



College of Social Work

Karen Sowers, Dean
Sherry Cummings, Acting Associate Dean, Nashville
Geraldine Faria, Associate Dean, Knoxville
Theora Evans, Acting Associate Dean, Memphis
Paul M. Campbell, Director, Office of Social Work Research and Public Service
Charles Glisson, Director, Children's Mental Health Services Research Center

<http://www.csw.utk.edu/>

Professors

Cetingok, M., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Combs-Orme, T., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Glisson, C., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Nugent, W., PhD Florida State
 Orme, J., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Sowers, K., PhD Florida State
 Wodarski, J., PhD Washington (St. Louis)

Associate Professors

Bolen, R., PhD Texas (Arlington)
 Bowie, S., PhD Barry
 Cummings, S., PhD Georgia
 Dupper, D., PhD Florida State
 Egan, M., PhD Maryland
 Ellis, R., PhD Florida International
 Evans, T., PhD Minnesota
 Faria, G., PhD Denver
 Patterson, D., PhD Utah
 Rocha, C., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Rogge, M., PhD Washington (St. Louis)
 Spicuzza, F., MSSW Tennessee
 Staudt, M., PhD Washington (St. Louis)

Assistant Professors

Brown, E., PhD Michigan
 Cho, S., MSW Ewha (Korea)
 Craun, S., PhD UCLA
 Davis, C., PhD UCLA
 Hall, C., PhD Smith
 MacMaster, S., PhD Case Western Reserve
 Neely-Barnes, S., PhD Washington
 Strand, E., PhD Tennessee
 Sullivan, M., PhD Georgia
 Theriot, M., PhD California (Berkeley)
 Washington, G., PhD Clark

Research Faculty

Black, B., MSSW Tennessee
 Campbell, P., DSW Alabama
 Green, P., PhD Tennessee
 Hemmelgarn, A., PhD Tennessee

Field Coordinators

Enochs, P., EdD (Nashville) Tennessee State
 Jackson, R., MSSW (Knoxville) Tennessee
 Lodato, G., MSW Maryland
 Thompson, B., MSSW (Memphis) Tennessee

MAJOR

Social Work
 Evidenced-based Practice Across Systems
Social Work

DEGREES

MSSW
PhD

The College of Social Work began as the Nashville School of Social Work, founded in 1942 under the auspices of Vanderbilt University, Scarritt College, and George Peabody College. It joined the University of Tennessee in 1951. By 1974 the three branches, located in Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville, offered the two-year master's program. The doctoral program was inaugurated in 1983. In 1985 the Bachelor of Science in Social Work program was added, and the School achieved college status.

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work is the only graduate professional social work education program in Tennessee and offers the full continuum of social work education degrees at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels.

Social work is a helping profession that focuses on providing skilled intervention in the prevention and amelioration of individual and societal problems. It is the purpose of the college to provide an education that fosters growth in both individual and career development.

Graduate Programs

The two-year program (thesis or non-thesis option) leading to the Master of Science in Social Work is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and is offered on all three campuses. The foundation curriculum of the PhD program is available only in Knoxville. The interdisciplinary graduate certificate in gerontology at the University of Tennessee, offered on all three campuses, prepares graduate students to work with and on behalf of the rapidly growing older population. The graduate certificate in gerontology consists of 21 credit hours – 3 required classes (9 hours), 2 elective classes (6 hours) and 6 hours of an aging-related internship. Courses may be used to count towards both the MSSW and the gerontology certificate if they fulfill requirements of both programs. With proper planning, one can complete both programs of study in a two-year period. For more information/application materials go to the Web at <http://web.utk.edu/~sals/gerontology/>. The Tennessee State School Social Work Licensure Program at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work is available to currently enrolled

bachelor's level and master's level students as well as persons who already hold a bachelor's and/or master's degree in Social Work from an accredited social work program. Information and application materials are available from the College of Social Work, Henson Hall, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-3333.

Financial Aid

Students may apply directly to the university's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for assistance such as the National Direct Student Loan or the Work-Study Program.

Information regarding scholarships administered by the college is made available after admission. Financial aid is available to qualified students in the form of fellowships, scholarships, and teaching and research assistantships. Graduate assistantships and other forms of assistance are awarded on the basis of merit and interest to applicants who are accepted into the PhD program.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

The college offers a new MSSW curriculum that is informed by state-of-the-art, cutting-edge knowledge and grounded upon core social work values and ethics. The concepts of critical thinking and evidenced-based practice, complexity, culturally affirming practice, social and economic justice, and at-risk populations permeate the new MSSW curriculum. The MSSW program seeks to prepare MSSW graduates to make demonstrable improvements in the quality of life of at-risk and vulnerable populations across individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, the state of Tennessee, the nation and society.

