
UNIVERSITY OF **LOUISVILLE**

**Kent School of
Social Work &
Family Science**

Educate. Empower.



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About the University of Louisville

The University of Louisville is a state supported research university located in Kentucky's largest metropolitan area that offers 170 majors and degrees, certificates, and professional development programs. The University of Louisville's mission is to be a premier, nationally recognized research university with a commitment to the liberal arts and sciences and the intellectual, cultural, and economic development of our diverse communities and citizens through the pursuit of excellence. With a student body exceeding 22,500, the University of Louisville paves the road for students of all ages to achieve their academic professional and personal goals through quality education.

About The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science & Family Science

The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science at the University of Louisville has been proudly educating social workers since 1936. The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science addresses complex problems through education, research, and service to create a just and better world. In the context of a research institution, Kent School utilizes current research information in the preparation of its students for work with individuals, families, and communities.

Accreditations

Both BSW and MSSW degrees are fully accredited by the Commission of the Council on Social Work Education: www.cswe.org/Accreditation.aspx

The Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education: <http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/>

The University of Louisville is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACACOC):

https://sacscoc.org/institutions/?institution_name=university+of+louisville&results_per_page=25&curpage=1.

Points of Pride

- 🏆 Founded in 1936
- 🏆 Enrollment >600
- 🏆 Kent School is ranked 44th of 235 accredited graduate programs by US News and World Report
- 🏆 Kent School is rated the #1 social work program in Kentucky by US News and World Report

Welcome From the Dean



Many of us choose social work or family therapy to make a difference. Whether it is fighting social injustice; giving voice to the oppressed and marginalized; or seeking solutions to racism, poverty, and violence, we work to protect the most vulnerable in society. We also strive to respond to the tough social issues facing people at home and abroad. Whatever your reason for choosing the Kent School, you will become part of a community of learners leading the way in confronting daunting societal challenges.

We make every effort at the Kent School to meet a range of students' needs as we prepare you for practice in your field. We offer the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW), the Research Doctorate in Social Work (PhD), the Practice Doctorate in Social Work (DSW), and a Master of Science in Couple and Family Therapy (MSCFT).

The BSW program offers an exciting opportunity for undergraduate students to learn about generalist evidence-based social work practice on the main campus and online. The MSSW program, with its strong reputation for excellence, gives students many different concentration options in a traditional classroom setting or online. Also, dual degrees in couple and family therapy, law, theology, women, gender and sexuality studies, health care ethics, and Pan African studies enable students to reach their professional goals within the context of social work. The PhD program prepares students with on campus instruction for research and leadership in addressing challenges extending from the Commonwealth to the world community. The online DSW prepares graduates for leadership in organizations and faculty teaching positions. The MSCFT degree prepares graduates through face-to-face instruction to offer couple/marriage and family therapy through a social justice lens.

Our top-notch faculty seek answers to complex social issues. Their engagement in interdisciplinary research and practice enhances the classroom and mentorship experience. I am confident each of our educational options will challenge and excite you.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Kent School family!

Crystal Collins-Camargo, Ph.D.
Interim Dean

Greetings From the Field Director



In Social Work education there is an importance for field placement and field education. The classroom provides the path for students to become knowledgeable of theory. As, deemed by (CSWE), the accrediting body of social work programs; The learning experience students will gain from practicum learning is designated as the Signature Pedagogy for social work education. This is where students will place knowledge, theories, social works values and ethics into applied social work practice.

The advantages of field leaning for students relate to professional and personal growth. Students will come into direct contact or interact with various groups, professionals, as well as people with different personalities, culture, and philosophies with whom they will likely work with later in their own careers. Through this interplay, social work students have hands-on opportunities to discover new ideas or think about their own values, prejudices, and attitudes toward others, while managing one's own paradigm within real agency environments.

