



Social Work

Fields of Practice and Focused Learning Opportunities

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Introduction

Fields of Practice

Field Learning is organized along fields of practice. In the following you will find descriptions of each field of practice and samples of agencies in their respective categories. You will find some agencies in several fields of practice, as many agencies deal with issues across systems. Most agencies have their own websites, which will give you more detailed information about the agencies' mission and vision. You may also check the United Way NY Cares listing for agency information at www.uwnyc.org

- Child, Youth and Family Services
- School-based Services
- Adult Services
- Aging
- Health
- Mental Health
- Disabilities Across the Life Cycle
- Social Work And Law

Placement Process

Generalist Practice Year

In the Generalist Practice Year, students are placed in one of the fields of practice where he/she is expected to learn and practice within a generalist perspective (see learning objectives for Generalist Practice Year in the MSW Manual).

Upon submission of the student's Field Learning Placement Questionnaire and an up-to-date resume, a member of the clinical faculty in Field Learning matches the student to a field learning site based on the student's program, professional interest, experience, where they live, and requirements of the field learning site. All field learning web forms are located on the Silver School's website at <http://socialwork.nyu.edu/academics/msw/curriculum/field-learning/student-manuals-forms.html>

Specialized Practice Year

Please refer to the Placement Process and Timeline on the website for more detailed process information and important deadlines.

At the beginning of the second semester of the Generalist Practice Year, the student will meet with his/her Faculty Advisor to plan for the Specialized Practice year.

In the Specialized Practice year, it is possible for the student to focus his or her graduate education on specific aspects of social work within specific practice systems (fields of practice). The Faculty Advisor, in the capacity of educational consultant, assists the student with the development of educational goals and objectives for the Specialized Practice Year that will facilitate the individual student's professional development and growth (see learning objectives for Specialized Practice Year in the MSW Manual). Students may also apply to one of the Focused Learning Opportunities in the Specialized Practice Year. These opportunities are described in detail below. The student will submit the Placement Questionnaire for the Specialized Practice Year and an updated resume. The student's Faculty Advisor will complete an Assessment Form. If the student is interested in one of the Focused Learning Opportunities, an additional short essay is required from the student (located on the Placement Questionnaire) as well as a letter of reference from the Faculty Advisor (located on the Faculty Advisor Assessment Form). Students are allowed to apply to only one of the Focused Learning Opportunities. All field learning web forms are on the School's website at <http://socialwork.nyu.edu/academics/msw/curriculum/field-learning/student-manuals-forms.html>

Once the Field Learning team receives all information from both the student and the Faculty Advisor, the student's material will be given to a clinical faculty who will match the student to a field learning site based on the student's academic program, professional interests, goals and objectives, past experience, where the student lives in relation to the field learning site, and requirements of the field learning site. The clinical faculty consults with the student's classroom instructors and Faculty Advisor to make the best possible match.

Fields of Practice

Child, Youth and Family Services

- Early Childhood
- Child Welfare Services
- Mental Health

Strengthening families is a key priority for the social work profession. Contemporary families are a blend of many different lifestyles and structures requiring a full range of services to children and families, from primary prevention to rehabilitation across the life cycle. While almost every field of social work practice is concerned with families in some general way, placements in the Child, Youth and Family Services field of practice are in agencies that specifically focus on intervention within the family context and on safe and healthy development for children.

Family and children's services can include work with families experiencing difficulties as a result of situational stress associated with occurrences such as: confusion in family roles; reactive disorders in childhood/adolescence; poor school performance of a child; parental/couple dysfunction; loss of employment; loss of a parent or significant family member through death, desertion or separation/divorce; catastrophic illness of a family member; or domestic violence.

Services may be provided in a variety of settings, including therapeutic services, community programs, family service centers, schools, parenting programs, summer camps, hospitals, and public and private child welfare agencies providing prevention services, protective services, residential care, and adoption services.

Sample Agencies for Child, Youth and Family Services	
Ackerman Institute	Human Development Services of Westchester
Andrus Children's Center	Ironbound Community Corporation
Association to Benefit Children	Inwood House
Astor Child Guidance	Jacobi Medical Center
Astor Day Treatment	Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS)
Astor Home for Children	Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA)

