

MSW Advanced Concentrations

MACRO Concentration

The MACRO Concentration is a new program concentration in the School of Social Welfare curriculum. It provides students with courses and related experiences which disseminate and develop the knowledge, values, sensitivities, and skills for macro practice. The School of Social Welfare faculty developed this new concentration because employers, alumni and students encouraged them to do so. It is needed because today's human service environment presents new demands which require new and integrative competencies. For example, in today's information age environment, human services management is increasingly multi-dimensional and data-driven. Additionally, with rapid, dramatic policy change, effective management must include collaborative leadership.

The new MACRO Concentration intends to prepare managers, leaders, and expert practitioners who are able to meet and anticipate changing demands. Graduates will assume positions such as program planners, Clinical manager/program director, researcher/program evaluator, staff development and training, resource developer (fundraising, grant writing, and marketing), and community organizer/community developer.

The new 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 Practice, Advanced Policy, an Elective, or a graduate courses in another department.

Clinical Concentration

In the Clinical Concentration; students acquire advanced and specialized knowledge of human behavior, social systems, and intervention processes that will aid them in assisting clients at the individual, group, family, or community levels. Students may focus their study in such fields as child and family services, mental health, healthcare, or aging or they may take courses in diverse fields. All Clinical Concentration students must take three Advanced Practice courses, on Advanced Policy course, one course in evaluation of clinical practice, and an advanced field practicum in the Clinical Concentration.

Graduate social workers who specialized 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, although substantial numbers work in school systems, services to the aged, and alcohol/substance abuse programs. Their primary function is to help people identify and resolve psychosocial problems, principally difficulties in family and interpersonal relations, emotional distress, abuse of alcohol and drugs, dysfunctional performance at school or work, and concerns relating to physical and mental illness.

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.