Through the help of our community partners (local, statewide, national, and international) we hope our students will:

- develop professional identity
- apply ethic principles of the profession
- apply critical thinking to guide professional practice
- engage difference and diversity practice
- advance human rights and social and economic justice
- apply classroom knowledge to practice
- engage in research-informed practice and practice informed research
- engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being
- demonstrate engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills

We here at the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science look forward to this journey for students where practice meets real world experience.

Charles A. Turner, Jr., MSW, PhD, Director, Field Education

Degree Programs

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

The Kent School BSW program curriculum builds on a liberal arts base and prepares students for entry level professional social work practice. The program also provides the foundation for graduate study in social work. Students who complete the BSW program may also qualify for specialized level placement in graduate social work programs.

The curriculum plan includes options for full-time, part-time, campus based, and online classes. The BSW program is designed to promote the development of generalist social work knowledge and skills in using critical thinking to analyze, plan, and implement effective interventions. The curriculum plan also addresses complex social problems and their impact on individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The curriculum plan's focus is to educate BSW students with respect to cultural considerations and social/economic justice. Students gain experiences through service learning and social work practicum.

The BSW Program offers the Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP) in partnership with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to prepare students for immediate employment as child welfare social workers by CHFS upon graduation. Students in the PCWCP make a two-year employment commitment with CHFS in return for full in-state tuition and a stipend.

Kent School BSW students also have the option of graduating with a concentration in Alcohol and Drug Counseling (ADC).

Master of Science in Social Work

The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science offers a graduate program of study leading to the Master of Science in Social Work degree. The MSSW program is designed to help students achieve their maximum potential through a carefully structured curriculum of foundation and specialized courses.

The Kent School offers a variety of foundation 60-hour and specialized standing 30-hour (for qualified BSW applicants) curriculum plans, including options for full-time, part-time, campus based, and online classes. Both the foundation and specialized years include a field practicum: 16 hour/week for foundation and 18 hour/week for specialized.

Social Work Concentrations

The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science offers seven social work concentrations for which students beginning their MSSW specialized year may apply, although not required.

Alcohol and Drug Counseling: Since 2004, the Kent School has prepared students for entry level jobs as alcohol and drug counselors or case managers. There are three primary objectives: create recognition

of a student's commitment and expertise in substance abuse treatment; help the students compete for alcohol and drug counseling jobs and satisfy some of the requirements for obtaining the CADC credentials (see state credentialing requirements).

Forensic: The overarching aim of this concentration is to enhance student knowledge and skills related to strengths based, micro-, mezzo-, and macro-level social work practice and advocacy with special populations in the criminal justice system.

Gerontology: Kent School was part of a handful of programs nationwide selected to be part of the John A. Hartford Foundation initiative. Prepares students to be well-trained social workers to respond to the needs of older adults and their families. Students learn how to build meaningful relationships with older adults that enable their growth and change.

Leadership, Management and Supervision: Prepares students with advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities to supervise, manage, and lead in a variety of real- world settings.

Mental Health Counseling: Prepares students to enter 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.

Military Social Work: The specialization focuses on theoretical perspectives and policy implications concerning problems facing service members and their families as well as programs and application of interventions to ameliorate them. Those seeking assistance from problems associated with military service may be seen in a myriad of programs both inside and outside the framework of more traditionally recognized military service delivery systems.

Psychosocial Oncology: This program prepares students to meet the increasing demand for skilled oncology practitioners. This program provides social work students with the knowledge and competencies for addressing the psychosocial health needs of persons with cancer.

School Social Work: The goals of this specialization are to: prepare masters level social workers who can help children and their families overcome barriers to learning through interventions in the home, school, and community; enable matriculating students, graduates, and other qualified MSWs to meet the Education Professional Standards Board's (EPSB) requirements for school social work certification, and; encourage communities to develop and maintain effective school social work services throughout the state of Kentucky.

