



SOC W 0651-501: School Social Work
Westfield State University
MSW Program

Professor Susan Gallagher, MSW

Email: Utilize “Message” tool in Black Board. For emergency communications you may use sgallagher@westfield.ma.edu (send copy of message through Black Board also)

Meeting times: Thursday 5:15PM to 7PM (*additional 45 minutes required online participation)

Room: Bates 223

Office hours: By appointment only

Phone: 413-237-0090

Course Description:

This course explores the role of social workers in school settings including the changing nature of this role, the various roles school social workers play, and the interventions school social workers employ. Building on the social work foundation knowledge, the ecological model and the strengths perspective, this course examines the role of the social worker in helping students, families, and schools including adjusting to and coping with students with special needs and at-risk populations.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand and demonstrate the following:

1. Define the various roles and relationships that school social workers play in school settings.
2. Will be able to assess school needs and develop goals and assessments to meet those needs.
3. Understand the local, state and federal policies that impact education.
4. Understand the impact of racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism and poverty that affect student success.
5. Be able to plan and develop social work interventions at the individual, group and whole school levels.

Required Textbooks:

American School Counselor Association. (2012). *The ASCA National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs*, Third Edition. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Knapp, S. E. & Jongsma, A. E. (2015). *The School Counseling and School Social Work Treatment Planner*, Third Edition. C. Dimmitt. (Ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Stone, C. and Dahir, C. (2015). *The Transformed School Counselor*, Third Edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Course Evaluations:

Students will be assessed on their classroom participation, online participation and have written assignments relating to social work practice.