

SOCIAL WORK, D.S.W.

Mission Statement of the DSW Program

The DSW Program at The University of Alabama is designed to increase specialization, independence, and leadership of social workers across systems and agencies in underserved communities. The program prepares advanced practitioners to lead efforts in promoting social and economic justice through service, advocacy, teaching and research.

Curriculum

The DSW program can be completed in three years and consists of 45 credit hours of coursework. Students will choose a track in clinical or organizational leadership. The clinical track includes coursework in advanced practice theory and techniques, research methods and clinical supervision and practice. The organizational leadership track curriculum hones students' leadership and management skills for organizational and community settings. Both tracks include courses on teaching social work.

The Goals of the DSW Program

The DSW Program has several goals:

- To provide a rich, supportive environment that enables a diverse group of students to pursue and attain their academic, professional, clinical and/or leadership goals.
- To prepare students to integrate theory, evidence, and critical thought to develop innovative solutions for complex challenging issues experienced by agencies and populations at the local, regional, national, and/or global levels.
- To prepare graduates to be innovative and successful educators of future social workers.
- To prepare practitioners to use social work research methodologies to evaluate practice and translate evidence-based interventions into practice settings.
- To prepare advanced practitioner-scholars to incorporate theory, research, practice, and policy to contribute to existing knowledge on social work practice and advance social justice.
- To develop stewards of the social work profession within interprofessional settings who apply and enforce ethical standards and address ethical dilemmas in health and social service systems.
- To prepare advanced social workers to be effective and ethical managers within clinical, administrative, and/or community settings.
- To prepare students to communicate evidence-based social work knowledge through teaching, scholarship, and professional writing.

Curriculum

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DSW Core Courses		Hours
SW 700	Adv Theories on Oppression	3
SW 701	Research for Practice I	3
SW 702	Research for Practice II	3
SW 705	Adv Advocacy Policy Practice	3

SW 706	Teaching Social Work Practice	3
SW 750	Intro to Capstone Project	1
SW 751	Capstone Prep Ind Study	2
SW 799	Capstone Project	9

Specializations:

Students must complete a concentration in either Advanced Clinical Practice or Organizational Leadership.

Comprehensive Exams:

Upon completion of the first semester of the specialization coursework (2nd year), students will take comprehensive exams. The exams will cover either of the specialization focus areas (Advanced Clinical Practice OR Social Work Administration and Organizational Leadership). Exams will be offered during the fall semester.

Capstone Project:

All students will be required to complete a Capstone Project in order to fulfill graduation requirements for the DSW Degree. The Capstone Project will consist of three parts: 1) a proposal, 2) proposal defense and a 3) final project defense.

The Capstone Project Proposal

Students will start the Capstone Project Proposal in the fall semester of the second year in the Introduction to the Capstone Project Course (1 credit hour). Students will complete the Capstone Proposal in the Course in the Capstone Proposal Course (2 hours) during the summer of the second year. Students must successfully defend the Capstone Proposal in order to register for Capstone Project hours.

The Capstone Project

All students will be required to complete a Capstone Project in order to fulfill graduation requirements for the DSW Degree. Students must register for at least 9 Capstone Project Credit hours. Students must successfully defend the Capstone Project in order to fulfill the D.S.W. Degree requirements.

Advanced Clinical Practice Concentration		Hours
SW 703	Neuroscience in Clinical Pract	3
SW 720	Clinical Supervision Ethics	3
SW 721	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	3
SW 722	Assess Diagn Clin Prct	3
SW 723	Complementary & Alt Therapies	3
SW 724	Social Work and Emotion Trauma	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18

DSW Core (see above)	27
Total Hours	45

Organizational Leadership concentration		Hours
SW 704	Org Leadership Theory Practice	3
SW 730	Lead Org Change	3
SW 731	Lead Human Serv Dev	3
SW 732	Ethics Comm Org Lead	3
SW 733	Human Serv Finance Budgeting	3
SW 734	Hum Res Mgt Health Pub Nonprof	3

	Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
DSW Core (see above)		27
Total Hours		45

Program Orientation

Prior to the start of the program all students are required to attend a one-day, on-campus orientation. This unique opportunity allows students to meet faculty and network with other DSW students. Students who do not attend orientation may be administratively withdrawn from the program.

Campus Visit requirements

Students are required to come to UA's main campus in Tuscaloosa four to five days each summer - in years one and two for residencies and in year three to present their capstone project.

Practice Location

The majority of courses require students to apply the concepts they've learned to a social work setting. Students must be working or volunteering in a professional setting that will allow the student the ability to apply coursework for the duration of the program.

Technology

Courses are offered online. Students are required to have access to a computer with a high-speed internet connection

Faculty

Interim Dean

Dr. Reid, Lesley

Associate Deans

Dr. Cain, Daphne

Dr. Williams, Javonda

Dr. Lee, Hee Yun

Program Directors

Curington, Allison

Dr. Jackson, Sebrena

Dr. Nelson-Gardell, Debra

Dr. Traylor, Amy

Dr. Ruggiano, Nicole

Field Education

Curington, Allison

Gibson, Kimberly

Smith, Shayla

Turner, Carrie

Professors

Csikai, Ellen

Corcoran, Kevin

Lee, Hee Yun

Associate professors

Alameda-Lawson, Tania

Albright, David

Hopson, Laura

Nelson-Gardell, Debra

Noh, Hyunjin

Pryce, Josephine G.

Simon, Cassandra E.

Smith, Brenda D.

Ruggiano, Nicole

Assistant professors

Bennett, Daniel Jr.

Carlson, Catherine

Cheatham, Leah

Green, Sha-Rhonda

Jackson, Sebrena M.

Lewis, Lee

Johnson, Karen

McKinney, Robert Jr.

Shah, Avani

Simpson, Gaynell M.

Starks, Karen

Instructors

Phelps, Carroll

Payne, Nancy

Swails, Peggy

Welker, Kathleen

Wilkes, Sherron

Professors emeriti

Adams, James P. Jr.

Crow, Richard T.

Crunk, Phillip E.

Kaufmann, Alan B.

Kosberg, Jordan I.

Associate professors emeriti

Eure, Gerald K.

Sumrall, Raymond O.

Assistant Professor emeritus

Bell, Roy F.

Professor emerita

Roff, Lucinda L.

Associate Professor emerita

Mueller, Thelma V.

Raymond, Ginny

Assistant professors emeritae

Shelton, Sharon C.

McClain, Shirley B.