Sample Agencies for Child, Youth and Family Services

Bergen County Division of Family Guidance	Jewish Community Center of the Greater Five Towns
Bronx Children's Psychiatric Center	Jewish Family Services
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services	Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial Home For Children
Brooklyn Children's Center	Kings County District Attorney's Office/Juvenile Unit
Brooklyn Family Court	Kulanu
Catholic Big Sisters & Big Brothers	Lakewood Community Services
Center for Family Life / Preventive Services / Fostercare	Partnership for Children's Rights
Center for Family Representation	Mercy First
Center for Human Development and Family Services	Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
Chai Lifeline	Metropolitan Hospital Center
Child Abuse Prevention Center/Exchange Club	Mineola Youth and Family Services
Child Center of New York, The	Mothers & Fathers Aligned Saving Kids (MAFSK)
Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut	New Alternatives for Children
Children's Aid Society	North Shore LIJ/Schneider's Children's Hospital
Children's Village	Northside Center for Child Development
Circle of Care for Families & Children of Passaic County	NY Asian Women's Center / Children's Program
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	NY Foundling
Columbia Presbyterian Medical / Child Advocacy Pediatrics	NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Community Counseling & Mediation	NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	NYS Psychiatric Institute/ Children Day Treatment Unit
East Hampton Department of Human Services	NYU School of Law/Family Defense Clinic
East Side House Settlement	Ohel Children's Home and Family Services

Sample Agencies for Child, Youth and Family Services

Educational Alliance	Otsar Family Services
Episcopal Social Services	Partnership for Children, Inc.
Family Center	Project Y. E. S.
Family Connections	Putnam Family & Community Services
Flatbush Haitian Center / Family Preventive Services	Queens Children's Psychiatric Center
Food First, Inc.	Roberto Clemente Family Guidance Center
Friends of Island Academy	Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center
Girls for Gender Equity	Safe Space

School-based Services

- Elementary/Middle School Programs
- High School Programs
- Higher Education Programs

Social work is one of several disciplines represented in school settings. The social worker has the task of identifying, addressing and treating the social, emotional and environmental problems that interfere with the learning process, including the issues faced by the new immigrant student.

This field of practice includes public school districts in urban and suburban areas (general student bodies and special education) and residential/day programs for students with special needs. A community-based organization or medical center may sponsor a school-based program.

Social workers address truancy, learning problems and behavioral problems. A large number of students' families are in need of general social services and linkages to immigrant communities. Environmental situations often impact on students' ability to successfully engage in the learning process. Some students may demonstrate emotional and/or behavioral problems of such severity that they need to attend alternative specialized day or residential school programs. The prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse are important components of school social work.

The student placed in a school setting provides a variety of services that may include: individual and group services to children, teenagers and their families; consultation with teachers, administrators and support staff; referral for diagnostic testing; and advocacy.

Sample Agencies for School-based Services

Astor Day Treatment Center	NYC DOE/Bronx Regional High School
Bronx Guild	NYC DOE/Community Roots Charter School/Social Work Dept.
Bronx Guild High School	NYC DOE/CS 133
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society / Nat Azarow Site	NYC DOE/Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School
Catholic Charities / Flowers with Care / GED Plus	NYC DOE/Global Enterprise Academy High School
Children's Aid Society / CS 61 - IS 190	NYC DOE/Institute for Collaborative Education (ICE)
Children's Aid Society /Fannie Lou Hamer High School	NYC DOE/Long Island City High School (LYFE Program)
Children's Aid Society /Isaac Newton Middle School	NYC DOE/New Design High School
Children's Aid Society/ Manhattan Center for Science & Math	NYC DOE/Pablo Neruda Academy
Children's Aid Society/Goodhue Center/Staten Island Foster Care/MHC	NYC DOE/Passages Academy
Children's Aid Society/I.S. 218/I.S. 293/M.S. 322	NYC DOE/PS 154
Children's Aid Society/P.S. 8/P.S. 5/Head Start	NYC DOE/PS 48/Joseph R. Drake School
Connetquot School District / Slocum Elementary School	NYC DOE/PS 84
Democracy Prep Charter School	Parkside School
Fair Lawn Board of Education / Warren Point Elementary School	Partnership with Children, Inc. / Albany Ave. ALC
FEGS / Bronx Lab School	Partnership with Children, Inc. / High School for Global Citizenship
Gotham Professional Arts Academy / H.S.	Partnership with Children, Inc. / John Jay HS ALC
Greenwich Village Youth Council/Essex Street Academy	Partnership with Children, Inc. / PS 111
Harlem Day Charter School	Partnership with Children, Inc. / PS 332

