Educational Quality and Innovation

Baccalaureate Program
The Bachelor of Science in Social Work provides students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical standards necessary for beginning social work practice. The BS is a liberal arts program emphasizing human rights, social justice, and advocacy, which establishes the foundation graduates need to effectively address the social problems of today’s world.

Approximately 129 students, in total, were enrolled in the Silver School’s BS program in 2012-13. As in past years, the program attracted students from across the University, with 219 non-social work undergraduates registered for social work courses.

Forty-six students graduated with a BS in May 2013. Within three months, 90 percent were settled in a full-time job, a full-time MSW program, or work plus a part-time MSW program.

New Options for BS Students

Minor in Multifaith and Spiritual Leadership
A new minor in multifaith and spiritual leadership is a joint undergraduate program offered by the NYU Silver School of Social Work and the NYU Wagner School of Public Service. The program consists of academically rigorous, civically engaged classes that provide students of all faith backgrounds (including those who are unaffiliated with a particular faith tradition) the opportunity to engage purposefully in holistic multifaith dialogue, service, and academic work.

Joint Major in Social Work and Public Health
A new joint major in global public health/social work aligns with the Silver School’s mission of continuous progress in scholarly excellence and commitment to social justice, diversity, and helping people in need. The NYU Global Institute of Public Health builds on the global reach of NYU’s unique Global Network University, producing groundbreaking research and education that advances and promotes equitable experiential learning and study-away opportunities to ensure that students are broadly trained and uniquely prepared for a variety of careers in health and social services.

MSW Program
The MSW program prepares students for professional-level direct social work practice. The program emphasizes social justice and improving bio-psychosocial functioning through helping relationships. In both classroom and community contexts, students learn to apply critical thinking, research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom. They learn to enhance the functioning of individuals, families, and communities, and to promote effective and equitable social policies and social services.

The MSW program graduated 518 students in 2013, including 30 from the Rockland campus and 41 from the Westchester campus. One testament to the high quality of graduates, the 2012 first-time pass rate for the LMSW exam for NYU Silver students was 89 percent, well above the national pass rate for first-time exams of 83 percent. Within six months, 85 percent of 2012 MSW graduates found employment.

Preparing Social Workers for Practice under Affordable Care Act
Integrated Health and Behavioral Health Care
NYU Silver in partnership with NYU’s Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry and several community agencies offers a new integrated classroom-field experience for MSW students committed to working in primary and behavioral health care. Interdisciplinary teams will serve severely mentally ill women and the frail elderly who live in poor, underserved communities.

New courses are also being offered in mindfulness, sexual health, neurobehavioral disorders, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, and anti-racism for social work practice.

First Fellows Graduate in Palliative and End-of-Life Care
In April, the Zelda Foster Studies Program in Palliative and End-of-Life Care (PELC) graduated its first group of leadership fellows—13 MSW’s working in diverse PELC settings throughout NYC. The graduation was the culmination of an 18-month program of training and mentorship for emerging social work leaders in PELC. Capstone project topics included integrating palliative care into nursing homes; improving physician communication; building a PELC bridge between NYC and the Dominican Republic; as well as bringing PELC services and education to people with dementia, developmental disabilities, and serious and persistent mental illness.

The Zelda program also offers a four-year MSW fellowship for second-year MSW students and a one-year post-master’s certificate program for early-career social workers.

PhD Program
The PhD program prepares social workers to become stewards of their discipline and to assume leadership positions at national and global levels. The curriculum provides rigorous methodological, conceptual, and statistical training in both quantitative and qualitative research. The goal is to prepare graduates for successful careers as independent investigators and social work leaders at research-intensive academic institutions, and for leadership roles in the design and development of social welfare programs and policies.

