must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one school but electing to begin study in the other school under the joint degree program may enter the second school thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second school before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second school and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second school.
6. A student enrolled in the joint degree program will not receive either degree until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until the student has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if the student had not been a joint degree candidate.
7. Students in the joint degree program will be eligible for the graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships in the School of Social Work on the same basis as other M.S.W. students, subject to the guidelines and restrictions set by the School of Social Work.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare aims to prepare students for careers in research, university teaching, and leadership in social work and social welfare.

The Program emphasizes research that informs the development, implementation and evaluation of culturally appropriate interventions to meet the human needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

The Program is structured to develop and strengthen students' skills in the methods of scientific inquiry, to deepen their understanding and analysis of social problems and public issues, and to contribute to the knowledge base of social welfare. Students pursue a course of study focused on social problems, intervention research, and research methodology related to an area of specialization of particular interest to them.

The faculty mentor students on a specific area of research, its theoretical foundations and practical applications. Instruction and mentoring involve courses and seminars, supervised conduct of research, collaborative work with faculty, presentations of scientific papers, writing and publishing scholarly work, and submitting research grant proposals. While in the program,

students are expected to disseminate the results of their study and research in appropriate forums. Students are also offered opportunities to teach.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants are required to meet the following requirements:

1. A Master's degree in Social Work from an accredited school of social work, or in a closely related field;
2. Evidence of superior academic achievement in undergraduate and graduate education, including a 3.0 (upper division) undergraduate GPA and a 3.5 graduate GPA;
3. Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores;
4. Documentation of completion of courses in statistical methods and research methodology with grades of 'B' or better;
5. Three letters of recommendation (two academic and one professional);
6. Two examples of written scholarly work;
7. A personal statement describing the applicant's research interests and career goals;
8. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or overall 6.5 on the IELTS is required;
9. All applicants must be approved by the Doctoral Committee. Applications for Fall semester admission are due by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of application.

## Degree Requirements

1. Completion of a minimum of 60 credits: (at least 36 credit hours of required coursework taken over the first three consecutive semesters following admission, obtaining at least a "B" grade for each course, and at least 24 dissertation credit hours following advancement to candidacy); continuous registration for at least 3 credit hours of dissertation courses during each semester following advancement to candidacy; maintenance of an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0;
2. Filing, before the end of the fourth semester of study, three major papers, each having obtained a grade of at least "B+" from a three-member Doctoral Candidacy committee (this constitutes the Doctoral Candidacy Examination);
3. Successful defense of a Dissertation Proposal from a duly constituted Dissertation Committee;
4. Completion of a dissertation under the guidance of the Dissertation Committee;
5. Successful defense of the dissertation before the Dissertation Committee and the University community;
6. Obtaining the Ph.D. degree within nine years of admission into the Ph.D. program.

## Program of Study

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare is a 60 semester hour program comprised of 12 required courses and 24 semester hours of dissertation study.

**Course Offerings****Semester I (12 hours)**

|          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| SOW 7216 | Social Welfare Policy                                     | 3 |
| SOW 7406 | History & Systems of Social Work Research                 | 3 |
| SOW 7492 | Theory Development and Research Methods in Social Welfare | 3 |
| PHC 6709 | Quantitative Research Analysis I (or equivalent)          | 3 |

**Semester II (12 hours)**

|          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| SOW 7237 | Micro-Practice Theory and Research                  | 3 |
| SOW 7238 | Macro-Practice Theory and Research                  | 3 |
| PHC 6091 | Biostatistics 2 (or equivalent)                     | 3 |
| AAA xxxx | Graduate Elective (or SOW 7916 Supervised Research) | 3 |

**Semester III (12 hours)**

|          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| SOW 7936 | Dissertation Seminar in Social Welfare                | 3 |
| SOW 7493 | Research Methods in Social Welfare II (or equivalent) | 3 |
| AAA xxxx | Graduate Elective (or SOW 7916 Supervised Research)   | 3 |
| SOW 7916 | Supervised Research                                   | 3 |

**Semester IV +**

*If Doctoral Candidacy attained:*

|          |                                     |   |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| SOW 7980 | Dissertation Credits (min 24 hours) | 3 |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---|

*If Doctoral Candidacy not attained:*

|          |                     |   |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| SOW 7916 | Supervised Research | 3 |
|----------|---------------------|---|

**or**

|          |                      |   |
|----------|----------------------|---|
| SOW 6914 | Independent Research | 1 |
|----------|----------------------|---|

For additional and updated information about degrees offered, entrance requirements, and services, please visit our website:

<http://stempel.fiu.edu/academics/social-work/index.html>.