

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Social Work is to provide quality social work education to undergraduate and graduate students and to advance knowledge through study, practice, and research.

- ◆ The purpose of undergraduate education is to prepare students to work in BSW level agency-based social work positions and to enter graduate social work programs.
- ◆ The purpose of graduate education is to prepare students for direct clinical practice at generalist and advanced levels.

The Department is committed to:

- ◆ Educating social workers to be effective practitioners and leaders in the public and private sectors.
- ◆ Preparing social workers to promote economic and social justice and human rights through policy practice.
- ◆ Preparing social workers to evaluate their practice and be an informed consumer of research and scholarship.
- ◆ Creating and strengthening community partnerships to further the Department and university's shared commitments to scholarship, professional preparation and advocacy.

ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) develops standards by which social work programs are evaluated for accreditation. These standards pertain to the organization, administration, and curriculum. The Master of Social Work degree program at SCSU has been fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education through 2014, and has been since 1984. In 1997 the social work program was awarded Distinctive Status by the University.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The regular Master of Social Work degree program is a 60 credit, two or three year program that includes class work, seminars, and field practicum experiences. Of the 60 credits, 42 are devoted to courses and seminars and 18 credits are allocated for field education. The Advanced Standing program is approximately 39 credits in which some or all of the foundation level courses have been waived for students who have completed an accredited BSW degree.

The Foundation, Concentration and Specialization Curriculum

Foundation Curriculum

The primary purpose of the foundation curriculum is to provide a solid knowledge base to build upon. An ecological/life model perspective, emphasizing the transactional, reciprocal nature of person in environment serves as an organizing framework for the development of the student practitioner is achieved by the continuous evolution of the curriculum. The foundation curriculum emphasizes the development of both analytical and interaction skills designed to address a broad range of problems, issues and human needs.

The aim of the foundation curriculum is the acquisition of knowledge and skill related to a range of professional roles and interventions. The curriculum emphasizes the value base of the profession and ethical responsibilities for professional practice. These aims are achieved through content on the history and philosophy of the social welfare and its related policies and service delivery systems. Behavioral perspectives and theories are employed to emphasize individuals and collective human groups, as well as organizational capacities rather than their deficits. The foundation curriculum also focuses on practice principles that support core social work values. Supervised field practice experiences offers students the opportunity to integrate knowledge and skills and demonstrate ethical practice.

The foundation curriculum prepares students to work with clients from diverse age, racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, physically challenged and immigration status backgrounds. Patterns and consequences of social oppression that impact on people of color, the poor, women, Gays and Lesbians and other vulnerable populations are critically examined.

Clinical Concentration

The Department of Social Work offers one concentration in *Clinical Practice*. The educational goals of these concentrations are consistent with the Mission of the Department. The curriculum for the Clinical Practice Concentration is designed to prepare students with advanced knowledge and skills to implement a range of professional roles and interventions in working directly with, and on behalf of individuals, families, groups, and organizations.

Specializations

There are four areas of specialization offered within the two concentrations. These areas are: *Children and Families, Co-occurring Disorders (Mental Health and Substance Abuse), Elders and Families, and School Social Work.*

Working closely with a faculty advisor, the selection of concentration and specialization are made during the first year of the program.

You may reference the Graduate Catalogue for a complete list of course offerings. The catalogue may be obtained through the Graduate Office (203-392-5240).

We encourage students to complete the program in two (2) years. For students who work full-time, we offer an extended plan of study for 3 years. Two or three year programs are also available for Advanced Standing Applicants. ***All students must complete their course of study within four years.** Although course schedules are developed to meet the generalized needs of the contemporary adult student, it may not always be possible to adjust a schedule to meet the demands of a student's employment and/or other responsibilities.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Advanced Standing Program

Special Note: Applicants for the Advanced Standing Program are strongly advised not to engage in full time employment while completing this program. It requires the student to make a commitment to a more rigorous and time intensive course of study.

This program is designed for individuals who have earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW) from a Council on Social Work Education accredited Social Work program within the last six years. (Courses older than six years will not be accepted by the School of Graduate Studies.) The review process for acceptance into the Advanced Standing Program occurs after the applicant has been accepted into our MSW Program. However, applicants for the Advanced Standing Program are required to file applications no later than the deadline for submitting all regular application materials.

Students applying for Advanced Standing must provide:

- ❖ All of the application materials for entry into the MSW program
- ❖ Application for Advanced Standing
- ❖ Field evaluation for senior year of their Bachelor of Social Work Program.
- ❖ Third letter of recommendation (from faculty advisor or field seminar instructor)

- ❖ Include a course description of each *practice methods course that appears on your official transcript.

*An acceptable practice methods course description is one that clearly describes the teaching and application of clinical methods of assessment, intervention, and evaluation with individuals, families, and/or larger ecological systems.