In fall 2012, six students were accepted into the doctoral program. Thirteen students graduated during the 2012-13 academic year. The program now has 60 students actively enrolled.
Students Receive Social Justice and Diversity Grants

In 2012-13, NYU Silver offered the Social Justice and Diversity Grant to groups of students to create programming that stimulates awareness of diverse populations and promotes cultural competence. Of 12 proposed projects, four grants were awarded:
• Cross Cultural Social Work in the Criminal Justice System: A week of film screenings on issues related to imprisoned populations followed by a one-day symposium addressing the dynamics of race, gender, sexuality, and culture for incarcerated people.
• Pride and Prejudice: LGBT Minorities in Traditional Faith-Based Communities: A series of panel discussions about how Queer identities relate to the panelists’ diverse cultural and faith identities. Topics included the criminalization of homosexuality in Uganda and Nigeria, and the controversial practice of “conversion therapy” in the United States.
• Furiendly Visits: Animal-Assisted Therapy with Older Adults: A two-part program that highlights the older adult population, the fastest-growing age demographic in New York City, and the connection to the growing practice of non-traditional therapies, including animal-assisted therapy.
• International Climate Change Think Tank Conference: A conference aimed to promote international social justice by analyzing national environmental policies and how they can be improved to better protect citizens.

Social Justice and Diversity Committee Begins Its Work

Comprising faculty, administrators, and staff, the new Social Justice and Diversity Committee identifies concerns about oppression, racism, and diversity at NYU Silver. The Committee sponsored Ken Hardy, of Drexel University and the Eikenberg Institute for Relationships, to facilitate a faculty workshop on anti-racism and diversity in the classroom. It also circulated an open letter to faculty and students on diversity and social identity in the classroom.

The Committee made many recommendations for the future, including:
• Continuing education for faculty, and a consistent statement of commitment to anti-oppression and social justice.
• Creation of a trained faculty/staff diversity network of people who can talk with students who feel marginalized, targeted, or excluded at NYU Silver.
• Review of class and field assessment practices to ensure freedom from bias.
• A code of honor/conduct to outline the norms for civil discourse expected of students.

The Committee plans to work more closely with the Admissions Office, Admissions Committee, and Curriculum Committee, and on faculty and staff employment searches.

Field Learning

During 2012-13, NYU Silver placed 1,139 MSW and BS students in 633 agencies servicing 10 practice areas in the New York tri-state area. Students worked more than a half-million hours of service.

The School provided significant foreign language support to agencies. With students who collectively speak 54 different languages, NYU Silver met requests for fluent speakers of Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Hindi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.

New field learning opportunities included: LGBT grassroots organizations, supportive housing programs, the Nordoff Robbins Center for Music Therapy (at NYU’s Steinhardt School), a variety of YMCA programs, and the Unitarian Universalist-UN Office.

Hurricane Sandy: Silver School Student and Faculty Relief Efforts

In October 2012, even as Hurricane Sandy pounded the New York City area, several NYU Silver students traveled to Staten Island’s stricken neighborhoods and pitched in. Guided by community organizers, students knocked on doors, spoke to residents, tore out rugs and insulation in damaged houses, and offered hot meals and emotional support to those in shelters. One faculty member worked in a Staten Island shelter with Doctors Without Borders’ mental health assessment and response team, where she offered relaxation sessions to exhausted shelter staff.

Conference Explores Obstacles and Opportunities for Global Health and Well-Being

Bringing together 240 attendees, including 130 experts from around the world, NYU Silver convened a three-day conference titled “Global Well-Being and Health: The Social Work Response,” June 17-19. Here are some of the needs and obstacles the participants described:
• Social determinants and social justice are highly important in shaping global health efforts. Many nations still do not believe social conditions predict poor outcomes and, instead, blame the individual.
• The Micro-Consignment Model seeks to empower individuals and promote collaboration within the community. It delivers start-up capital to local communities, whose residents make and sell commodities to other residents, who can then live more sustainably and further stimulate the local economy.

Popular Global Learning Opportunities Expand for All Students

As NYU evolves into a global network university, the Silver School’s global learning opportunities are broadening. In 2012-13, students studied in Washington, DC; Paris, France; Rimini, Italy; and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The number of participants grew from 85 to 132.

Mexican Student Exchange: This summer, nine students from Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) in Puebla, Mexico, came to the Silver School to participate in a 10-day leadership program. Last year, Silver School students traveled to the UPAEP. This exchange program is part of a Mexican-American effort between the Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (CLAFH) at NYU Silver and UPAEP, which will conduct research examining social work and public health issues associated with migration between the United States and Mexico. An estimated 60 percent of Mexican immigrants in New York are from Puebla.