Sample Agencies for School-based Services

Institute for Community Living (ICL)/PS 13	Partnership with Children, Inc. / PS 96
International Center for the Disabled/PS 146 Child & Adolescent Mental Health	Passaic County Community College
Kearny High School	Pratt Institute / Office of Health & Counseling
Kingsborough Community College	Round The Clock Nursery / Social Services Dept.
Long Island University/C.W. Post	Safe Horizon - NYC DOE Truman High School
Lorge School	Safe Horizon / School Programs
Lutheran Social Services of New York / New Life School	Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center
Mental Health Providers of Western Queens/Mental Health School Program	Salvation Army of Greater New York
Montefiore Medical Center/School Based Health Program	SNAP Long Island
North Babylon Union Free School District	South Orange & Maplewood School District
Northeastern Academy	St. Basil Academy
NYC DOE / Brooklyn Generation High School	The Leadership Program
NYC DOE / Lower Manhattan Arts Academy	United Federation of Teachers/Victim Support
NYC DOE / PS/MS 34	Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice
NYC DOE Harlem Renaissance High School	West End Day School
NYC DOE/Brandeis High School	Yeshiva of Central Queens
NYC DOE/PS 184 / Shuang Wan School	Youth Consultation Service
NYC DOE/PS 3	

Adult Services

- Domestic and Community Violence
- Immigrants/Refugees
- LGBTQ
- Homelessness
- Substance Abuse Services
- Veterans' Services

This practice system (field of practice) includes agencies that provide services for adults who are experiencing difficulties relating to: domestic violence, community violence, immigration, HIV/AIDS, LGBT, homelessness, rehabilitation, community disaster and poverty.

Sample Agencies for Adult Services	
Actors Fund of America	Housing Works, Inc.
Addiction Institute of New York	Institute for Community Living (ICL)
Ali Forney	Karen Horney Clinic
Alternatives to Domestic Violence	Lenox Hill Neighborhood Assoc./Casa Mutua
Arms Acres	LGBT Community Center / Center Care Recovery
Bailey House	Lower Eastside Service Center
Bellevue Hospital Center / Hospital to Home	Make the Road by Walking
Beth Israel Medical Center - Mapplethorpe Residence	Mental Health Providers of Western Queens
Beth Israel Medical Center/Supportive Case Management	Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty/Crisis Intervention Center
Bikur Cholim of Boro Park	New York Asian Women's Center
Bridge Back to Life	NY State Department of Correctional Svces/Lincoln Correctional Facility
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service	North Shore LIJ Health System/Zucker Hillside Hospital

Sample Agencies for Adult Services	
Brooklyn Center for the Family in Crisis	North Shore LIJ Health/ Far Rockaway Treatment Center
Brooklyn Pride Community Center	NYC Department of Homeless Services
Brooklyn Treatment Court	NYC Housing Authority / Queens Social Services, Clinical Unit
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center	NYS OASIS South Beach Addiction Program
Catholic Charities/Mt Carmel Guild/Adult Partial Hospital Program	Phoenix House
Center for Community Alternatives	Project Hospitality, Inc.
Center for Family Representation	Project Return
Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS)	Safe Horizon
Children's Aid Society / Family Wellness Program	SAGE - Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	Sakhi for Southasian Women
Coalition for the Homeless / First Step	Samaritan Village
Counseling Service EDNY	Sanctuary For Families
DOROT / Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)	SCO Family of Services
East Side House Settlement	St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital / Addictions Institute /Connect Program
Educational Alliance / Project Contact	Staten Island University Hospital / Silberstein Center
Gay Men's Health Crisis	Steps to End Family Violence
Grand Central Neighborhood Drop In Center	SUNY/Downstate Medical Center/Starr HIV Medical Center
Greenwich House	Tempo Group
H.R.A. HIV AIDS Service Agency (HASA)	The Community Lantern Group / Leeward Hall

Sample Agencies for Adult Services	
Hamilton House/Asian American Recovery Services	TRI Center/Manhattan
Hanac Project ASAP	Urban Justice Center
Harlem East Life Plan	Veteran's Administration/NY Harbor Health Care System
Harlem United	West Midtown Medical Group/Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Program
Help USA	Women Helping Women
Horton Family Program for Alcoholism	Woodhull Hospital

Aging

- [Senior Centers](#)
- [Short and Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Caregiver Support Services](#)

Thanks to medical and public health advances, people are living longer and the number of older adults is growing rapidly. By 2030, the number of Americans aged 65 and older is expected to double to more than 70 million. Social workers in every field of practice increasingly provide clinical services to families across three, four and even five generations. Those who specialize in gerontology are embarking upon a rich, varied and rewarding career that can make a difference in the lives of individuals, families and society as a whole.

Social work in aging is one of the fastest growing careers in the profession and aging specialists can expect to have limitless opportunities for professional growth and advancement. Gerontological social workers enrich the lives of individuals and families from diverse ethnic, cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds, including elders who are active and healthy as well as those who are living with poor physical or mental health. They provide a wide range of innovative services, including geriatric assessment, crisis intervention and support, clinical case management, assistance and linkage with housing, long-term care and other supportive services and resources; individual, group and family psychotherapy, community outreach and education, policy practice and social advocacy to combat ageism and promote social justice. Social workers in aging provide these services across the continuum of care, in people's homes, in outpatient and inpatient settings and in community-based agencies.

