

## Department of Social Work Education

### M.S.W., Master of Social Work

Dr. Virginia Rondero Hernandez, Department Chair

Dr. Martha Vungkhanching, Graduate Program Coordinator

#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

In a complex social environment, the needs of people vary from the routine and procedural to the challenging and emotional. At all levels, the individuals trained and prepared to meet those needs must be compassionate and proactive in response to socioeconomic conditions.

The Department of Social Work Education is dedicated to serving the needs of special populations of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. As members of a practice-oriented profession, the graduates of our program will deal with social concerns that range from societal oppression to individual emotional states and behaviors. The social work practitioner is taught to help at-risk populations, which typically include people of color, women, people who are recent refugees, aged, poor and/or homeless, children and adults who are abused/neglected, and people who have chronic mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, physical illnesses or disabilities, abuse substances, or who engage in criminal activities.

Our department offers a master's degree in social work (MSW) and is designed to educate advanced social work practitioners who can meet complex client needs within diverse public and private human service settings and who can perform in a variety of roles using multiple social work practice methodologies. This course of study prepares the student -- the learner -- for advanced social work practice at multiple levels of intervention, as well as for doctoral study in social work and related human service disciplines.

#### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at California State University, Fresno offers an advanced concentration in multisystem social work practice. It is organized around a semester system with a concurrent field model. This model is one of the strengths of the program, as it integrates classroom and internship/practice experiences. The curriculum is designed to prepare social workers for agency and community-based practice and for informed, active participation as social workers and citizens who are compassionate to human needs.

The degree is a 60-unit program built on a foundation of three important ethical dimensions:

- A commitment to social justice,
- Cultural competence, and
- An empowerment perspective.

With this ideological perspective established, students can expect the coursework to have similar theoretical orientations. Students will take required foundation and advanced graduate courses in social welfare policy, diversity, human behavior, research, and practice; in addition to completing an original independent study project, or master's thesis. Students will also complete a minimum of 1000 hours (approximately 2 to 3 days per week) of field instruction (internship) over two years, arranged according to the concurrent model.

#### OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

During the past five years, the M.S.W. program has maintained the highest percentage of ethnic minority student enrollment of any master's degree program at our university. Over 50% of our graduate student body are people of color. The M.S.W. curriculum is structured as a full-time program. The full-time student can complete the M.S.W. degree requirements in 2 years. A limited number of part-time students are admitted each year; these students can complete the degree requirements on a 3 or 4 year plan.

Alumni from the M.S.W. program go on to gratifying careers in the areas of Human Services, Child and Family Services, and Mental Health. Graduates have also gone on for doctoral degrees, with the goal of becoming university professors and/or researchers. It should also be noted that employment of social workers has been projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupation. Employment growth will be driven by increased demand for health care and social services. The median annual wage for social workers was \$44,200 in May 2012 (U.S. Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, January 8, 2014).

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There are a number of grants and scholarship programs available to students who qualify. The Title IV-E Child

Welfare training program provides stipends to approximately 20 MSW students each year. The Public Mental Health Services training program provides stipends in the second year of the MSW program to approximately 7 full-time who plan a career in public mental health services. In addition, our graduate students have received academic awards and recognition such as graduate teaching assistantships, funds from the Graduate Equity Fellowship Program for Underrepresented Students, the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship, the Division of Graduate Studies Research and Travel Grants, California Pre-Doctoral Program Awards, The Association of University Women Scholarship Award, Hispanic Excellence Scholarships, and Thomas Brigham Scholarship Fund Awards.

## GRADUATE FACULTY

**BARRERA, IRAN**, Ph.D., Social Work, University of Texas – Arlington and La Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México. Mental health literacy in Mexican-American communities and mental health care disparities in Hispanics; minority communities

**CLARKE, KRIS**, Ph.D., Social Science, University of Tampere, Finland. International social work; HIV/AIDS; substance abuse; community-based research; qualitative research methods

**DELICH, NANCY**, Ed.D., Educational Leadership, Seattle University. Mental health; spirituality and social work; school social work; social connectedness and empowerment; Deaf and hard of hearing communities; adolescents; women.

**GARCIA, BETTY**, Ph.D., Social Psychology, Boston University. Family burden of care with severely mentally ill Latinos; prison work; mental health; child welfare; Latinas and empowerment; human services program evaluation; women; children; Latinos.

**HARDINA, DONNA**, Ph.D., Public Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago. Community organization; welfare reform; child welfare; needs assessment; program evaluation; qualitative approaches; political social work; empowerment in macro practice.

**HARRIS, DEBRA**, Ph.D., Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington. Developmental disabilities; chemical dependency; administrative issues; supervision; program evaluation.

**LAMA, GYANESH, K.**, Ph.D. Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis. Poverty; institutions; global social development; social innovations "the middle class"; geographic and racial disparities; housing and homelessness; geo-social networks; social justice; GIS (Geographic Information System); quantitative and qualitative methods.

**LOWE, MITZI**, Ph.D., Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, University of Kentucky. Field education; juvenile justice; interprofessional collaboration; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth in foster care; arts education with incarcerated youth.

\***MIDDLETON, E. JANE**, DSW, Social Work, University of Pennsylvania. Developmental disabilities; health; mental health; child welfare; case management; research; program evaluation. Interest in social justice and racial disparities.

**MONTANA, SAL**, Ph.D., Social Work, University of Texas at Austin. Social welfare policy; human service organizations; administration & management; child welfare; research and program evaluation; community practice.

\***PETROVICH, ANNE**, Ph.D., Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology. Aging, intergenerational research; clinical social work; trauma and abuse; performing arts and emotional health; self-efficacy, qualitative research

**RONDERO HERNANDEZ, VIRGINIA**, Ph.D., Social Welfare, Case Western Reserve University. Child health and mental health; child welfare; health care; health disparities; developmental disabilities; juvenile justice; medical social work; school social work; faith-based organizations; research; program evaluation.

**SIMPSON, ROGER**, Ph.D., Social Work and Sociology, University of Michigan. Marriage and family; social support; mental health; African-American male empowerment; cultural diversity; faith-based organizations; minority communities and the Digital Divide.

**VUNGKHANCHING, MARTHA**, Ph.D., Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong. Alcohol and other substance use disorders; traumatic brain injury; health and mental health; cancer care; family caregivers; international social work.

\*FERP Faculty

You may also contact Dr. Martha Vungkhanching, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Social Work Education  
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