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Dear students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends,

I invite you to enjoy the NYU Silver School of Social Work 2012-13 Annual Report, which provides an overview of the School’s accomplishments over the past year. This is the second year of implementation of the School’s strategic plan (www.socialwork.nyu.edu/about-silver/strategic-plan-and-vision).

In this report we highlight the progress made in each of the plan’s four strategic priorities:

1. Expand research infrastructure and productivity, positioning the School to be a leading producer of knowledge for the social work profession.
2. Continue our commitment to innovation and excellence in BS and MSW professional education. In the PhD program, to educate the scholarly leaders for the next generation of the profession.
3. Deepen and enrich the School’s commitment and dedication to diversity and social justice, in the curriculum and in all aspects of School life.
4. Expand the School’s engagement with the local community and the world community to be—like NYU—“in and of the city and in and of the world.”

The accomplishments of our faculty and students make me proud. We achieved much in diversifying our School and our dedication to social justice; in building our research agenda; in new curricular innovations, such as integrated health and behavioral health and palliative care leadership; and in our engagement with our local and global communities, including the hours of service our students provided in field education, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, and through expanded global education offerings.

I am especially grateful to the members of our community who supported student scholarships, global social work, and innovative initiatives such as palliative and end-of-life care, the Center for Latino and Adolescent Health, and the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. Thank you to all who supported the success of the Silver School of Social Work with their generous gifts.

Sincerely,

Lynn Videka
Dean and Professor

A New Research Initiative for the Silver School: NYU Shanghai and ISD

The new NYU-ECNU Joint Institute for Social Development at NYU Shanghai (ISD) is a social work research effort founded in collaboration with the East China Normal University (ECNU) and NYU Shanghai. ISD has just started its first semester of operation, with Professor Wen-Jui Han, an expert in social policies and child development, as the Institute’s first director.

ISD’s inaugural research project is the development of a database for a longitudinal study on the wellbeing of Chinese children nationwide. With this knowledge, the Chinese government will be able to design policies and programs to address children’s actual needs. By spring 2014, data collection on the children will be finished.

ISD is sponsoring two doctoral students from ECNU to begin graduate studies under NYU Silver mentorship. These students will help conduct the data analysis to fine-tune the research direction. When developing their own research and dissertations, the students will be under the advisement of ISD faculty members.

This will be the first time China is going from informal exchanges among individual social work professionals to an institutionalized collaboration. Next, Silver School and ECNU faculty are considering a formal dual-degree PhD program.

Family-Based HIV Prevention Project Funded for the Dominican Republic

The MAC AIDS Fund has awarded NYU Silver’s Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (CLAFH) funding to deliver an effective, family-based HIV prevention program for youth in the Dominican Republic.

CLAFH co-directors, Vincent Guilamo-Ramos and James Jaccard, will adapt CLAFH’s Families Talking Together (FTT) program, which uses the family as a support system buffering against risk factors that can lead to sexual risk behavior. In the Dominican Republic, these factors include the presence of the tourism industry and correspondingly high rates of drug and alcohol use and sex work.
Game-Based “Homework” App May Enhance Treatment Effectiveness

As smart phones and Internet access become increasingly accessible, why not use apps to supplement care provided by under-resourced public health and behavioral health providers?

A two-year research project conducted by the McSilver Institute aims to develop an app that delivers homework exercises to youth and adult clients who are receiving treatment. The app will use a highly engaging, multiplayer, interactive, cooperative, and skill-building game platform accessed through the Internet or smartphones. Between sessions, clients will use the app to practice specific skills learned during treatment sessions. The goal is to promote skill acquisition and, ultimately, long-term therapeutic benefits.

Previous studies have demonstrated that incorporating homework between mental health visits can improve outcomes. However, little research exists on the impact of homework exercise that uses apps that are web-based and supported on smartphones. The project is being led by Mary McKay, director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, and Andrew Cleek, also of McSilver and an assistant professor at the NYU School of Medicine.

Study Aims to Improve Contraceptive Counseling in the U.S.

Almost half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended. That’s more than 8,000 per day on average. The economic cost amounts to billions annually, and the emotional and psychological costs are incalculable. Half of unintended pregnancies involve women who use contraception but do so inaccurately or inconsistently.

Professor James Jaccard is leading a project with a team of NYU researchers (including Professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos and Research Scientist Nicole Levitz) and researchers at Planned Parenthood Federation of America to improve contraceptive counseling to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.

