School of Social Work

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Introduction

A School within the Faculty of Health and Social Development

Director's Office
John Graham, Director
The University of British Columbia
Okanagan Campus
3333 University Way
Arts Building, Room 360D
Kelowna, BC, V1V 1V7
Tel: 250.807.8738
Web: www.socialwork.ok.ubc.ca

The School of Social Work offers a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program, with two program tracks: Advanced One Year M.S.W. and Foundational Two Year M.S.W.

Mission of the M.S.W. Program

Both the Advanced One-Year and the Foundational Two-Year M.S.W. curricula focus on preparing students for professional practice with individuals, families, and groups. Graduates often enter jobs in mental health, substance abuse rehabilitation, child and adult protective services, hospitals and clinics, programs for the aging, and community service organizations.

Description of Clinical Social Work and the M.S.W. Program

Clinical social workers engage in relationally based interventions that include, but are not limited to, counselling and psychotherapy to restore, maintain and enhance the well-being of clients. Interventions responsive to all dimensions of diversity are guided by theory, best practices, and current evidence. These goals are further enhanced through advocacy, social action, and research. Clinicians also participate in community and policy interventions based on knowledge gained through their practice experience.

Our Master of Social Work program of study incorporates critical theory into social work assessment and intervention. Students develop a deeper understanding of the integration of individual, relational, structural and global factors that respect diversity, promote resilience, and strengthen capacity.


Master of Social Work Program

Information on the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program can be found under the College of Graduate Studies.

School of Social Work Policies
Practicum Placements

The School reserves the right to approve an agency or institution that provides placements for student practicums, and to change any placement assigned to a student. Students have the right to be informed in writing of the reasons for any change in placement. While the program accepts responsibility for providing a sufficient number of practicum opportunities to serve the needs of all registered students, a student may be required to withdraw from a practicum course if none of the available practicum agencies will accept that student. Practicum dates are established by the School and will be announced at the beginning of each term. Students are responsible for travel and other expenses related to the practicum.

Criminal Record Check

Either one or two community practicum placements are required to complete the course of study for all M.S.W. students. Placement in community agencies require students to complete a criminal record check. Therefore, a criminal records check is now a standard part of the School’s admission requirements.

Attendance

Attendance at practicum activities and the integrative seminar is required. Students are expected to notify the placement agency whenever practicum appointments cannot be kept, and to inform the course instructor as well.

Applicants are advised that students engage actively in laboratory practice, acting both as patient/client and as social worker in simulated situations.

Unethical or Unprofessional Behaviour

It is the responsibility of the student to read the British Columbia Association of Social Workers (http://www.bcasw.org) Code of Ethics and, therefore, to understand the standards by which unethical and unprofessional behaviour will be judged in the program.

Students who are deemed to have violated ethical standards with evidence of unprofessional behaviour must be notified by the Director, who will then either inform the student of the conditions under which they may resume coursework and/or the practicum, or recommend to the Dean termination from the program. Students will be informed in writing of the reason for the decision.

Personal Suitability for the Social Work Profession

Please see the policy on Personal Suitability for the Social Work Profession (http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/socialwork/documents/student.html).

Denial

Students may be denied the practicum experience if their preparatory work is considered unsatisfactory by the Director.

Required Withdrawal

Students may be required to withdraw from the practicum with a failing grade if their performance in the practicum or their practicum preparation is considered unsatisfactory by the Director.
Academic Staff

Professor

S. Wells, B.A. (Penn.), M.S.W., Ph.D. (S.Calif.)

Associate Professor

S. Chau, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W., Ph.D. (Tor.)
J. Gillespie, B.S.W., M.S.W., Ph.D. (Br.Col.)
R. Hole, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W., Ph.D. (Br.Col.)
M. Murphy, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W., Ph.D. (Brandeis)
B. Rasmussen, B.A., M.S.W., Ph.D. (Smith)
D. Sookraj, B.Sc., Crim.Dip., M.S.S.W., Ph.D. (Ohio.State)
E. Taylor, M.S.W. (Denver), Ph.D. (S.Calif.)

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