



UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE

RAYMOND A. KENT
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK & FAMILY SCIENCE

Educate. Empower.





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](#).

The Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) Program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education](#).

The University of Louisville is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACACOC\)](#).

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

Welcome to the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science at the University of Louisville. At the Kent School, we offer dynamic educational opportunities for students interested in our five academic degree programs. We offer the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW), Research Doctorate in Social Work (Ph.D.), Practice Doctorate in Social Work (DSW), and a Master of Science in Couple and Family Therapy (MSCFT). Our top-notch faculty are widely recognized for their research, teaching, and service expertise. They will guide your development during your time at the Kent School. We have dedicated and engaged staff who support our collective mission of addressing complex social problems through education, research, and service.

At the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science, you will find a strong generalist orientation in the foundation curriculum preparing you for work with client systems ranging from individuals to groups, families, organizations, and communities. In the advanced curriculum, you will use complex critical thinking and best-practice evidence to deepen your understanding of social challenges. Our faculty are engaged in interdisciplinary research seeking answers to complex social issues – enhancing the classroom experience. Also, dual degrees in law, theology, women and gender studies, bioethics, and Pan African studies enable students to reach their professional goals within the context of social work.

Thank you for your interest in being a difference-maker in the lives of individuals and families who are the fabric of our society. Many people watch the world happen around them and only hope to be a difference-maker. On the other hand, social workers and therapists boldly decide to influence people's lives by offering support, helping them generate ideas, and making space for individuals to maximize their potential. In short, by furthering your education and professional development here at the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science, you will join us in our pursuit of making the world a better place, one person and family at a time. Thank you for choosing that pursuit and trusting us to join you in your educational quest and career journey.

Welcome to the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science family!

John W. Miller Jr., Ph.D.
Dean & Professor

Welcome from the Interim Director of Practicum Education

Welcome to the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science! We are excited that you are learning about our program and hopefully we will be working with you soon.

As you may know the practicum experience is a very important part of social work education. It is where students take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it to practice. They develop skills, discover their own personal strengths and areas to grow in and learn what it is to be a social worker in action.

This brochure will tell you more about our program and we hope will answer many of your questions. Please feel free to contact us at fielddedu@louisville.edu with any question.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Sharon Sanders, MA, MSSW, LCSW
Interim Director of Practicum Education
Kent School of Social Work and Family Science
University of Louisville

Degree Programs

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

The Kent School of Social Work and Family Science BSW program curriculum builds on a liberal arts base and prepares students for entry level professional social work practice. 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 of Social Work and Family Science 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 Generalist and Specialized courses.

The Kent School of Social Work and Family Science offers a variety of choices for completing of Generalist 60-hour or Specialized standing 30-hour (for qualified BSW applicants). These include options for full-time, part-time, campus based, and online classes. Both the Generalist and Specialized years include a practicum placement: 16 hour/week for Generalist and 18 hour/week for specialized (for fall and spring). In the summer semester which is shorter the hours are between 20-23 a week based on your year in the program.

Social Work Concentrations

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

Alcohol and Drug Counseling: Since 2004, the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science 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).

Gerontology: Kent School of Social Work and Family Science was part of a handful of programs nationwide selected to be part of the John A. Hartford Gerontology initiative. This concentration prepares students to be well-trained social workers able 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.

Mental Health Counseling: This concentration 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 ethics and values.

Military Social Work: The concentration 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 concentration 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). This 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 specialized 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

Ph. D. 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, specialized 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.

Practicum Education 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 generalist level and another at the specialized level. All practicums are two consecutive semester placements, continuous in the same agency.

The generalist courses of Kent School's 60-hour program are designed to provide the student with a broad, generalist base for social work practice. Generalist year practicum education is consistent with this purpose. Students in their generalist course work complete 15 weeks of practicum per semester - for two consecutive semesters, totaling 30 weeks of practicum: averaging 16 hours per week in the fall and spring. If a student is in practicum for the shorter summer semester, they will average 20-21 hours a 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 for the fall and spring

semesters, and average 22-23 hours a week in the shorter summer semester.

MSSW 30 Credit Hour Program

Students admitted as specialized standing (entering Kent School of Social Work and Family Science with a BSW degree earned within the past seven years from an CSWE 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 in the fall and spring semesters, and averaging between 22-23 hours a week in the shorter summer term.

The specialized 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 Practicum 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. This should include activities which will develop skills with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. For the more micro experiences this could include working with individuals, couples, families in case management or small groups. For the organization, group, and community focus, students could develop skills through 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.

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 of Social Work and Family Science 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.

Role of the Practicum Instructor

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

All graduate level Kent School Students of Social Work and Family Science are required to be supervised by a social worker with a master's degree in social work from an CSWE accredited program of social work and a minimum of two years of full-time, post-master's experience.