The counseling protocol was developed from an extensive two-year review of scientific literature on contraceptive behavior among young adults, which was published in 2010 by Jaccard in “Unlocking the Contraceptive Conundrum.” This work was followed by extensive interviews with clients of Title X clinics, contraceptive counselors, managers of health care centers, training directors at clinics medical staff, and organizational leaders.

The team’s protocol is unique in that it uses fundamental principles of decision-making and decision-counseling derived from social science and social work research to simplify the process of decision-making in ways that ensure that the choice of method a client makes is an informed one that “fits” his or her lifestyle.

The research is a two-year scientific study with 1,500 women in 10 different clinics nationwide to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach.

Keeping Mentally Ill Young Adults Engaged in Treatment

Rates of severe mental illness among older adolescents and young adults are high, and, alarmingly, so are rates of dropout from treatment. With funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the New York Community Trust, Associate Professor Michelle Munson aims to better engage young adults firmly in their mental health care and in their lives.

The project is a randomized clinical trial of “Just Do You,” an intervention curriculum that Munson and her collaborators designed with extensive young adult input. It focuses on five factors that influence young adult decision-making about mental health care. These are beliefs about treatment, social norms, image management, emotions, and efficacy. Just Do You uses three types of empirically supported intervention strategies: testimonials about mental health and help-seeking; a mentor who is a little older and further along in recovery and in life experiences; and creative arts.

Recruited from agencies serving low-income families, a total of 120 clients are assigned randomly to treatment and control groups. Data on attendance at scheduled clinic appointments, level of investment in sessions, health literacy, mistrust, hope, and stigma are assessed at four time points.

This research project represents a strong scientific test of an innovative approach to delivering mental health services to vulnerable young adults.
Research Funding

NYU Silver experienced dramatic growth during fiscal year 2012-13, realizing its potential as a part of NYU as a Research I university. More growth is expected, though at a moderate rate.

The Silver School continues to advance the strategic goal of building its sponsored research profile. Annual funding for research projects rose from $1.48 million in 2010-11 to $4.27 million at the close of fiscal year 2012-13. As of August 2013, total awards for active research, evaluation, and training projects exceeds $17.7 million.

These faculty members made recognized contributions as research leaders: Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, James Jaccard, Mary M. McKay, Michelle Munson, and Victoria Stanhope. Their grants were awarded by the MAC AIDS Foundation, New York State Department of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Mental Health, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Diversity of Silver School Community Members

The percentage of students of color in all degree programs increased noticeably from 2009 to 2012. In 2012 in the BS program, Asian/Pacific Islanders represented the freshman class’s largest ethnic group. The percentage of non-whites in the MSW program increased by 11 percent, and the percentage of non-whites in the PhD program grew by 25 percent.

Philanthropy

Total fundraising for the 2012-13 fiscal year raised $2.6 million from 685 donors. Student scholarships continue to be the School’s primary fundraising priority. We thank our generous donors for all their support!
The Silver School’s MSW enrollment rate has remained stable over the past three academic years, with 1,117 students enrolled in fall 2012. Within six months of graduation, 85 percent of 2012 MSW graduates found employment.

The Silver School’s pass rate for the Master’s examination—required for licensure as an LMSW in New York—was 89 percent for 2011 and 2012. NYU Silver pass rates surpass the New York State schools taken as a group and the national pass rate.

From 2009-2012, PhD applications soared. Admissions declined this past year, reflecting increasing selectivity of the program. In the last year, the total number of PhD student publications and presentations mushroomed, while the number of students awarded outside funding doubled.

Enrollment in the BS in Social Work program declined slightly; competition for bachelors’ level students within the University is intense. A new dual degree in social work and global public health and a new minor in multifaith and spiritual leadership may boost interest in the coming year.