Sample Agencies for Aging	
Actors Fund - New Jersey	Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
Aging in America, Inc.	Jewish Home & Hospital

Sample Agencies for Aging

AMICO Senior Center	Methodist Hospital-Inpatient Geropsychiatry
Buckingham Care & Rehabilitation Center	Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center
Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation	Mt. Sinai Medical Center
Caring Community	NY Academy of Medicine
Carmel Richmond Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center	NY Methodist Hospital - Geriatric Psychiatry
Community Agency for Senior Citizens	NYC Department for the Aging
Educational Alliance/Senior Adult Services	NYU Medical Center/Silberstein Aging & Dementia Research Center
Flushing Hospital—Integrated Physical and Mental Health Project	Search & Care
Forest View Adult Day Care Center	Selfhelp Community Services - Nazi Victims Program
Geriatric Mental Health Alliance	Selfhelp Community Services/Austin Street Senior Center
Hamilton Madison House - Southbridge Towers Senior Services	Selfhelp Community Services/Big Six Towers NORC
Heights & Hill Community Council	Selfhelp Community Services/Queensview
Henry Street Settlement	Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center
Hudson Guild-Older Adult Services	

Health

- Medical Inpatient Services
- Community-based Health Care
- Interprofessional Home-based Health Care

Social work in health care settings gives recognition to the impact of an illness on the patient, family members and significant others. One of the functions of the social worker is to contribute to the team’s understanding of the patient’s past and current functioning. Since clients come from many ethnic, cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds, the social worker can

provide understanding of how these factors operate at all levels of interaction. The social worker provides services to patients of all ages.

In a pediatric unit, the work centers around the child's or adolescent's reason for hospitalization (i.e. trauma, stabilization of chronic illness, new diagnosis) as well as working with the patient's primary caregiver in ensuring the patient's adjustment to the hospital stay and working together to formulate a safe discharge plan.

In a medical/surgical unit the work can be with older adults, around the emotional reaction to the illness and prognosis which often includes feelings of depression, denial, anger, rage, body image concerns, grief, and fear of/preparation for dying. Additionally, the social worker, along with the treatment team, is involved in the discharge planning, aftercare and follow-up of the patient.

The work is fast-paced, with interdisciplinary team collaboration an essential part of the field experience. Because HIV/AIDS is one of the major medical problems in New York City, students may have the opportunity to provide services to this client group and their families. Some field work assignments specifically serve this population.

Placements may be in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities or community-based health services. Social work interventions are primarily diagnostic assessment, crisis and short-term counseling. Opportunities for bereavement counseling, home visits and group work are available in some settings.

Rehabilitation facilities provide specialized services to bring patients to an improved level of functioning, usually after a stay in an acute care hospital. The student placed in a rehabilitation setting works with patients who have recently undergone a serious trauma, are recovering from a stroke or injury or have suffered other physical problems. Outpatient rehabilitation centers help people with specific disabilities such as congenital disabilities, hearing, speech and visual losses.

Sample Agencies for Health	
Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Rose Kennedy Center	Montefiore Children's Hospital
American Cancer Society	Mt. Sinai Medical Center
Bellevue Hospital Center	North Shore LIJ Health System
Bergen Regional Medical Center	NY Eye & Ear Infirmary
Beth Israel Medical Center	NY Methodist Hospital
Elmhurst Hospital Center	NY Presbyterian Community Health Plan
Epilepsy Institute	NY Presbyterian Hospital/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
Extended Home Care	NY Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell
Flushing Hospital Center	NYU Medical Center

Sample Agencies for Health

Gouverneur Hospital	Partnership with Children, Inc.
Hackensack University Medical Center	Planned Parenthood of NYC/Margaret Sanger Center
Hospital for Joint Diseases	Queens Hospital Center
Hospital for Special Surgery	Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders of NY/NJ
Institute for Urban Family Health	Safe Horizon
Jamaica Hospital	Staten Island University Hospital
Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center	Staten Island University Hospital/South Site
League for the Hard of Hearing	United Hospice of Rockland
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Veteran's Administration of Manhattan/NY Harbor Health Care System
Metropolitan Jewish Health System	

Mental Health

- Outpatient Mental Health Services
- Integrative Health/Behavioral Health Care
- Inpatient Hospital

Social workers in every field of practice are concerned with promoting a positive sense of personal well-being in which individuals feel comfortable with themselves, and function well in their various roles in life, and in family and social relationships. This is the specific focus of the work in mental health settings.