Dual Degree Option

The Kent School of Social Work & Family Science offers a dual degree option: MSSW with Couple and Family Therapy (CFT): Covers a broad spectrum of knowledge, including individual, couple and family development, couple and family interventions, diversity and social justice, ethics, intervening in community settings, etc. Students receive extensive training in the clinical skills necessary for the practice of individual, couple, family, and group therapy through intensive supervised clinical experiences.

DSW Program

The Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) program prepares master degreed social workers to become future practitioner-scholars in teaching and social service leadership. The DSW program's overall goal is to offer advanced education, training, and mentoring to master degreed social workers who wish to become teaching faculty in departments/schools of social work and/or leaders managing public or private social service organizations. The DSW Program's part-time, three-year curriculum is designed for the working professional. The DSW program curriculum provides education on models of social service leadership, and teaching and learning; training in analysis and improvement of models of social service leadership and teaching and learning; preparation in implementation of social service leadership knowledge and skills in practice; preparation in application of teaching skills and learning strategies in instruction; education of ethically practice in leadership and teaching positions; and utilization of various modes of scientific inquiry to critically evaluate the practices of social service leadership and teaching and learning

Doctoral Program

The Ph.D. program in social work prepares academically motivated master's level social workers to take on teaching, research, administrative and policy analysis positions.

The program focuses on building research, teaching, and analytic competencies through courses on social work theories, advanced research design and analysis, teaching, ethics, special topics seminars, guided research practicums, and independent studies.

Students can collaborate with a diverse group of nationally recognized faculty within the school and university with expertise in the areas of social and child welfare, child & family wellbeing, gerontology, health & mental health, justice & criminality, school social work, substance abuse and international social work.

Along with coursework, students are guided in developing expertise in an area of social sciences research. Areas of research have included examination of social and health disparities, social work interventions, predictors and risk factors for substance abuse, long term effects of maltreatment and trauma, and evaluation of training.

Field Practicum Options

BSW Program

All students admitted to the BSW program are required to complete a year-long practicum during the senior year. The BSW practicum provides students experiences in developing knowledge and skills in generalist social work practice. Practicum is comprised of two consecutive semester placements. Students in their BSW course work complete 15 weeks of practicum per semester - for two consecutive semesters, totaling 30 weeks of practicum: averaging 16 hours per week.

MSSW 60-Credit Hour Program

All students admitted to the 60 credit-hour program are required to complete two separate and different practicums, one at the foundation level and another at the specialized level. All practicums are two consecutive semester placements, continuous in the same agency.

The foundation courses of Kent School's 60-hour program are designed to provide the student with a broad, generalist base for social work practice. Foundation year practicum education is consistent with this purpose. Students in their foundation course work complete 15 weeks of practicum per semester - for two consecutive semesters, totaling 30 weeks of practicum: averaging 16 hours per week.

The specialized level curriculum and practicum provide the opportunity for an in- depth and focused educational experience in the student's chosen area of education. It is intended that the student will gain applied experience with various aspects of their career interest: i.e., client populations, service delivery systems and structures, methodologies, and professional issues confronting their career area. Students in their specialized course work complete 15 weeks of practicum per semester - for two consecutive semesters, totaling 30 weeks of practicum: averaging 18 hours per week.

MSSW 30-Credit Hour Program

Students admitted as specialized standing (entering Kent School with a BSW degree earned within the past seven years from an accredited program) into the 30-credit hour program are required to complete only one practicum. Students in their specialized course work complete 15 weeks of practicum per semester - for two consecutive semesters, totaling 30 weeks of practicum: averaging 18 hours per week.

The advanced level curriculum and practicum education provide the opportunity for an in-depth and focused educational experience in the student's chosen area of education. It is intended that the student will gain applied experience with various aspects of their career interest: i.e., client populations, service delivery systems and structures, methodologies, and professional issues confronting the career area.

