MSW Advanced Concentrations

MACRO Concentration

The M.A.C.R.O. (M-Management Efficiency & Leadership Development, A-Advocacy & Empowerment, C-Community Building & Collaboration, R-Resource Development, and O-Outcome Evaluation & Improvement Systems) concentration provides students with courses and related experiences which disseminate and develop the knowledge, values, sensitivities, and skills for macro practice. MACRO practice is increasingly important in today’s human service environment. For example, in today’s information age, human services management is increasingly multi-dimensional and data-driven. To address rapid and dramatic policy change, effective management must include collaborative skills for visionary leadership. Because social work is a human rights profession, practitioners are called to develop the skills that will allow them to engage in deeper levels of structural analysis of social systems, facilitate citizen and community participation, build coalitions and engage in sustainable community development.

The MACRO concentration prepares students for planning, implementation and evaluation of services at the organizational, systems and policy levels of change. It also prepares students to analyze complex social problems, identify community assets, and build and mobilize neighborhoods in collaboration with diverse partners. Graduates assume positions in program strategic planning, clinical management and nonprofit executive leadership, research/program evaluation, staff development and training, resource development (fundraising, grant writing, and marketing), community organizing within local, municipal and state entities, social policy advocacy and social entrepreneurship.

The MACRO concentration requires students to complete four core courses and one of several courses designed as advanced MACRO. Students must also complete an advanced policy course of their choice and an elective course. Electives may be chosen from any courses classified as an advanced MACRO, advanced clinical practice, advanced policy or a graduate course from another academic department. The advanced concentration field practicum would be MACRO.

Clinical Concentration

In the Clinical concentration, students acquire advanced and specialized knowledge of human behavior, social systems, and therapeutic intervention processes that will aid them in assisting clients at the individual, group, family or community levels. Students may focus their study in a number of diverse fields, such as child and family services, mental health, healthcare and aging.

Graduates who specialize in clinical social work are employed in many types of settings. The majority have jobs in mental health, health care, family service, and child welfare agencies. A substantial number of graduates work in school systems, aging and alcohol/substance abuse programs. Clinical social workers help people identify and resolve psychosocial problems, treat mental and behavioral health disorders, and work to address disparities in care and minimize/eliminate social injustice to vulnerable populations. Clinical social workers use a wide variety of helping methods, including almost the entire range of approaches to individual, family, and group counseling and various methods of bringing about change in clients’ environments. However, their special focus is on helping people to effect change in both themselves and in their situations. Clinical social workers frequently take on supervisory responsibilities within a few years of graduation, often in combination with continued clinical practice. Many eventually assume managerial positions in service programs and agencies.

Clinical concentration requires students to complete three advanced practice courses. Students must also complete an advanced policy course, one course in evaluation of clinical practice, and an advanced field practicum in the Clinical concentration.