The mental health field involves a range of settings. Mental health facilities may operate under voluntary or public auspices. Inpatient psychiatric units and outpatient clinics are located in state, municipal and voluntary hospitals. Partial hospitalization programs, day treatment centers and rehabilitation units offer an alternative to hospitalization through the provision of all-day service, usually five days a week. Community-based mental health centers, residential treatment centers, and outpatient clinics serve members of the community, and many specialize with respect to age and function, e.g., child and adolescent, adult, geriatric, aftercare mentally ill substance abusers. Institutes also fall under this category. Programs may serve their immediate communities or may draw from a wider geographic area for specialized services.

Client issues range from problems in daily living to severe pathology, and issues may be acute or chronic. Mental health settings usually involve collaboration with a multidisciplinary team. Varying theoretical approaches to treatment are employed by different facilities. Settings may offer an opportunity for work with individuals, families and small groups.

Sample Agencies for Mental Health: Community Mental Health	
Ackerman Institute	Graham Windham
Bayonne Community Mental Health Center	Hudson Guild
Betty Shabazz Center East New York	Institute for Community Living (ICL)
Blanton-Peale Institute	Institute for Psychoanalytic Training & Research
Bleuler Psychotherapy Center	Jacobi Medical Center
Bridge, The Inc.	Jewish Board of Family & Children Services, Inc.
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service	Karen Horney Clinic
Brooklyn Center for Psychotherapy	Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc.
Canarsie Aware	Metropolitan Center for Mental Health, Inc.
Catholic Charities / Diocese of Metuchen	National Institute for the Psychotherapies, Inc.
Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services	Neighborhood Counseling Center
Center for Urban Community Services - CUCS	NY Counseling & Guidance
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Center for Youth and Families	Park Slope Center for Mental Health
Christ Hospital Counseling & Resource Center	Pathways to Housing
CIS Counseling Center / Mental Health Clinic	Pederson-Krag Center/Huntington
Community Counseling Center of Larchmont & Mamaroneck	Postgraduate Center for Mental Health
Creedmoor Psychiatric Center	Puerto Rican Family Institute/Brooklyn MH Clinic
F.E.G.S. (Federation Employment & Guidance Service)	Ramapo College Center for Health & Counseling

Sample Agencies for Mental Health: Community Mental Health	
Family Service League/NJ	Soundview Throgs Neck Community Mental Health
Family Service League of East Hampton	South Beach Psychiatric Center
Family Service of Westchester	Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc.
Fifth Avenue Center for Counseling & Psychotherapy	Volunteer Counseling Services (VCS), Inc.
Full Circle Health	Washington Square Institute

Sample Agencies for Mental Health: Hospital-based Mental Health	
Bellevue Hospital Center	Mountainside Hospital
Beth Israel Medical Center	NY Methodist Hospital
Bronx Psychiatric Center	NY Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell/Payne Whitney Clinic
Coney Island Hospital	NY Presbyterian Hospital/White Plains
Elmhurst Hospital Center	NYS Psychiatric Institute
Flushing Hospital Center	Queens Hospital Center
Four Winds Hospital	South Beach Psychiatric Center
Gouverneur Hospital	St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center/Manhattan
Holliswood Hospital	St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center/Mary Immaculate Hospital
Interfaith Medical Center	Summit Oaks Hospital
Jacobi Medical Center	Trinitas Hospital
Maimonides Medical Center	VA/Manhattan/NY Harbor Health Care System
Manhattan Psychiatric Center	VA/Montrose/Hudson Valley Health Care System

Sample Agencies for Mental Health: Hospital-based Mental Health

Metropolitan Hospital Center	VA/Vet Center/NJ
Montefiore Medical Center	

Disabilities Across the Life Cycle

This field of practice provides services to individuals who have a disability or impaired functioning in sensory, intellectual, physical or behavioral spheres. The field addresses a range of disabilities, including developmental delay, speech and language disorders, learning impairments, learning disabilities and physical problems. The client population represents a diverse range of age, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups. The majority of the services are community based.

Developmental disabilities settings are often family oriented and the identified client is most often a child or young adult, although services are also provided for the family. A large portion of the work in this field of practice is geared to the early diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of the disability as well as intervention with the family. A developmentally disabled child is often experienced as a serious assault on parental self-esteem and disruptive to family equilibrium. Clinical services may be directed toward providing opportunities for the family to mourn and grieve the loss of a fully functioning child and assist in coping with the life-long task of rearing the impaired individual through the various stages of the life cycle.

The social worker functions as an essential member of an interdisciplinary team which includes other mental health professionals, speech pathologists, occupational/vocational therapists, neurologists and pediatricians, while utilizing a range of treatment modalities.