- ❖ If approved for Advanced Standing, the following courses after evaluation may be waived: SWK510, SWK550, SWK532, SWK533, SWK534, SWK570, and SWK571.
- ◆ The Social Work Department's application should be completed and submitted online.
- ◆ If the applicant is accepted into the MSW Program, his/her application for Advanced Standing is then forwarded to the Coordinator of the M.S.W. Program for a review of transcripts and previous internship experiences in order to determine the courses and credits that may be waived.
- ◆ The Department allows for the waiver of up to 21 credits for Advanced Standing students. A student eligible for all waivers is therefore required to complete 39 credits for the M.S.W. degree. Credit will be granted for foundation level courses if undergraduate grades in similar courses are "B" or better. To receive credit for field practice, grades must be "A-" or better. In addition, previous evaluations are reviewed to determine whether or not undergraduate field assignments provided opportunities for direct practice with clients. Students who are given credit for undergraduate field practice are eligible to do one field placement instead of two. This field placement is for 800 hours rather than 1100 hours required of non B.S.W. students. The placement runs from the beginning of September to the end of May. Once this review is completed, the Coordinator will notify the student regarding the number of credits waived.

Advanced Standing Options

BSW students who receive the maximum credit waiver (24 credits) are required to complete 39 credits to complete the MSW Program. This program of study can be completed in two years. These students can choose from the following options:

3 Year Advanced Standing Option

Advanced Standing students who cannot complete the program in two years can choose a 3 year extended plan of advanced standing study. It is important to keep in mind that the internship, whenever it is taken, requires a heavy commitment and precludes working full-time during the internship.

FIELD EDUCATION (INTERNSHIP) INFORMATION

The Field Work Department is responsible for evaluating all current and potential agencies and is responsible for matching students with approved agencies. In this role, it assesses, with faculty, the needs and capacities of each student, counsels students in their choice of placements, and orients students to field practice. Fieldwork placements are made after acceptance into the MSW program in consultation with the Field Education Office.

The field education sequence requires the MSW student to complete two academic years (four semesters) of fieldwork experience concurrent with classroom learning. Students must complete two field placements in two different field agencies. Fieldwork starts in the fall semester only. The first and second fieldwork assignments have different educational objectives and take place at different agencies:

SWK 570/571 3 credits, per semester. Fieldwork practice consists of two days per week in the first semester, and three days per week in the second for a minimum of **500 hours** for the year. In addition there is a 1.5 hour weekly seminar.

SWK 572/573 6 credits, per semester. Fieldwork practice consists of three days per week for two semesters, for a minimum of **600 hours** for the year. In addition, there is a 1.5 hour weekly seminar.

Although geographical considerations are a part of the placement planning process, students must be willing to travel to field assignments within a 50 mile radius of their homes.

The student may apply to use his/her place of employment for one placement. The faculty reviews requests for use of place of employment and will make a decision based upon educational and field work placement criteria.



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION GUIDE

Categories of Graduate Students

Matriculated students are considered to be those individuals who have met all the requirements of the School of Graduate Studies and the MSW Program, and have received a letter of acceptance from the Office of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies with a copy of their planned program of graduate studies.

Students who have not been officially accepted into the graduate program are considered to be non-matriculated students. Non-matriculated students may take up to three graduate level social work courses (up to nine credits). However, non-matriculated students cannot take more than two courses per semester. The courses open to non-matriculated students interested in social work are as follows:

SWK 510 –Social Policies and Delivery Systems (3 credits)

SWK 550 –Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)

SWK 551 – Diversity, Oppression, and Social Functioning (3 credits)

*** Please note: if you intend to apply for our Advanced Standing option, contact the MSW Admissions Office at (203) 392-6624 before registering for any of the above non-matriculated courses. One or more of the above courses may be waived if you apply for Advanced Standing.**

Financial Aid Information

Limited financial aid resources are available to incoming MSW students. Applicants may contact the University Financial Aid Office at (203) 392-5222 to obtain information on available student loans, work study programs and grants.

Graduate assistant positions are available each year in the Department of Social Work. **Those interested in applying for these positions should direct their inquiries to Dr. Todd Rofuth at (203) 392-6557, Chairperson of the Department of Social Work, after acceptance into the MSW Program.**

Often employers will offer stipends or tuition reimbursement. Inquire at your place of

employment. If applying for financial aid, you may wish to contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine if University sponsored work study opportunities are available. You can reach this office at (203) 392-5222.

SPECIAL NOTE:

The Department of Social Work's Office of MSW Admissions **is not** involved in financial aid matters. Therefore, questions about either the types of financial aid package that you may be eligible for, or how to apply for financial aid programs must be directed to the Office of Financial Aid at (203) 392-5222.

Housing

Information about housing can be obtained by calling the SCSU Housing Office at 392-5870. Graduate student housing is available on a limited basis.



