Social Welfare Department

Dean
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Degree Awarded
Ph.D. in Social Welfare

The Ph.D. Program in Social Welfare

The primary purpose of the Ph.D. program is to produce scholars who can use systematic methods to develop through research, and disseminate through teaching and writing, knowledge concerning social welfare problems and professional social work practice. Professional social work practice includes direct service with clients, the organization and management of service delivery systems, and the formulation and analysis of social welfare policies.

Drawing upon the social, behavioral and health sciences as well as social work knowledge and experience, the graduates of this program will have the skills to expand the base of tested knowledge that can guide the profession of social work in its efforts to address major social problems.

A second purpose is to develop leaders and educators who can effectively contribute to contemporary social work practice as defined in this school's mission statement.

The core of this program is education for scholarly research leading to careers as teachers, researchers, and policy analysts with a focus on the content areas of health, mental health, and substance abuse. The strength of such a program lies in its location within the Health Sciences Center. This is a natural setting in which to bring together the basic sciences and theoretical disciplines in applied policy/program analysis and thereby contribute to research in the social dimensions of health and mental health.

Program Structure and Content
The structure of this program consists of 12 required classroom courses (36 credits) as follows:

- Statistics I and II
- Research Methods I and II
- Qualitative Research
- Social Welfare Policy Analysis I and II
- Social Welfare Administration
- Knowledge Building in Social Work: The Philosophy of Applied Social Research
- Theories of Social Work Intervention
- Seminar and Teaching Practicum in Social Work Education
- Dissertation Seminar I and II

Also required are three electives (9 credits), a research practicum of 10 hours per week for two semesters under mentorship (6 credits), an integrative paper, and the production and defense of a scholarly dissertation. Fifty four credits are required for graduation. In the first three years, students take three courses each semester. The full-time program is designed to be completed in a minimum of four years. The scholarly research paper of publication quality is required at the end of the fourth semester.

Once all coursework and the integrative paper are completed successfully, students select a preliminary dissertation chair and committee and develop an approved dissertation proposal. The student is then advanced to candidacy and begins dissertation research. The fourth year is spent on completion of the dissertation and defense.

The Part-Time Option
Students who are approved for the part-time option take a minimum of six credits each semester until the 54 credit sequence has been completed. In order to meet residence requirements, they must take nine credits in each of two consecutive semesters. Part-time students prepare their integrative paper at the end of the semester when 36 credits of required course work are completed (usually the second semester of the third year).
At the end of the third year, once all coursework and the integrative paper are completed successfully, part-time students select a dissertation chair and committee. In the fourth year, they develop an approved dissertation proposal. They are then advanced to candidacy. Dissertation research begins in the fifth year.

Admission requirements of the Social Welfare Department

Newly admitted students may begin classes during the fall semester only. Applications for admission for the following fall should be received by February 1.

Admission requirements include:

A) A master’s degree from a program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education
B) Academic promise as evidenced by superior achievement in undergraduate and master’s level education
C) Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination
D) A personal interview
E) Professional competence as demonstrated through substantial experience in responsible social work and/or human services positions supported by three letters of reference including one, if possible, from someone familiar with the applicant’s capacity to conduct research
F) A sample of writing in the form of a published article, a manuscript submitted for publication, a document completed for the applicant’s agency or in connection with a research interest, or a paper prepared in your previous graduate studies
G) Personal qualities indicating a potential for leadership, compatibility with the School’s mission statement, flexibility and openness to new ideas, maturity, a spirit of inquiry, and a commitment to furthering the knowledge base of the profession of social work
H) Competence in quantitative skills as evidenced by performance on the Graduate Record Exam and a college level course in statistics completed with a grade of B or better

Under special circumstances, applications from persons who do not meet all of these requirements will be considered. Applicants without the M.S.W. degree must have a master’s degree in a closely related field and must demonstrate a high potential for success in the program.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

A) One year in residence
B) Satisfactory completion of all required and elective courses (54 credits)
C) Satisfactory completion of research and teaching practicum
D) Satisfactory performance on the integrative paper
E) Advancement to candidacy by vote of the doctoral committee upon successful completion of all course work and the integrative paper
F) Completion of a dissertation
G) Successful defense of the dissertation

A program summary booklet is available describing the Ph.D. program in detail, its curriculum and requirements for admission. To receive a copy of this booklet, contact the School of Social Welfare’s Ph.D. program office in writing or by telephone at (631) 444-8361.

Faculty of the Social Welfare Department

Professors
Blau, Joel, Director of the Ph.D. Program. D.S.W., Columbia University: Social policy; history of social welfare; poverty; homelessness; the political economy of social welfare; comparative social welfare.
Brisbane, Frances, Dean, Ph.D., Union Graduate School: Alcoholism; counseling with people of color; complementary medicine.
Farberman, Harvey A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota: Philosophy of social work; public mental health services; research.
Lurie, Abraham, Ph.D., New York University: Mental health; case management; the aged.

Associate Professors
Lewis, Michael A., Ph.D., City University of New York Graduate Center: Poverty and social policy; the application of sociology; economics; and moral philosophy to the examination of social policy and social programs.
Monahan, Kathleen, D.S.W., Adelphi University: Siblings and sexual abuse; battered women; domestic violence; disability.
Robbins, Charles, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, D.S.W., Yeshiva University: Violence in intimate relationships and as public health problem; health-care policy; social work and health care; the use of complementary medicine.

Assistant Professors
Linden, Pamela, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Juvenile justice; mental health: identity theory; research; program evaluation; proposal writing.
Velázquez, Suzanne, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Cultural competency; leadership; non-profit administration; higher education policy; program development and evaluation.

Clinical Associate Professors
Farrington, Jack, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University. Community health orientation; advocacy; human rights for Long Island teenagers and domestic violence.
Finch, Jeanne Bertrand, Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Program, D.S.W., Columbia University. Child welfare; social work practice, drug involved women and their children; clinical practice with children in foster care; qualitative research; and quality assurance within non-profit organizations.

Clinical Assistant Professors
Bacon, Jean, Ph.D., University of South Carolina: Death and dying; ethnic sensitive practice; AIDS; child welfare; qualitative methods; mental health; student-community development; women’s studies.
Leung, Rose, Psy.D., Biola University. Community psychology; community mental health; psychosocial models of intervention; Asian-American communities’ needs and assessments; racial/cultural sensitivity training and education.
Morgan, Richard, Ph.D., Fordham University: Child welfare policy and programs; child sexual abuse and juvenile sex offenders; research.
Murphy, Bertha, M.S.W., Stony Brook University: Substance abuse and ethnically sensitive practice.
Peabody, Carolyn, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Advocacy/empowerment theory and practice; feminist theory and practice; mental health; lesbian and gay issues; development of political identity among oppressed populations; impact of sexual abuse histories among mental health populations.
Wrase, Betty Jean, M.S.W., Director of Field Education, Stony Brook University: Program Evaluation; social welfare administration; case management and health.

Lecturers
Adams, Gloria, Coordinator, Faith-Based Community Partnerships, D. Min., Hartford Seminary. Spirituality and religion in social work.
Colon, John, Lecturer; M.A., Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. Substance abuse; methadone treatment; inner-city community-based organizations; grant reviewer for SAMSHA.

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.