Among the learning opportunities available for students in these settings may be:

1. Being a member of the interdisciplinary team in evaluating the client and family. This includes taking developmental histories, making family assessments and preparing families for complete diagnostic evaluations.
2. Providing mental health treatment services for clients and families.
3. Doing crisis intervention work at critical stages, e.g., around problems in school, conflict with peers and/or parents, residential placement or during episodes of depression.
4. Honing case management skills, including referrals and advocacy for appropriate school and vocational placement.
5. Participating in outreach services including early identification, intervention and prevention programs.

Sample Agencies for Disabilities Across the Life Cycle

Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Mountainside Hospital
Center for Family Support	NY Methodist Hospital
Child Center of New York, The Asian Outreach Program	A Very Special Place, Inc.
International Center for Disabled / Addiction and Recovery Services	United Cerebral Palsy of NYC, Inc.
Jawonio Inc./ Community Living Services	YAI/National Institute For People With Disabilities
League for the Hard of Hearing	Yedei Chesed, Inc.

Social Work and Law

- [Alternatives to Incarceration](#)
- [Forensic Social Work](#)
- [Court-based Programs](#)

Social work practice in the contexts of corrections, criminal justice, and the legal system involves working with victims and/or offenders. The focus of the work with crime victims is on accessing systems of support and assistance; the work with criminal offenders focuses on attempting to minimize recidivism by improving their coping and vocational skills and accessing resources in the community. Clients may be dealing with a variety of issues including mental health problems, substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse. Services provided by the student can include counseling/psychotherapy as well as the provision of concrete services to the clients and family members. Services are provided in a range of settings, including courthouses, outpatient mental health and substance abuse clinics, residential facilities, and correctional facilities.

Practice in these settings requires an ability to work in collaboration with a range of support service delivery systems, particularly the legal and child welfare systems. In addition, it is important for the student to be able to understand cultural, economic and other factors that impact on either the victims of or the perpetrators of crime. Depending on the setting, there may be interaction with a variety of constituencies, from attorneys, judges, case workers, advocates, and mental health professionals to crime victims, offenders, and their families.

Learning opportunities for students may include assessment, individual or family counseling, group work, crisis intervention, prevention, case management, concrete services, and interacting with collateral agencies such as the probation department.

Sample Agencies for Social Work and Law	
African Services Committee	Counseling Service EDNY (Brooklyn, Queens)
Ann Klein Forensic Center	Friends of Island Academy
Assoc. of the Bar of the City of NY/Cancer Advocacy Program	King's County District Attorney's Office
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (Westchester)	Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center
Bridges Juvenile Center	Lawyers for Children
Brooklyn Family Court	MFY Legal Services
Brooklyn Treatment Court	NYU Legal Defense Clinic
Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services (CASES)	NYU School of Law/Family Defense Clinic
Center for Community Alternatives	Osborne Association

Sample Agencies for Social Work and Law	
Children's Aid Society - Bronx PINS	Passages Academy
Children's Aid Society/Brooklyn/PINS Diversion Program	Police Athletic League - Wynn Center Brooklyn
Council Member Alan J. Gerson / NYC Council / Constituent Services	Safe Horizon
Court Appointed Special Advocates Friends of Island Academy	

Focused Learning Opportunities

Focused Learning Opportunity: **Social Work Practice with Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders**

Faculty Coordinators:		
Dr. Christine Fewell	christine.fewell@nyu.edu	212.228.0074
Alison Aldrich	alison.aldrich@nyu.edu	212.998.9190

Specialized Practice students who are interested in deepening their clinical skills with individuals who have substance use or co-occurring disorders and their families are encouraged to apply for this program. Social workers will encounter individuals, families and children dealing with the impact of substance use disorders in every setting in which they are employed and are in an ideal position to intervene. A well-grounded knowledge of practice interventions with this population is in demand in the workplace and is a prerequisite for positions in many settings, including schools, programs serving military personnel and veterans, domestic violence programs, settings that serve the LGBT community, programs serving the criminal justice system, hospitals, and mental health clinics. The number of programs serving co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders is growing.

Purpose:

- Deepening clinical skills with individuals who have substance use or co-occurring disorders and their families.

- Participating in the Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO Seminar will give students the opportunity to obtain extra support while learning about the substance abuse field; it is important to note, however, that it is not necessary to make a decision now that this is a population with which you wish to continue working after graduation.
- Students will be placed in OASAS licensed agencies with field instructors who have been selected based on their commitment to teaching students.

Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO Monthly Seminar:

- The Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO Seminar is a 2-hour didactic and group supervision seminar that meets monthly (for both semesters) on Thursday mornings from 9:00- 10:50am at 1 Washington Square North. There is no credit given for the Substance Abuse FLO Seminar, but it is required for the FLO.
- If you are in field on Thursday you will be released from your placement to attend the Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO Seminar (the hours will be counted as part of the field placement hours if you are in the field on Thursdays).
- Students discuss assigned readings, complete online modules, and participate by giving overviews of their agency and in-depth case presentations
- It is important to make a commitment to participation in the seminar for both semesters.

The seminar will cover a wide range of topics important for gaining expertise in this area including:

- Organizational structure and culture of substance abuse agencies
- Interdisciplinary collaboration with alcohol and drug counselors
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Substance use disorder treatment options
- Co-occurring disorders
- 12-step groups
- Harm reduction
- Motivational interviewing
- Cognitive behavioral therapy and relapse prevention
- Working with the LGBT substance-abusing population
- Work with families and children in substance-abusing families
- Case presentations

NY State CASAC Training Certificate

- It is possible to earn all 350 required training hours for the CASAC-T by taking the following courses as part of your MSW curriculum:
 - Clinical Practice with Substance Abusers and their Families (an elective, offered in Fall, Winter and Spring)
 - Attend the monthly FLO seminar and complete the assignments
 - Advanced Social Policy in Substance Use (given Spring semester only at WSN , generally on Tuesdays at 4:45 pm). An advanced policy course is required as part of the MSW curriculum and it would be necessary to choose this one for the OASAS certificate.
 - Following completion of the 350 training hours, you are eligible to apply for the CASAC-T and to be approved to sit for the CASAC exam
 - The CASAC credential also requires additional work hours in the field
- The CASAC is a New York State credential and this training certificate is not applicable to other states, such as NJ and CT

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you are not interested in obtaining the training hours for the NYS CASAC, you can participate without taking the elective and policy class noted above
- However, attendance at the monthly Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO Seminar is required
- Please remember when you register for classes that you will need to keep Thursday mornings free for both semesters
- You do not have to be part of the Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders FLO to be placed at a Substance Abuse Agency

Focused Learning Opportunity:

Social Work Practice: Zelda Foster Studies in Palliative and End of Life Care

Faculty Coordinator:		
Dr. Susan Gerbino	susan.gerbino@nyu.edu	212.998.5917
Field Faculty Coordinator:		
Virge Luce, MSW, LCSW	virge.luce@nyu.edu	212.992.9716

Zelda Foster was a pioneer in the development of the hospice movement in the United States and was a leader in the field of palliative and end of life care (PELC). Zelda Foster taught in the Silver School of Social Work’s Post-Masters Certificate Program in PELC since its inception. Zelda died in July of 2006 and the Silver School of Social Work, with the support of Zelda’s family and friends, has established this program in her honor. Its mission is to develop and mentor social work leaders in the areas of clinical practice, education, research, publication and administration.

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. End of Life Care refers to programs that care for the dying such as hospice.

This initiative is a **four-year program** which includes an enhanced field learning experience, two years of post-graduate mentorship, and support for continuing education in year four. Up to 10 Specialized Practice students will be selected as the “Zelda Foster Fellows.” All Fellows will be placed in PELC settings, which include hospitals, out-patient cancer centers, hospices, and nursing homes. There is also some funding for conference attendance in year one, both for the Fellows and their Field Instructors.

All Fellows will be required to attend **monthly two-hour seminars** at the School, which will supplement field learning. Agencies must agree to release students for these seminars and the hours are counted as part of the field placement hours. The seminars include case consultation, reflective writing, support and didactic lectures from guest speakers on topics such as Pain and Symptom Management.

****The seminar takes place on Wednesdays, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM.**

*****There may be scholarships available to those accepted for this Fellowship – please check with Dr. Gerbino if you have financial need – susan.gerbino@nyu.edu*****

Fellows are required to take the following electives:

- Introduction to Palliative Care Social Work – one-credit elective
- Grief, Loss and Bereavement - three-credit elective

Fellows are strongly encouraged to take one of the following Advanced Policy courses:

- Advanced Policy (Aging)
- Advanced Policy (Health)

Post-Graduate Years

After graduation, all Fellows who are committed to remaining in PELC will be matched with a mentor for two hours of individual mentorship a month. The goal of the mentorship program is to provide support, guidance and help with professional and career development. Zelda believed new social workers in PELC need mentoring, due to the special challenges of this work. Mentors receive special training and supervision and are required to have at least five years of post-MSW experience in PELC.

After completing the mentorship years, Fellows will receive financial support for continuing education in clinical work, research, teaching, writing or leadership.