Licensure Eligibility

Effective October 1, 1995, social workers in Connecticut who meet eligibility requirements may apply for licensure. You can contact the Connecticut State Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7567 for more information.

Life and Work Experience Credit

No transfer credit or course waivers are granted for life experience or previous work experience.

This policy is in compliance with University transfer credit policies and with our accreditation agency. **No exceptions are granted.**

Non-Discrimination Policy

Southern Connecticut State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual preference, disability, color, or national origin in admission to, access to, employment in and treatment in its programs and activities. Furthermore, the University does not discriminate on the basis of gender or disability, as such discrimination is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 and 34 C.F.R. Part 104 respectively.

Inquiries concerning Southern Connecticut State University's non-discrimination policy may be

directed to:

Director of Affirmative Action
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06515
Telephone: (203) 392-5491

Residence Status

Students admitted to the University are classified as Connecticut residents or out-of-state residents according to Connecticut statute and the policies of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System. International students on visas are considered out-of-state residents.

Whenever the University deems it necessary, the student may be requested to submit an affidavit to certify residence status in accordance with regulations established by the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System. The failure of a student to disclose fully and accurately all facts related to residence status shall be grounds for dismissal from the Graduate School.

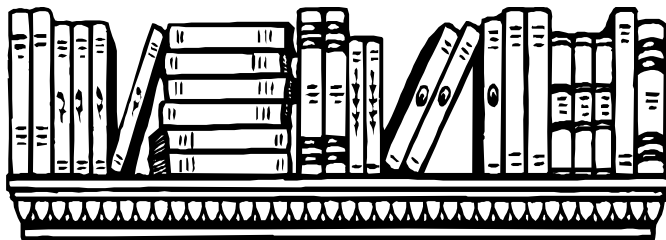
A student classified as an out-of-state resident, who feels that he or she qualifies as a bonafide resident of Connecticut, may request a change of classification from the Registrar. Procedures on changing residence status can be obtained from the Records Office, Wintergreen Building.

Transfer Credits

Courses presented for transfer credit must be graduate level courses and completed with a grade of "B+" or better in the field practicum and a grade of "B" or better in academic courses from an accredited graduate social work program and have a recommendation from the senior field advisor. A candidate may apply to the MSW Program Coordinator for transfer credit after acceptance into the program and upon presentation of course syllabus.

The University will not grant transfer credit for graduate courses that:

- (a) were not completed within the past six years,
- OR
- (b) were already applied to another awarded graduate degree.



FACULTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

ROFUTH, TODD, *Chairperson, Professor*; B.A., M.S.W., University of Minnesota; D.S.W., University of Pennsylvania.

BROCE, ROBERT, Assistant Professor, B.S., M.S.W., Brigham Young University; L.C.S.W.

CAMERON, MARK, Associate Professor, B.A., Princeton University, M.S.W., Columbia University, Ph.D., Columbia University

COLON, EDGAR, *Professor*; B.S., College of Staten Island; M.S.W., Columbia University, D.S.W., The City University of New York Graduate Center, Hunter College; A.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.

DRIPCHAK, VALERIE, *Associate Professor*; B.A., M.A., Six Year Southern Connecticut State University; M.S.W., Fordham University; Ph.D., Fordham University; A.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.

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KEENAN, ELIZABETH, *Associate Professor*; B.A., College of St. Benedict; M.S.W., Loyola University Chicago; Ph.D., Smith College School for Social Work; L.C.S.W.

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SCHNEIDER, DANA, *Assistant Professor*; B.A., Bowdoin College; MSW, Smith College; Ph.D., Smith College; L.C.S.W.

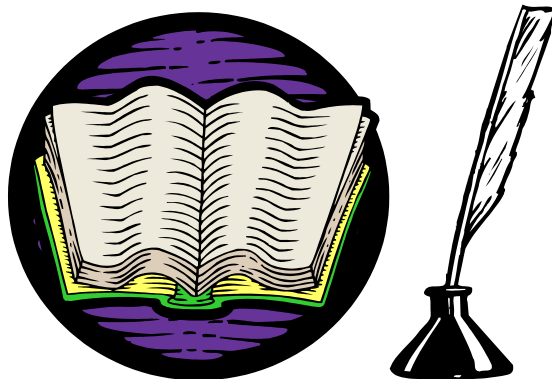
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TOMCZAK, STEPHEN MONROE, *Assistant Professor*; B.S. Southern Connecticut State University; M.S.W., University of Connecticut School of Social Work; Ph.D., Brandeis University

