

# Mental Health Specialization

Social workers encounter clients with mental health needs and concerns in a variety of social services settings necessitating specific skills and experience to provide effective social work practice. The majority of mental health practitioners in mental health settings are social workers indicating the need for well trained mental health professional with a strong commitment to social work values and practices. If you anticipate entering the mental health field, the mental health specialization will provide the necessary preparation.

The mental health specialization (MHS) prepares students to enter into the mental health field by focusing on theoretical perspectives regarding the course and etiology of mental illness, diagnostic and assessment skills, evidence-based approaches, knowledge of mental health services, policies, and programs in the context of social work practice and values. Students complete their advance practicum rotation in a mental health setting providing the opportunity to build collaborative and interdisciplinary skills and professional identity by integrating knowledge with an intricate understanding of mental health practice, policy and service delivery.



## Admissions Process

- ◆ Applicants must submit a three page professional development paper discussing their interest in the specialization, past experience with mental health, need for professional development, potential contribution to specialization if selected, and plans following graduation.
- ◆ Must submit an updated résumé.
- ◆ Must be in good standing with Kent School MSSW Program and completed foundation MSSW curriculum requirements or will be entering the program as an advanced standing student.
- ◆ Admission to the MHS is competitive; After admission to Kent School, applicants must complete the mental health specialization online application here: <http://php.louisville.edu/kent/survey/index.php?sid=87>
- ◆ Additional information can be found at <http://louisville.edu/kent/programs/masters/mentalhealth.pdf>

## Program Requirements

- ◆ Required elective courses:
  - ◆ SW 615 Mental Health
  - ◆ SW 642 Psychopathology
  - ◆ SW 657 Group Methods
  - ◆ SW 691/692 Mental Health Specialization Integrative Seminar I & II (1 credit hour each)
  - ◆ Must complete six hours of field education (672 & 673) in an approved mental health agency as part of the advance practicum rotation.

### For more information contact:

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