

College Of Social Work

Theora Evans, Ph.D., MPH, MSW, Associate Dean/Associate Professor

Message from the Associate Dean	152	Field Practice.....	152
Structural Organization of the CSW and Memphis: The Memphis Campus.....	152	Services & Regulations.....	152
The Programs	152	Library.....	153
Advanced Preparation	152	Financial Aid.....	153
		Student Government	153
		Social Life	153

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

Social Work is a challenging profession offering a wide range of career opportunities. The following are representative of some of the roles that social worker practitioners assume: mental health clinicians, program planners, administrators, and researchers. Social workers are trained to work at multiple systems levels. Social workers are needed in health/mental health programs, community 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 learn to anticipate future problems and are prepared to manage the systems that impact our global community.

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing an atmosphere that maximizes learning experiences. Opportunities to interact with students and faculty abound within a dynamic health science center campus. We welcome you and stand ready to educate you and prepare you for practice in a complex and culturally diverse environment.

Theora Evans, Ph.D., MPH, MSW
Associate Dean, College of Social Work

STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CSW AND MEMPHIS: THE MEMPHIS CAMPUS

The University of Tennessee, College of Social Work (CSW) is a fully accredited graduate professional program granting the Master of Science in Social Work degree. The College in Memphis is a University of Tennessee Knoxville entity. The Dean of the CSW is Dr. Karen Sowers. Dean Sowers is based in Knoxville. The College maintains a state-wide presence with three campuses: Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. Each campus is managed by an associate dean. The statewide enrollment within the College totals approximately 500, with about a third of this number on each campus.

Although the CSW is a component of The University of Tennessee Knoxville system, the CSW Memphis campus is located by formal agreement within The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and participates fully in many aspects of campus life.

Social Work students have membership in the Student Government Association at UTHSC. The CSW 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 CSW 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 incoming students have no work experience while others have held social service-related positions for many years. Classroom teaching and assignments are frequently designed to utilize this diversity of life experiences, so that students learn from one another and learn to value and respect differences.

THE PROGRAMS

For eligible students, completion of the advanced standing MSSW curriculum can occur within 11 months. In addition to the advanced standing program of study; a two year, four-semester full-time program, is available to students without a BSW from an accredited undergraduate program. The Memphis campus also offers an extended study program for students (who now make up approximately one-third of the student body). Extended-study students are able to complete the program within three to four years. To accommodate extended-study students evening classes are offered.

The CSW has an interactive web-site www.csw.utk.edu. The "prospective students" link provides in-depth admissions, program information, all of which may be downloaded.

ADVANCED PREPARATION

Currently, the CSW offers two areas of concentration. Upon completion of required foundation courses, social Work students may elect to concentrate in either Clinical Social Work Practice or Management/Community Practice. Elective courses in the areas of health/mental health, social gerontology, child welfare, school social work, substance abuse, or advocacy are also offered.

FIELD PRACTICE

Students must have 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, child welfare, aging, school social work, juvenile justice substance abuse or administration/management/planning.

SERVICES & REGULATIONS

ORIENTATION:

Orientation is usually conducted during the week prior to the beginning summer and fall semesters. Students are introduced to the CSW Memphis campus facilities, current students, faculty, and staff. Orientation always includes a welcome from representatives of the UTHSC administration and presentations from student health and mental health services, library services, student government, Student Alumni Center activities and security.

PARKING:

All students who park in UTHSC parking lots and garages are required to secure a hang-tag for their vehicle and to pay parking fees. Social Work students who park in Garage E (adjacent to the General Education Building) prior to 5:00 PM with or without a hang-tag will be charged an additional fee. Vehicles parked in Garage E after 5:00 PM displaying a valid hang-tag are not accessed an additional fee. Vehicles parked in Garage E after 5:00 PM without a hang-tag on display will be accessed \$4.00 per evening. The UTHSC Parking Office (45 N. Manassas) distributes hang-tags.

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 checkout privileges at the University of Memphis Library.

FINANCIAL AID

On each campus 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. Ms. Gertha Alexander, the Senior Recorder, functions as Financial Aid Officer on the Memphis campus. On the Memphis campus, financial assistance information is provided to all students. As a matter of University policy, students must provide a financial statement because all aid is awarded on the basis of need.

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 Campus and College levels.

Priscilla Ashley Mitchem
SGA President 2007-08

SOCIAL LIFE

The required activity fee entitles social work students to use all of the facilities in the Wassell Randolph Student Alumni Center (fitness center, ice cream socials, movies etc.). Several parties and other social events are planned each year by the UTHSC Student Government Association, funded out of the activity fee. The social work SGA committee hosts a welcome luncheon for in-coming social work students. Other events (resume writing, brown bag lunch seminars, voter registration activities, Black History Month panel discussions, etc.) during the year are usually planned by the social work SGA committee as student interest dictates.

