Master of Social Work

Program Goals and Competencies

The MSW program has the following two overarching goals:

Goal #1: The program prepares graduates who will have mastered the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work professional generalist practice core.

Goal #2: The program prepares graduates who will have advanced knowledge, values, and skills for clinical social work practice with children and families.

The accomplishment of these goals will be demonstrated by the following competencies:

Competency #1: Graduates will identify as professional social workers and as advanced social work practitioners and conduct themselves accordingly.

Competency #2: Graduates will conduct their professional practice according to the values and ethical principles of professional social work.

Competency #3: Graduates will apply critical thinking and communication skills to evaluate and inform professional judgements in practice.

Competency #4: Graduates will engage in informed, sensitive and competent practice with diverse and oppressed groups.

Competency #5: Graduates will promote human rights and social and economic justice.

Competency #6: Graduates will engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Competency #7: Graduates will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment to professional practice.

Competency #8: Graduates will engage in policy analysis and practice to promote social and economic well-being and to deliver effective services.

Competency #9: Graduates will recognize and respond to the dynamic contexts that shape practice.

Competency #10: Graduates will have the knowledge and skills required for engaging, assessing, intervening and evaluating with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Competency #10(a) Graduates will have the knowledge and skills required to engage client systems of all sizes and specialized skills for engaging children and families.
Competency #10(b) Graduates will have the knowledge and skills required for assessment of client systems of all sizes and specialized skills and knowledge for assessing children and families.

Competency #10(c) Graduates will have the knowledge and skills required to intervene with client systems of all sizes and specialized skills and knowledge for intervening with children and families.

Competency #10(d) Graduates will have the knowledge and skills required for evaluating client systems of all sizes and specialized skills and knowledge for evaluating practice with children and families.

The program will prepare social workers for licensure in the Commonwealth as Licensed Certified Social Workers (LCSW) and ultimate licensure as Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LICSW). Specific jobs include Department of Children and Family Social Workers, Child Welfare workers, Children Behavior Health Care Initiative Clinical Case Managers, School Social Workers, and Clinical Social Workers who specialize in work with children and families.