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 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, which can be found at: socialwelfare.stonybrookmedicine.edu/mission.

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
- Social Science Theory for Social Welfare
- 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), a comprehensive exam 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.

Once all coursework and the comprehensive exam have been 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. However, in order to meet residence requirements, they must take nine credits in each of two consecutive semesters during the program. Part-time students take their comprehensive exam at the end of the semester when 36 credits of required course work are completed (usually the second semester of the third year). Once all coursework and the comprehensive exam 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) Applicant has distinct interest in policy, research, and theory with regard to social welfare

H) 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

I) 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 in Social Welfare

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 comprehensive exam

E) Advancement to candidacy by vote of the doctoral committee upon successful completion of all course work and the comprehensive exam

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; aging and trauma.

Associate Professors
Fineberg, Iris Cohen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Ph.D. Boston University: Palliative and end of life care, oncology, advance care planning, family-oriented health care, interdisciplinary education and teamwork, qualitative research methods, mixed methods, evaluation.

Monahan, Kathleen, Associate Dean and Director of the Family Violence Education and Research Center; D.S.W., Adelphi University: Siblings and sexual abuse; battered women; domestic violence; disability.

Robbins, Charles L., Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges, Stony Brook University; D.S.W. Yeshiva University: health; violence, and ethics; social justice; gender issues.

Assistant Professors

Hayward, R. Anna, Ph.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore: Child welfare, undocumented immigrant children, family-centered practice, research, program evaluation, environmental social work.

Velázquez, Suzanne, Director of the Undergraduate Program, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Community Development, service-learning, cultural competency, leadership, transformative learning, higher education policy, organizational culture management, women's life work issues.

Clinical Associate Professors

Farrington, Jack, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University. Community health orientation; advocacy; human rights for Long Island teenagers and domestic violence.

Peabody, Carolyn, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Critical Social Work Theory, Community Organizing & Development, Advocacy/empowerment theory and practice; feminist theory and practice; lesbian and gay issues; development of political identity among oppressed populations.

Clinical Assistant Professors


Morgan, Richard, Ph.D., Fordham University: Child welfare policy and programs; child sexual abuse and juvenile sex offenders; research.


Pilgrim, Dina. LMSW, New York University: Child welfare, children with developmental and learning disabilities, intimate partner domestic violence, forensic social work, social work field instruction and advisement.

Spence, Hyacinth., M.S.W., Fordham University: Mental health, cultural competency, youth, aging.

Wrase, Betty Jean, Director of Field Education, M.S.W., Stony Brook University: Program evaluation; social welfare administration, case management and health.

Lecturers

Colon, John, Lecturer; M.A., Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. Substance abuse; methadone treatment; inner-city community-based organizations; grant reviewer for SAMSHA.

Leslie Kulewicz, M.S.W., Stony Brook University: Field education, supervision; communication, parenting and empowerment in clinical work with individuals and families.

Clinical Instructor

Coverdale, Christopher; J.D., Columbia Law School: Social change, law, spirituality, comparative religion, psychology of change, sociology, anthropology, neurobiology, ethno botany, holistic health.

Affiliated Faculty

Diana Filiano, D.S.W., Adelphi University: Director, Child Welfare Training Program, Stony Brook University; social work practice; child welfare, family violence; program development and evaluation.

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