Within six months of graduation, 90 percent of BS graduates are either employed, in school, or both. Among the activities of our outstanding graduates: creating agencies using social entrepreneurship models; volunteering in post-earthquake Haiti under a Marshall Scholarship; and pursuing advanced degrees in social work and other fields, including law and medicine.
NYU Silver Full-Time Faculty

Theresa Aiello  
Associate Professor

Alison Aldrich  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Jeane W. Anastas  
Professor; Director, Strategic Planning and New Initiatives

Briana Barocas  
Research Associate Professor; Director of Research, Center on Violence and Recovery

Stacey Barrenger  
Assistant Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Alma J. Carten  
Associate Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Phil Coltoff  
Katherine W. and Howard Aibel Visiting Professor and Executive-in-Residence; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Anne Dempsey  
Clinical Instructor

Suzanne England  
Professor

Trudy B. Festing  
Professor

Martha A. Gabriel  
Associate Professor

Susan B. Gerbino  
Clinical Associate Professor; Coordinator, Westchester County Campus; Director, Zelda Foster Studies Program in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Liliana Goldin  
Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow; Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health Faculty Fellow

Diane Grodney  
Clinical Associate Professor

Vincent Guarino-Ramos  
Professor; Director, PhD Program; Faculty Affiliate, Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR); Co-Director, Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Marcella Runell Hall  
Clinical Instructor; Director, Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership; Co-Director, Center for Spiritual Life at New York University

Ven-JU HAN  
Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow; Co-Director, NYU-ECNU Institute for Social Development; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Robert L. Hawkins  
McSilver Associate Professor in Poverty Studies; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Gary Holden  
Professor

James Jaccard  
Professor; Associate Dean for Research; Co-Director, Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Mary Ann Jones  
Associate Professor

Gerald Landsberg  
Professor

Yuhwa Eva Lu  
Associate Professor

Virgen Luce  
Clinical Assistant Professor

James J. Martin  
Associate Professor

Mary McKernan McKay  
McSilver Professor of Poverty Studies; Director, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Thomas M. Meenaghan  
Professor Emeritus

Darcey Merritt  
Assistant Professor

Robin Miller  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Linda G. Mills  
Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor; Professor of Social Work, Public Policy, and Law; Executive Director, Center on Violence and Recovery; Vice Chancellor for Global Programs and University Life; Associate Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Financial Support for NYU Abu Dhabi

Diane Mirabito  
Clinical Associate Professor

Peggy Morton  
Clinical Associate Professor; Assistant Dean, Field Learning and Community Partnerships

Michelle Munson  
Associate Professor; Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health Faculty Fellow; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Duy Nguyen  
Assistant Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow

Maryellen Noonan  
Associate Professor; Coordinator, Rockland County Campus

Deborah K. Padgett  
Professor; McSilver Faculty Fellow; Director, New York Recovery Center; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Dina J. Rosenfeld  
Clinical Associate Professor; Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Director, BS Program

Tazuko Shibusawa  
Associate Professor; Associate Dean, Professional Programs; Director, MSW Program

Judith Siegel  
Associate Professor

Roberta Solomon  
Clinical Instructor

Sandy Speier  
Clinical Associate Professor

Victoria Stanhope  
Associate Professor

Shulamith Lala Strausssner  
Professor

Carol Tosone  
Associate Professor

Ellen Tuchman  
Associate Professor; Faculty Affiliate, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

Catherine M. Vu  
Diversity Post Doctoral Fellow and Assistant Professor

Jerome C. Wakefield  
University Professor; Professor of the Conceptual Foundations of Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine; Faculty Affiliate, InSPIRES (Institute for Social and Psychiatric Initiatives: Research, Education and Service), Department of Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine; Affiliate Faculty, NYU Center for Bioethics; Affiliate Faculty, NYU Center for Ancient Studies; Honorary Faculty, Institute for Psychoanalytic Education, NYU Medical Center

Crystal Williams  
Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow

Robert Yaffe  
Research Professor

Faculty Awards and Honors

• Jeane Anastas  
  Feminist Scholarship Award, Council on Social Work Education

• Mary McKay  
  Fellow, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

• Deborah Padgett  
  Distinguished Teaching Award, New York University

• Sandy Speier  
  Merit Service Award, NASW Westchester

• Shulamith Lala Strausssner  
  Fulbright Distinguished Chair Scholarship to the Czech Republic
This honor roll acknowledges NYU Silver’s loyal givers and recognizes contributions made by generous donors in the 2012-13 fiscal year. Your investment helps make it possible for Silver School students to earn a quality education that allows them to make a positive difference in the world. Thank you for supporting NYU Silver, and we hope we can continue to count on your gifts in 2013-14.

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