Expectations for the Field Experience

BSW and Generalist (1st Year) MSSW Practicum Students

Students are expected to work directly with client populations served by the agency and should include a diversity of clientele, including women, ethnic minorities, and other disadvantaged populations. Students should carry a “learner’s” caseload of individuals/couples/families, participate in the intake and assessment process, and carry client assignments which include as many phases of the problem-solving process as possible. Practicum activities should include opportunities to practice the social work roles of conferee, broker, mediator, and advocate.

The Generalist practicum experience should include a broad exposure to social work practice opportunities at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work. This should include direct work with clients (individuals, couples, families, and small groups), work with committees and/or community coalitions, the development/revision of policies, program evaluation and research, and exploration of administrative and policy issues significant to the agency and clientele served.

Specialized (2nd Year) MSSW Practicum Students

Specialized practicum students have the same requirements as BSW and Generalist MSSW students except they should be challenged with more complex client situations and increased responsibilities in assignments. Macro and Policy Practice settings should develop learners' caseloads of a variety of policy work, projects and meetings within the agency and community.

Practicum Education Partnership

Role of the Student

- Exemplify the conduct of a professional social worker and abide by agency regulation and practices
- Develop skills in critical analysis
- Develop increasing knowledge in human behavior and social issues
- Understand interpersonal dynamics
- Be aware of environmental, ethical, cultural, political, and financial systems and their influence upon social conditions
- Identify and work effectively with client systems
- Share constructive criticism
- Assume leadership appropriately
- Link previous learning to new knowledge and experiences
- Consistently expand repertoire of skills
- Incorporate a variety of treatment modalities
- Identify and enhance social work skills
- Refine communication skills

Within the function of the agency, the student is expected to

- Acquire fundamental knowledge of agency philosophy and function, its legal or legislative base, policy determination, eligibility requirements, limitations, and ranges of services
- Understand policy making procedures
- Acquire knowledge of personnel policies as they affect staff, student, and service delivery
- Assess the appropriateness of agency function to client need
- Identify, develop, and utilize agency resources
- Become familiar and comfortable with the knowledge that they represent the agency in an official capacity in all contacts with the public
- Participate appropriately in inter-agency and interdisciplinary programs
- Understand that his/her role, while like agency staff is that of a learner
- Satisfy the expectations of the practicum syllabus

Role of the Agency

The agency and Kent School of Social Work are educational partners in the professional preparation of social workers. The agency provides the opportunity for the student to apply, test and integrate the knowledge, values and skills learned in other courses and to develop a professional identification using self in increasingly responsible professional activities.

Level of Practice

The agency should have a well-established service delivery program. It should be characterized by clarity about the focus of the program and its methods. Students are expected to fill roles in the agency that entail learning activities appropriate for the student's educational and professional development level in social work.

Availability of Faculty to Agencies

Agency executives, other administrative personnel and agency field instructors are encouraged to consult with the Dean of the Kent School, the Associate Deans for Research, with the Director of Field Education, or with members of the faculty for consultation on agency research and practice issues, within the limits of their competence, interests, and workloads.

Role of the Agency Field Instructor

All undergraduate level Kent School students are required to be supervised by a social worker with a bachelor's degree or master's degree in social work from an accredited program of social work and a minimum of two years of full-time, post-degree experience.

All graduate level Kent School Students are required to be supervised by a social worker with a master's degree in social work from an accredited program of social work and a minimum of two years of full-time, post-master's experience. Social workers with the LCSW or LISW credential are preferred, but not required, for students in the MSSW advanced practice practicum.

The agency field instructor has primary responsibility for the provision of learning opportunities that facilitate the student's growth within the profession. Supporting this responsibility is a part of the agency field instructor's commitment to professional training and to the profession of social work.