Social workers with the licenses in their respective states are preferred, but not required, for students in the MSSW specialized practice practicum.

The Practicum 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 Practicum Instructor's commitment to professional training and to the profession of social work.

Practicum Instructors are expected to:

- Review the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science Practicum Education policies, guidelines and forms
- Complete the Practicum Instructor Training
- Plan and implement student orientation to the agency, including introduction to agency personnel and to persons of collateral significance (If an off-site supervisor, coordinate this with the task supervisor)
- Interpret policy, legal structure, rules, and regulations
- Acquaint students with client systems and their interactions with the agency
- Work with the student (and if applicable the Task Supervisor) to identify appropriate learning activities which develop skills and knowledge
- Comply with general and specific conditions enumerated in the Affiliation Agreement
- Assist with the development of the Competency Development Plan and monitor student's progress
- Promote student development of critical thinking skills
- Provide supervision and learning through regular conferences, group sessions, seminars, etc., including a minimum of one hour of face-to-face, educationally focused, weekly supervision. Instructors may elect to mentor more than one student at the same time, i.e., group supervision. However, when there are conjoint supervisory sessions, there should always be opportunity for each student to have private time with instructors each week.
- Provide continued assessment of student skills and knowledge and provide student feedback through use of rubrics, verbal and written comments.
- Participate in the introductory meeting, the mid-term evaluation and final evaluation conferences and complete the evaluations (coordinating with the agency Task Supervisor if applicable)
- Review and verify student's timesheets. (If you are an off-site supervisor, you will approve the student's supervision hours with you and the task supervisor will approve the onsite-practicum activities and hours.)
- Maintain regular contact with the agency Tasks Supervisor (if applicable) to monitor student progress.
- Communicate concerns to Practicum Liaison in a timely manner.
- Complete Incident Reports as needed and complete needed follow-up.

Role of the Task Supervisors

If an agency does not employ a social worker with the required BSW, MSW, or MSSW degree, arrangements may be made with other agencies, or the agency may consult with the Practicum Coordinator for possible ideas/options for acquiring an approved Practicum Instructor. Task Supervisors are BSW, MSW, or MSSW social workers with less than 2 years post graduate social work experience OR

non BSW, MSW, or MSSW agency employees who are experienced in the area or program to which students will be assigned. Task Supervisors work in conjunction with Practicum Instructors not in the area the student is working and off-site Practicum Instructors. They are utilized under extremely specific circumstances in special practicum placements. The responsibilities and role functions of Task Supervisors are monitored by the Practicum Liaison and the Practicum Instructor to ensure that practicum standards are maintained.

Task Supervisors are expected to:

- Review the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science Practicum Education policies, guidelines, and forms
- Complete Practicum Instructor/Supervisor Training
- Create a communication plan with the Practicum Instructor and establish expectations for the student
- Orient the student to the agency
- Collaborate with the student and Practicum Instructor to create a comprehensive Practicum experience
- Provide guidance, direction, and training for the student
- Provide frequent feedback about student performance to the student and Practicum Instructor
- Participate in the midterm and final evaluation conference meetings or confer with the Practicum Instructor in completing the forms
- Address and report performance concerns to the Practicum Instructor
- When there is an off-site Practicum Instructor, the Task Supervisor is responsible for approving all on-site practicum activities/hours while the off-site Practicum Instructor is responsible for approving supervision hours
- Collaborate with the Practicum Instructor to complete incident reports if needed

Role of the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science Practicum Liaisons

Kent School of Social Work and Family Science Practicum Liaisons must hold a master's degree in Social Work from a CSWE 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. They are either full or part time faculty at the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science.

The role of the practicum liaison is to be the connection between the University and the agency. They are there to support both the student and the agency instructors/supervisor. The goal is for this to be a good learning experience for the student, and also be a positive experience for the agency.

Practicum Instructor & Task Supervisor Orientation and Training

Prior to the start of each Fall semester, an orientation to practicum is offered to the Practicum Instructors and Task Supervisors online. This introduces Practicum Instructors and Task Supervisors to various faculty of the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science, the role of Practicum Instructors, explains

the supportive role of the Practicum liaisons, 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 Practicum Education Office provides periodic trainings for agency Practicum Instructors and Task Supervisors on various topics that enhance understanding of the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science curriculum, the theories taught, and other subjects of interest to Practicum Instructors and Task Supervisors. Complimentary CEUs are provided.

Lastly, at the end of the academic year, the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science hosts an annual day of appreciation for the Practicum Instructors and Task Supervisors. At this event, one outstanding agency Practicum Instructor is recognized, and a guest speaker presents on a topic of special interest. Complimentary CEU's are provided.

Contact Us

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