

**KENT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**

**Goals and Program Objectives for the Kent School  
April 2007**

**Mission**

The Kent School of Social Work seeks to prepare well-qualified social workers who practice from a strong professional value base to serve the metropolitan mission of the university. Our graduates promote social justice through their practices with diverse client systems. In the context of a research institution, Kent School is committed to knowledge development that informs social work practice, recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to solve complex social problems.

***Clarification***

**Goals I and II** are curriculum related,

**Goal III** is related to the school's relationship to the community, and

**Goal IV** is an overall program goal

## Foundation Objectives

**Goal I (Curriculum):** To ensure that graduates will be prepared at the **foundation** level to practice social work that is framed by a generalist practice base, and an ability to understand social problems at multiple levels.

**Students will learn new knowledge, develop skills and acquire attitudes that will give them the ability to:**

1	Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
2	Communicate the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
3	Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
4	Analyze the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
5	Interpret and synthesize the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.
6	Apply knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes.
7	Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to draw conclusions on individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8	Analyze, formulate, and draw conclusions to influence social policies.
9	Evaluate research studies, assess and apply research findings to foundation practice, and evaluate their own foundation practice interventions.
10	Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
11	Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.
12	Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and propose skillful actions for organizational change.

**Goal II (Curriculum):** To ensure that our graduates are prepared to **utilize theory and research** to strategically integrate critical thinking skills into the problems and issues within social work practice.

### Advanced Objectives

Students will learn new knowledge, integrate skills, and acquire values and perspectives that will give them the critical thinking skills and advanced ability to:

1	Create, organize and integrate ideas and action on engaging diverse client systems effectively in change.
2	Assess, conceptualize and analyze theoretical, practice and research problems from multiple perspectives and utilize critical thinking skills to formulate impressions based upon the data.
3	Analyze, synthesize and evaluate the evidence available to guide advanced social work practice.
4	Synthesize, formulate and implement a plan of action for social work practice that addresses complex issues and problems, build consensus and incorporates multiple-level forces on client systems.
5	Analyze and evaluate data of client progress and outcomes and assesses implications and consequences of these processes and outcomes.
6	Synthesize, create, and organize ideas from theory, research and practice for social justice.
7	Demonstrate the ability to integrate culturally competent skills into all aspects of social work practice.

**Goal III (School's relationship with the community):** To build collaboration and partnerships for community building and problem solving:

**Objective** The Kent School will provide professional expertise in the community in partnership with agencies and institutions to build a stronger community in the metropolitan region of Louisville.

**Goal IV (Overall program goal):** To contribute to the development of new social work knowledge through scholarship and research.

**Objective:** The Kent School will develop research and scholarship that adds to the knowledge base of the social work profession.