Agency Field Instructors are expected to:

- Plan and implement student orientation to the agency, including introduction to agency personnel and to persons of collateral significance Interpret policy, legal structure, rules, and regulations
- Acquaint the student with client systems and their interactions with the agency
- To follow the guidelines enumerated in the *Practicum Tasks and Responsibilities*; see this document on the practicum web page: <http://louisville.edu/kent/academics/field-education/practicum-information>
- Determine student learning needs and to give direction through which these needs are met
- Provide ongoing assessment of student performance
- Make assignments which progressively develop and utilize the knowledge, skills, and experience of the student
- Promote the student's development of critical thinkingskills
- Require the student to provide a written agenda to each weekly supervisory conference, following an outline which incorporates the student's competency learning tasks, and encourages reflective thinking
- Provide supervision and learning through regular conferences, group sessions, seminars, etc., including a minimum of one hour of face-to-face, educationally- focused supervision weekly.
- Supervisors may elect to mentor more than one student at the same time, i.e., group supervision up to a maximum of 6 students. However, when there are conjoint supervisory sessions, there should always be opportunity for each student to have some private time with the field instructor each week, even if only for 15 minutes
- Provide feedback on the student's work in the assignments, monthly reports, and critical thinking skill assignments
- Participate actively in the mid-semester evaluation and final evaluation conferences
- Draw from their own competence, academic and experiential, in enhancing the student's growth
- Communicate concerns to the Kent School field faculty in a timely manner

Role of the Kent School Field Faculty

Kent School Field Faculty are comprised of both full-time and part-time members, and some reside in the metropolitan Louisville area whereas others are geographically located in various sites where there are a group of students engaged in their practicum. This provides for easier direct access to faculty members by both students and agency supervisors. Field faculty must hold a master's

degree in Social Work from an accredited school of social work and are recruited based on their years of practice, their prior experience in supervising social work students (preferably a minimum of five years), their interest in teaching, and their abilities to guide a student's educational practice experience.

Field Faculty are expected to:

- Participate with the agency field instructor in the design of practicum experiences which contain content and substance for the competent learning of practice skills
- Maintain monthly contact with the agency field instructor and the student
- Share with student and agency field instructor in ongoing assessment of student's Performance culminating in evaluation of student performance at mid-semester and at the end of the semester
- Be readily accessible to the student and to the agency field instructor
- Serve as a resource guide and professional model for social work practice
- Be constructively critical in sharing knowledge
- Encourage a spirit of inquiry and critical analysis skills
- Promote linkage of experience with present learning
- Provide guidelines by which to integrate theory and practice
- Relate practicum learning within the broad context of social work education
- Assign the Practicum grade - Pass/Fail/Incomplete
- Meet initially with student and the Field Instructor during the first two weeks of the semester to get acquainted, establish expectations about communications, submission of monthly timesheets and other practicum assignments and respond to concerns and questions.
- Meet with the student and agency field instructor, within the first two weeks, and thereafter five times during the two-semester practicum placement to/for:
 - Get acquainted, and establish expectations
 - Fall mid-term evaluation
 - Fall final evaluation
 - Spring mid-term
 - Spring final evaluation
 - In addition to these sessions, faculty may meet as requested for conferences with the student and supervisor to assist in resolving concerns about the student's practicum performance.

Agency Field Instructor & Task Supervisor Orientation and Training

Prior to the start of each Fall semester, an orientation to practicum is offered to agency field instructors and task supervisors online. This introduces field instructors and task supervisors to

various faculty of the Kent School, the role of field instructors, explains the supportive role of the field faculty, explores policies, addresses student performance

issues, reviews the student evaluation process, and shares the various forms utilized for the practicum. Complimentary CEUs are provided to the supervisors for this orientation. Additionally, the Field Education Office provides periodic trainings for agency field instructors and task supervisors on various topics that enhance understanding of the Kent School curriculum, the theories taught, and other subjects of interest to agency field instructors and task supervisors. Complimentary CEUs are provided.

Lastly, at the end of the academic year, the Kent School hosts an annual day of appreciation for the agency field instructors and task supervisors. At this event, one outstanding agency field instructor is recognized, and a guest speaker presents on a topic of special interest. Complimentary CEU's are provided.

Contact Us

Kent School of Social Work & Family Science

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