

UMBC'S SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

FIELD PLACEMENT | LICENSURE | ADVANCED STANDING

FIELD PLACEMENT:

Our fully accredited program is responsible for preparing social work professionals in generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. **Professional social workers bring to their work an understanding of theories and knowledge of human behavior, social justice, and skills in problem solving, communication, assessment, and intervention with people who are vulnerable, oppressed, or living in poverty.**

One of the strengths of the social work program is the integration of coursework and the applied field placement. The introductory social work courses include an introduction to social work, social policy, human behavior, research, a social work elective, social work practice, and a supplementary area of interest in terms of a minor. During the final year, students complete their field placement. This placement coincides with theory-based courses which allows students to learn skills and have the opportunity to practice those skills in a setting with support from an experienced social worker. The field placement provides amazing experiences; it builds one's resume, can lead to job opportunities, and it also allows students to fully experience the breadth of the social work profession.

Interested in making a difference in your community?

Please contact **Dr. Katie Morris**, LCSW-C, Program Director, at **kath@umbc.edu** or **301-738-6312**.



Social workers serve in the diverse roles of advocates, educators, counselors, case managers, researchers, and mediators through the following field placement settings:

- Schools and Early Head Start
- Child Welfare Services
- Agencies serving immigrant families
- Mental Health Services: Inpatient and Outpatient
- Criminal Justice: Corrections and Public Defenders
- Homeless and Housing Services
- Healthcare and Hospice Agencies
- Agencies serving the aging population

LICENSURE:

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) offers social work licensure exams at the bachelor's, master's, and clinical levels. Graduates with their Baccalaureate Social Work (BSW) degree are eligible to obtain social work licenses. BSW level licensure requirements vary by state, so graduates should determine the requirements in the state where they plan to practice and complete the necessary paperwork and continuing education coursework as required. Applicants must sit for and pass the bachelor's licensure exam. With their applied skill base and depth of knowledge, licensed Baccalaureate graduates are especially prepared to take advantage of a wide variety of employment opportunities within non-profit, government, and human service agencies as case managers and counselors serving diverse client populations.

"Social Work is at the heart of social justice."

– Farah Shirazi, Social Work Alumna



ADVANCED STANDING:

UMBC's writing-intensive undergraduate social work curriculum provides the necessary skills for students to succeed in graduate school. Many Master of Social Work (MSW) programs provide an Advanced Standing option, thus shortening the master's program to one full-time year of coursework and field practicum. While competitive, Advanced Standing programs provide an efficient and cost-effective path to timely completion of the MSW. To be eligible for Advanced Standing, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires prospective masters students to earn a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program. Advanced Standing programs seek students who:

- Have mastered social skills, knowledge, and fieldwork at the undergraduate level as demonstrated in the classroom and through the field placement.
- Demonstrate an exceptional level of knowledge, theory, skills, maturity, and professionalism.
- Have earned a minimum 3.0 GPA or higher in combination with strong recommendations from faculty and field instructors.



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