Focused Learning Opportunity: Social Work Practice: Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice for Adults with Severe Mental Illness

Faculty Coordinator:		
Dr. Jennifer Manuel	jennifer.manuel@nyu.edu	212.998.5972
Placement Coordinator:		
Dr. Nicholas Lanzieri	nicholas.lanzieri@nyu.edu	212.998.7375

This focused learning opportunity is for specialized practice students interested in participating in an innovative program focused on evidence-based practices in mental health for **adults with severe mental illness**. The one semester course and field placement aim to develop knowledge and skills necessary for social work students to work with individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness using recovery-oriented, evidence-based treatments such as assertive community treatment (ACT), integrated dual disorder treatment, supported employment, wellness self-management, and family psycho-education. Students will also learn motivational interviewing techniques, social skills training, medication management, and technology transfer for a changing workforce.

To integrate student competencies learned in the course, students will select their field learning site from a continuum of mental health care settings (community-based mental health centers) and the specific intervention (assertive community treatment, integrated dual disorder treatment, family psycho-education, wellness self-management, and supported employment).

Participants are required to attend three to four scheduled colloquia to supplement the course and field learning and to give the student additional skill building. Enrichment seminars are usually held on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the school.

Program participants will:

- Participate in a Fall semester course on evidence-based mental health practice with adults with severe mental illness;
- Learn to deliver some of the most advanced therapeutic practices that have been proven effective through clinical research and values necessary for working with adults with severe mental illness and their families;
- Attend four colloquia designed to integrate coursework clinical practice with program planning, policy and research;
- Receive a modest stipend for participation; and
- Upon successful completion of the year, receive an Office of Mental Health certificate indicating training in evidence-based mental health practices, and upon graduation, attain access to a list of current competitive job openings in mental health.

Focused Learning Opportunity: Social Work Practice: Micro/Macro Practice in Organizations

Placement Coordinator:		
Dr. Linda Lausell-Bryant	linda.lausellbryant@nyu.edu	212.998.4309

Social Work Practice: Micro/Macro Practice in Organizations (formerly Policy Practice) is a Focused Learning Opportunity centered around giving students experiences that move beyond typical direct practice. This is a selective program that combines students' interest in direct-practice social work with social work practice that includes program development and management, policy or program evaluation, policy analysis, grant writing, and a broad range of policy-related activities. Students also attend supplemental educational seminars on various topics including, but not limited to grant development, leadership, community organization, and policy analysis in the real world. This is the oldest of the FLOs and has placed students in a wide cross-section of agencies. Students may split their time between direct practice social work and more focused policy practice or focus on policy practice only. In the past, in addition to preparing students to advocate for their clients, policy practice students have been able to hone their skills in one-on-one direct counseling, working with families, leading groups, trauma counseling, advanced case management, and other areas of social work and social welfare.

Focused Learning Opportunity: Integrated Youth Behavioral Health (IYBH): Adolescent Practice

Faculty:		
Co-Directors: Dr. Diane Mirabito Dr. Judith Siegel Project Manager: Dr. Aminda Heckman Chomanczuk	diane.mirabito@nyu.edu judith.siegel@nyu.edu aminda.chomanczuk@nyu.edu	
Field Faculty: Professor Anne Dempsey Professor Virge Luce	anne.dempsey@nyu.edu virge.luce@nyu.edu	

This Focused Learning Opportunity (FLO) is offered to Specialized Practice students who are interested in learning how to work with vulnerable at-risk youth, specifically adolescents, aged 11-22, from marginalized communities, both in a field placement and in the classroom. The components of this FLO include the following:

- A Field Placement in a youth-serving organization, including schools; school and community-based health settings; mental health, residential or day treatment, and youth development programs.
- A specialized section of Practice III, Social Work Practice with Youth and Families, focused on skills in engagement, assessment, and evidence-based intervention and prevention strategies for school, health/ mental health, and substance use problems with youth (ages 11-22) and their families, as well as working in inter-professional teams (**required**).
- Specialized content on Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, an interprofessional model of collaborative care, which is increasing utilized in the Social Work field. This course content will be provided either in a **required** one-credit intensive course or **required** seminars.
- 3-4 **required** seminars per year (1-2 each semester) at SSSW focused on FLO content, advisement, and professional development.
- Individual and group faculty advisement (Dr. Diane Mirabito, Faculty Advisor).

This FLO will train Social Work interns, both in the classroom and the field, to work with adolescents and their families in varied practice settings.

A wide range of recommended 1 and 3-credit electives will be available to students, including: Social Work in schools, trauma electives, creative arts therapy, groupwork with youth, Grief, Loss, and Bereavement, Cognitive Behavioral and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Mindfulness, Substance use/abuse and many other related areas.

This FLO is open to 25 students. The admission process includes the FLO application and participation in an interview.