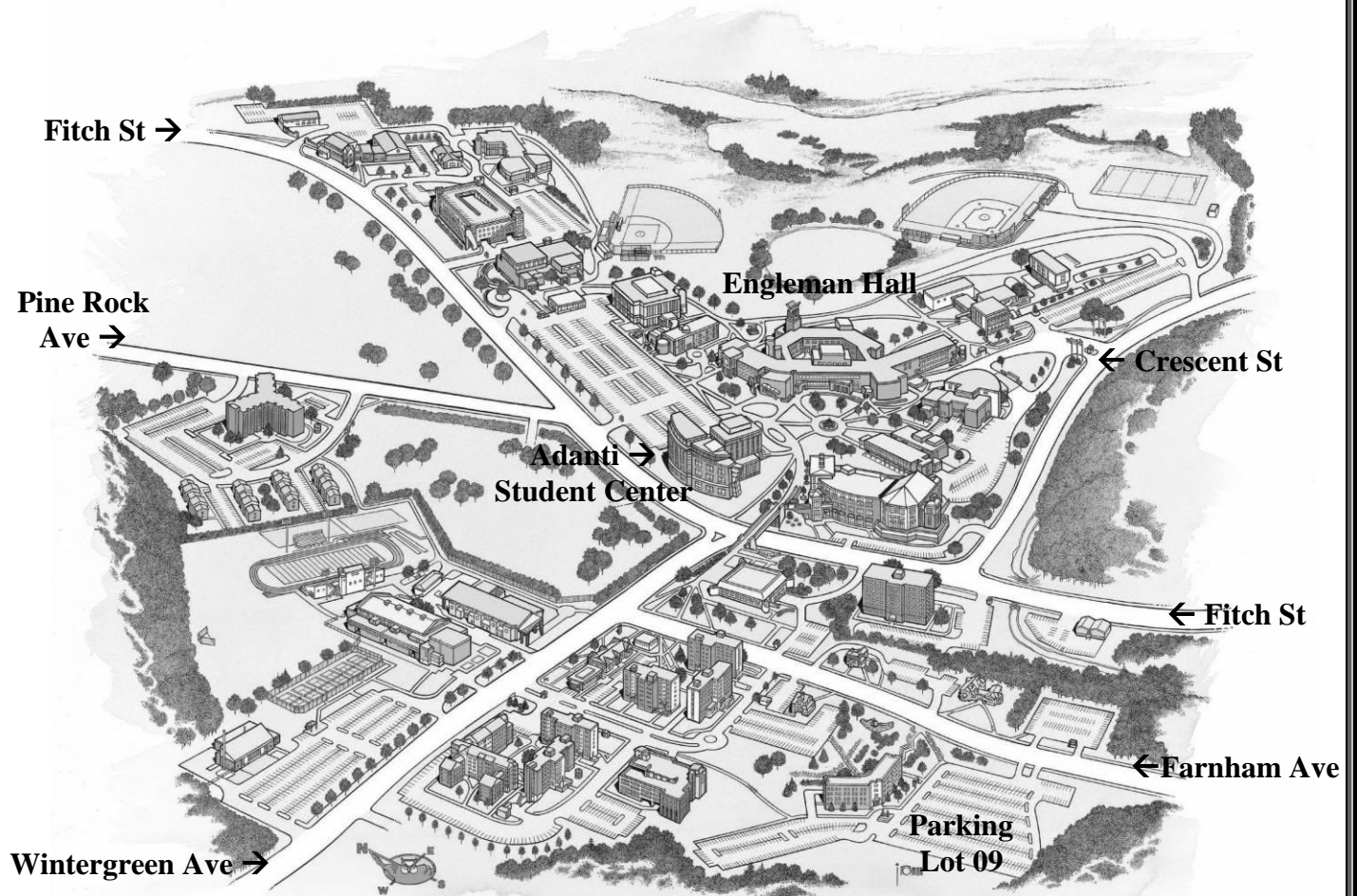
WORDEN, BARBARA, *Associate Professor*; B.A. Pennsylvania State University; M.S.W., University of Connecticut M.Ph., Ph.D. Columbia University; A.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.

DIRECTORY

DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK/MAIN OFFICE	392-6551
MSW ADMISSIONS OFFICE	392-6624
SOCIAL WORK/FIELD EDUCATION	392-6573
SCSU OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES	392-5240
SCSU FINANCIAL AID OFFICE	392-5222
RECORDS OFFICE (SCSU TRANSCRIPTS)	392-7278
SCSU REGISTRAR'S OFFICE	392-5301
SCSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR	392-6821
SCSU HOUSING OFFICE	392-5870
SCSU DISABILITY RESOURCES OFFICE	392-6828
SCSU VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICE	392-6822



CAMPUS MAP



The Department of Social Work is located at 101 Farnham Avenue, #21 on the website map. For additional information, visit the SCSU website at www.southernct.edu and first type Campus Map in the Search field (located on the top right-hand side of the webpage), then click the first link that comes up titled, "About Southern Directions and Maps".