Admission

Admission to the master's program is based on the following.

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with appropriate preparation in the social sciences. At least three-fourths of the applicant's undergraduate work should be in the social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, and other arts and sciences subjects. Applicants must have a course in human biology and demonstrate a liberal arts perspective through coursework in at least four of the following five areas – economics or mathematics; government, political science or history; sociology or anthropology; psychology; philosophy, literature, or the arts. Applicants with other academic backgrounds may request consultation to discuss ways that they can meet the requirements.
- A grade point of 2.70 or higher on a 4.00 scale. Applicants falling below this average may be considered for probationary admission on the basis of supplemental evidence of the ability to perform at a satisfactory level. The university requires a minimum GPA of 2.70 for admission to graduate study.
- Personal qualifications acceptable for entrance into the professional practice of social work.
- All applicants must submit up-to-date scores from the Graduate Record Examination (general).

Preference is given to applicants with a GPA of 3.00 or above in their undergraduate work with substantial preparation in the social sciences. Applicants who have a prior conviction, other than a minor traffic violation, may not necessarily be denied admission to the MSSW program. However, such convictions may prevent placement in certain field practice agencies and/or licensure in certain states.

Advanced Standing

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work has an advanced standing program. Admission to advanced standing requires a BSW from an accredited program; an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher; and personal qualifications acceptable for entrance into the professional practice of social work. These students will follow the curriculum plan and meet all requirements of the concentration during three semesters of study in the program.

Application for admission to the advanced standing program is through the regular admission process.

Extended Study

Planned part-time programs are available in all three locations of the college. Admission requirements are the same as for full-time study. Coursework can be completed over a three- or four-year period.

Transfer Credits

Coursework equivalent to the first year of the master's program, completed in another accredited graduate social work program, is usually accepted toward degree requirements. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate Council and the College of Social Work. Transfer courses must be approved as equivalent to required and/or elective courses taken for graduate credit and passed with a grade of B or better. An S (Satisfactory/No Credit system) for the field practicum is also accepted. In addition, transfer courses must be part of an otherwise satisfactory graduate program (B average) and be approved by the dean. This coursework must be completed within the six-year period prior to the receipt of the degree.

A maximum of 6 hours from work earned in disciplines other than social work may be transferred as elective credits. The student's academic committee must approve the request and the transfer credit must meet Graduate Council requirements.

Proficiency Examination

Students in the master's program may earn a maximum of 9 hours by proficiency examination. Students interested in proficiency examinations are referred to the *College of Social Work Student Handbook* statement describing the procedure for applying for examination and the applicable courses.

Requirements

- The program requires successful completion of a minimum total of 60 semester hours.
- Students may select a thesis or non-thesis option. Students pursuing the thesis option receive 6 hours for successful completion.
- Students must successfully complete a comprehensive exam or thesis defense.
- Students must have an overall GPA of 3.00 or better on all graded courses and satisfactory performance in field.

Professional Foundation Curriculum

MSSW foundation content (first year – fall and first half of spring semester) includes fundamental, evidence-based knowledge and skills that will prepare students to practice across client systems within a culturally affirming generalist social work context. MSSW foundation curriculum includes content in the following areas – social work practice, research, human behavior in the social environment, social policy, populations at risk and social and economic justice, values and ethics, diversity, critical thinking/evidenced-based practice, and field.

Field Practice

The application of knowledge and skills is a critical aspect of a competency-based, practice-oriented MSSW curriculum. The opportunity for students to practice and learn in experiential settings is provided through collaboration between the college and a wide range of social service organizations. This effort between the partners produces effective experiences that enhance the students' professional development in their individual areas of focus. Opportunities designed to meet the field practice requirement are available within Tennessee, in certain other parts of the country, and in selected international locations. Field practica are offered either concurrently with class instruction or in block format.

Foundation placements are selected through a joint process involving the student, the field coordinator, and personnel from potential internship sites. These first placements are designed to provide students with supervised generalist practice experience, which is consistent with the generalist knowledge and skill development education they receive in the classroom. Accordingly, students' experiences are planned and designed to meet specific foundation educational objectives. Concentration internships build on the generalist foundation. The concentration practicum provides supervision in a practice setting selected with attention to a student's area of focus, individual career interests, and educational needs. As with the foundation placement, students actively participate with the field coordinator and potential agency Field Instructors to select their concentration placement site. The concentration field placement experience focuses on the integration of social work knowledge and values while emphasizing the acquisition and development of advanced practice skills built on, but distinct from generalist, foundation skills.

