

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The School Social Work Program is certified by the Ohio Department of Education through the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services. The expected outcome of the program is the preparation of professional school social workers who can perform their unique role in conjunction with traditional educational and auxiliary professionals in the school system. This role encompasses the special knowledge and skills of school social workers, including: social work assessment and intervention with students and families; locating and utilizing community resources; and facilitating the development and implementation of school, family and community linkages. Graduates of the program provide a critical dimension to the shared goal of maximizing the educational experiences of students.

Program Requirements

The School Social Work Program is only open to students currently enrolled in the MSW Program. In addition to completing the basic requirements of the MSW Program, students must elect the Direct Practice concentration and the Children and Families specialized study area.

The MSW Program requires 18 quarter credit hours of electives. School Social Work students will use 15 of those 18 hours to complete five specific graduate-level courses. Two of these courses are offered by the School of Social Work and three are offered by the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services.

Field placements will be in public or chartered schools, where students will complete a minimum of 540 hours of supervised Direct Practice field experience (a full three quarters, plus 12 additional hours). Student performance will be evaluated by both the standard MSW field evaluation and the Special School Social Work Field Evaluation Addendum.

Students are also required to develop comprehensive portfolios. The portfolios will contain seven standard-specific reflective summaries, as well as corresponding classroom and field placement materials that document the successful completion of the program's requirements. This documentation includes specific course assignments, field evaluations, and grade reports. The portfolios are evaluated in a course taught by a school social worker during the student's final quarter of graduate study.

There are certain minimum grades and field performance ratings that School Social Work students must attain in order to qualify for certification. Background checks are required for field placements and for certification.

Contact

Enrollment is limited and a preliminary interview is required. For additional information, please contact Nancy Bostwick at 513-556-4621 or nancy.bostwick@uc.edu.