



MSSW with a Psychosocial Oncology Specialization

Forty-one percent of Americans can expect to be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime.¹ The high rates of cancer on local, national, and global levels and the potential shortage of oncology social workers are creating the demand for skilled practitioners. The University of Louisville is launching a specialization in psychosocial oncology at the Kent School of Social Work to meet the growing need for practitioners who are trained in cancer care. This program will prepare social work students with the knowledge and competencies for addressing the psychosocial health needs of persons with cancer and their families.

Students will learn how to apply clinical skills such as psychosocial assessments, counseling, leading family meetings, setting goals of care and making treatment decisions across the cancer continuum. Coursework in social innovation and research will prepare students to be leaders in the field of psychosocial oncology.

This specialization offers:

- A one-year practicum in a cancer care setting or health care organization
- Opportunity to participate in iCOPE, an interdisciplinary oncology palliative care curriculum
- Additional integrative seminar with an expert in psychosocial oncology
- Assistance in securing a job after graduation
- Courses in psychosocial practice in oncology social work
- Certificate in Psychosocial Oncology

Program Specialization Requirements:

- SW697: Psychosocial Practice in Oncology I and II
- One elective course from the following:
 - SW633: Social Work and Human Sexuality
 - SW636: Death and Grief
 - SW684: Spirituality and Social Work
 - SW697: Health and Mental Health Services in Developing Countries
 - PHEP601: Introduction to Epidemiology
 - PHST600: Introduction to Biostatistics
 - Other course of interest—to be approved by chair
- 3-day per week field practicum in a cancer care setting
- Psychosocial Specialization Integrative Seminar I and II



Admission:

- After admission to Kent School, applicants must complete the oncology specialization online application here: <http://php.louisville.edu/kent/survey/index.php?sid=95>
- Must be in good standing with Kent School MSSW Program and completed foundation MSSW curriculum requirements
- Must submit an updated resumé

For more information, contact:

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“Cancer care today often provides state-of-the-science biomedical treatment, but fails to address the psychological and social (psychosocial) problems associated with the illness.” - (Institute of Medicine, 2008)

¹Reis, L.D. et al. (2007) *Seer cancer statistics review, 1975-2004*. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute.