



**The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center**

CENTERSCOPE
Student Handbook

2003-2004

**THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
STUDENT SERVICES • FINANCIAL AID • EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
ACADEMIC PROCESS • POLICIES & GUIDELINES • RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
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INFORMATION FROM THE COLLEGES**



College of
SOCIAL WORK

Hugh H. Vaughn, Ed.D., Associate Dean/Director

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN/DIRECTOR

Social Work is a challenging profession offering a wide range of career opportunities. Social workers are trained to perform several different functions with their clients and in the community: (1) counselor, (2) mediator, (3) advocate, and (4) case manager. Social workers are needed in health/mental health programs, United Way agencies, schools, corporations, hospitals, and child welfare agencies. The field of social work is constantly changing to meet the needs of society, and social work students must learn to anticipate future problems and prepare to deal with them.

The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the atmosphere and stimulation to maximize your learning experiences while you are here. You will have opportunities to associate with students and faculty within a dynamic and future-oriented health science center.

We welcome you and stand ready to help you make the best use of your time here.

Hugh Vaughn, Ed.D.
Associate Dean/Director

LOCATION & ORGANIZATION

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work is a fully accredited two-year graduate professional school granting the Master of Science in Social Work degree. The College is a part of The University of Tennessee Knoxville campus and the Dean, Dr. Karen Sowers, is based in Knoxville. The College maintains a state-wide program with three campuses, Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. Each location has an associate dean who reports to the Dean; the Memphis campus Associate Dean is Dr. Hugh Vaughn. Enrollment in the total school is approximately 500, with about a third of this number in each location.

Although the College of Social Work is a part of the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus, the Memphis campus is located by formal agreement within the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and participates fully in many aspects of UTHSC campus life.

Social Work students have membership in the Student Government Association at UTHSC. The Memphis campus shares many facilities with UTHSC, including the library, Student Alumni Center, University Health Services, bookstore, student housing and on occasion, some classes.

The UTCSW students are a heterogeneous group in age, ethnicity and educational background ranging from a new B.S.W. degree to advanced degrees in other disciplines. Some have had no work experience and others have had responsible jobs for many years. Classroom teaching and assignments are frequently designed to utilize this diversity of life experience, so that students learn from one another and learn to value and respect differences.

THE PROGRAMS

In addition to the two year, four-semester program, the Memphis location has for years provided an extended study program for employed students who now make up approximately one-third of the student body. Students are able to complete the program in three years, while maintaining their employment for at least part of the time. To accommodate part-time employed students, many classes are taught at night.

ADVANCED PREPARATION

Social Work students, after completing required foundation courses, may elect to concentrate in either Clinical Social Work Practice or Management and Community Practice. They may also take elective courses in the fields of health/mental health, aging, child welfare, school social work, substance abuse, and women's issues.

FIELD PRACTICE

Students must have two field practice placements or internships which provide direct experience in social work practice. About 60% of all students have a field placement in a health care setting; in many of these placements they work as colleagues with UTHSC students. Other placements are in agencies in the fields of mental health, industry, child welfare, rehabilitation, mental retardation, school social work, substance abuse, AIDS, and teenage pregnancy.

SERVICES & REGULATIONS

ORIENTATION:

The first week of Fall Semester includes an orientation to the location, the various Health Science Center facilities and key personnel. Students learn about the college library, student health and mental health services, Student Alumni Center activities, UTHSC and location student government, and have pictures made for I.D. library cards. Orientation always includes a welcome from representatives of the UTHSC administration and presentations of varied programs and activities that are accessible to them.

PARKING:

Students may apply for parking space in UTHSC lots on the same basis as other students. The Parking Office is located at 45 N. Manassas. All UT parking lots and the parking garage can be used by students after 5:00 p.m. without charge, provided the student has the proper evening parking hangtag. There is no charge for this hangtag.

LIBRARY

Over the years a policy has been established at the request of social work students not to allow circulation of the social work journals; these remain in the library to ensure access by all students. Times for checking out and returning books on reserve may also vary, as requested by the student body. Students may also use the public libraries and have full check-out privileges at the University of Memphis Library.

FINANCIAL AID

In each location of the College of Social Work, a Financial Aid Officer has been appointed by the Dean to assist students in locating and applying for funds. In the Memphis location, Ms. Gertha Alexander, the Senior Recorder, acts as Financial Aid Officer. Information about various kinds of aid is provided each year to all students. As a matter of University Policy, all financial aid is awarded on the basis of need, and students must provide a financial statement if they apply for aid.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

An election of officers is held each Spring with additional representatives elected after the incoming first-year students arrive in the Fall. The president serves as representative to the UTHSC Student Government Association Executive Council. Students are also represented on faculty standing committees at the Location and College levels.

Tracy Harris
SGA President 2003-04

SOCIAL LIFE

The required activity fee entitles social work students to use all of the facilities of Wassell Randolph Student Alumni Center. Several parties and other social events are planned each year by the UTHSC Students Government Association, funded out of the activity fee. A party for new social work students is given each year early in Fall Semester by faculty and second year students. Other social events during the year are usually planned by students as student interest dictates. The activity fee also entitles students to use the Fitness Center facilities.