Students receiving a grade of NC in field practice may not repeat the field practice.

Advanced Content

All MSSW students begin to take advanced required courses in the second session of spring semester during their first year of study. These advanced required courses include content in leadership, supervision, management, psychopathology, and advanced empirical knowledge for practice and evidence-based interventions. These courses are embedded in an understanding of the complex ways that risk and resilience interact across the lifespan and systems to enhance well being.

Areas of Focus

MSSW students complete the concentration portion of their MSSW program of study (second year – fall and spring semesters) by taking four required core courses and then choosing from a series of required electives/selectives within a specific area of focus. These courses enable students to become competent in knowledge and skills necessary for advanced social work practice with complex situations and problems.

Integrative Seminar

The integrative seminar is the MSSW capstone experience. The seminar allows students to integrate and synthesize knowledge learned across the curriculum and to critically apply it within each student's specified area of focus.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

The College of Social Work offers the Doctor of Philosophy with a major in social work.

The focus of social work education at the doctoral level is to foster the development of an attitude of scientific inquiry, knowledge of the scientific method, ability to extend the knowledge base of social work practice, and effective participation in leader-

ship roles in social work education, research, and practice.

The emphasis of the doctoral program is upon

- The analysis of direct intervention and social administration and of the interrelationships among each of them and their social policy, organizational, and community contexts.
- Research-based knowledge to inform and guide social work practice, social policy, and social welfare program development.

The program consists of foundation courses, elective courses, and dissertation research. The courses are available only in Knoxville. Students and their committees can develop a plan for completing their research in Nashville and Memphis based on the availability of dissertation resources.

Students have the opportunity to work in the Children's Mental Health Services Research Center as part of their training. The center focuses on services to children who have experienced mental health problems associated with abuse, neglect, violence and a variety of psychosocial problems.

Admission

The PhD program is designed for students who have completed a master's degree in an accredited school of social work and have post-master's social work/social welfare experience. Applicants who do not meet these requirements, but believe they have equivalent credentials should contact the chair of PhD program for further information regarding admissions criteria.

Applications may be downloaded at www.csw.utk.edu/phd.

Requirements

A minimum of 66 hours beyond the master's degree including the following.

- Completion of 27 hours of required coursework.
- Completion of 15 hours of advanced electives, at least 12 of which are taken outside the department, and 9 of those 12 related to the dissertation.
- Completion of at least 24 hours of dissertation research.
- Successful completion of qualifying and comprehensive examinations.
- Completion and defense of the dissertation.

The curriculum of the PhD program consists of foundation coursework, electives, and dissertation research. The foundation curriculum consists of 27 hours of coursework in the history and philosophy of social work, issues in direct service and administration and planning, areas of practice, and research methodology and statistics. Upon this foundation, students and their academic committees develop a plan of study consisting of coursework in social work and other departments of the university.

Typically, the 24 hours of foundation curriculum are completed and elective coursework begun during the first year of study. Social Work 670 and the elective requirement are completed and dissertation research begun in the second year of study. Dissertation research is continued in the third year of study. While it is generally expected that the coursework will be completed on a full-time basis, dissertation research can be completed on a planned part-time basis.

Specific courses required are 601, 602, 612, 613, 640, 650, 670, and Statistics 531 and 532 or any two graduate level statistics courses approved by the doctoral program chair.

Examinations

All doctoral students are required to pass a qualifying examination and a comprehensive examination. The qualifying examination covers the foundation curriculum. The comprehensive examination is administered by members of the comprehensive exam committee and is designed for the student to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the major and cognate areas and the dissertation topic. In case of failure of either examination, the

student may request a retake. The result of the second examination is final.

Intercollegiate/Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor

Graduate students in the College of Social Work, at the Knoxville location, may pursue an intercollegiate/interdisciplinary minor in gerontology. The gerontology minor gives the student an opportunity for combining the knowledge about aging in American society with his/her major concentration.

Core courses and a practicum are offered by the College of Social Work and selected departments within the Colleges of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and Arts and Sciences. A cross-listed seminar between contributing programs is designed to integrate experiences from different sources and to demonstrate the multi-faceted nature of working within an aging society. Please refer to the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences for specific requirements.