Handbook

for

School Social Work
Undergraduate Licensure Program

BSW Program

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Spring 2013
Introduction

This handbook is designed to provide information for students preparing for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Licensure for School Social Work. The requirements for admission, policies, and procedures for this program have been determined by the BSW School Social Work Coordinator & related faculty in collaboration with the UNCG School of Education-Teacher Education. Since this Licensure Program comes under the UNCG Teachers’ Academy the reader will find that mission statement for that program indicated below.

Teachers Academy Conceptual Framework

"The mission of professional education at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is to ensure “Access to Opportunities through Teaching, Learning and Caring.” This requires excellence in all our programs through alignment to state and national standards; explicit connections between research, theory and practice; candidates’ acquisition of the knowledge, skills and dispositions of their disciplines; detailed evaluation of our candidates’ continual professional growth; collaboration among stakeholders; ongoing self-study; and an overriding commitment to fostering beliefs and actions that promote education for all. Toward these ends, our Unit and programs focus on six areas: leadership, professional knowledge, professional practice, educational environments, data-informed decision making, and professional growth to support the learning of all children in the context of 21st century complexity and dynamic change."
Mission & Goals for BSW Program

Acknowledging the effects of oppression, institutionalized racism, discrimination, bias and the inequity faced by women, men, people of color, people whose sexual or gender identify differs from the majority, and other marginalized groups, the faculty developed the following mission:

*Our mission is to prepare competent, ethical social workers who will become the backbone of the social services delivery system in the Piedmont Triad and beyond. We prepare students to engage with others at the intersection of person and environment, race, gender, and class, in order to promote healthy functioning for individuals, families, groups, and communities. Our goal is the transformation of personal history into professional identity through mentoring, teaching, our signature pedagogy—field education, research, and engaged scholarship. Learning takes place within an intentional, collaborative community that respects and embraces diversity and promotes inclusion.*

When the faculty adopted the mission statement, they also updated the program goals. The following goals were adopted by the faculty on February 4, 2011.

**Goals of the UNCG BSW Program**

1. Prepare students to become competent, engaged social workers who demonstrate the knowledge, ethics, values, and skills of the profession.

2. Prepare students to work effectively with diverse and historically oppressed groups.

3. Prepare students to facilitate inclusion at all systems levels—individual, family, group, organization, and community.

4. Create a learning community that respects diversity and encourages the exploration of difference.

5. Increase engagement with social service agencies and other community institutions to promote social change.

6. Generate change-oriented research to promote social and economic justice.
Goals for School Social Work Licensure

The following the BSW School Social Work Licensure Program goals are related both to the BSW Program goals and the six foci for the UNCG Teachers’ Academy Conceptual Framework.

1. To increase students’ knowledge & understanding of school social work practice.

2. To increase students’ skills in school social work practice including working as a member of the educational team, overseeing case management/monitoring, and conducting individual counseling and group work.

3. To increase students’ skills with K-12 students such that they support and enhance academic achievement of these students in the classroom, with particular emphasis on at risk student populations.

4. To increase students’ professional growth as a school social workers such that they conduct ethical practice consistent with the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (includes respect for diversity and non-judgmental attitude in regard to clients’ values & beliefs some of which may be based on their ethnicity), utilize professional supervision and consultation as needed, and demonstrate maturity and good critical thinking skills in their interactions with teachers, students, & parents.

5. To develop students’ leadership skills as shown by their advocacy for K-12 students’ rights, their inclusion of all K-12 students for support and other school related services, and their efforts in regard to establishing school- wide programs that will further enhance all students’ academic achievement.

6. To increase students’ skills in evaluating the treatment outcomes of their school social services and using that data to inform future services.
Students interested in pursuing a career in school social work should consider applying for Licensure in School Social Work while a student in the BSW Program. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction requires that all social workers hired for school social work positions must be licensed or be eligible to sign a provisional contract for School Social Work Licensure. Our social work program is not approved for what is termed “a Licensure Only Program in School Social Work” which means that we can only provide licensure to students who are in the program. Even alumni of the program cannot return and apply for this license. School social work is a very exciting and rewarding field of practice for those interested in working with elementary, middle, or high school level students and their families. Much of the work in this field involves preventive or early intervention work which often increases the success of treatment services.

Students interested in applying for School Social Work Licensure will find application and course requirement information on the following pages. Professor Dennison (stdennis@uncg.edu or 336-334-4099), Coordinator of the School Social Work Licensure Program, meets with all BSW students in junior fall semester to review the procedures for applying to this program and answer any questions. The Application for Undergraduate School Social Work Licensure, which can be found on the second page following this one, must be completed and returned to Professor Dennison by January 20th of the spring semester of the junior year. Students accepted into this Licensure Program will have their paperwork forwarded to the UNCG Teacher Education Program and the Co-Directors of Field. Placements in school settings for the senior year internship will be arranged by the Co-Directors of Field.
1. Students eligible to be considered for admission to this program must be accepted as social work majors, have successfully completed SWK 215: Introduction to Social Work, SWK 310: Social Policy and Social Services, and SWK 311: Social Behavior and the Human Environment (minimum grade of a C) and have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

2. At the completion of the fall semester of the junior year, interested students must complete the Application for Undergraduate School Social Work Licensure (found on the following page) and return it to the Coordinator of the School Social Work Licensure Program by January 20th of the spring semester in the junior year.

3. A review of the student’s application will be completed to determine either a recommendation for admission or denial of admission to the Undergraduate Licensure Program in School Social Work. Students who have met the minimum eligibility criteria to be considered for admission to this program are not guaranteed this recommendation. A limited number of placements in school settings are available each year for field placements. If the number of interested applicants exceeds available placements, a priority order for acceptance into this program will be based on students’ overall GPA.

4. Students recommended for admission to the UNCG Teacher Education will be asked to complete the online Application for Admission to Undergraduate Teacher Education. Students must also complete the online Criminal Background Check and follow procedures outlined by Teacher Education for Professional Liability Insurance Policy. Final approval for applicants’ admission to this program is made by the UNCG Teacher Education Program.

5. Students must complete their academic year long field instruction in a school setting (SWK 413 & SWK 415). School internships will be arranged by the Co-Directors of Field.

6. Students must successfully complete the following coursework and attain a minimum of B in the following courses, SWK 582: School Social Work and ELC 381: The Institute of Education.

7. Approximately one month before completion of above requirements, students apply for License “A” by completing the online Application for North Carolina Licensure for Professional Personnel which is available through the UNCG Teacher Education home page.
Application for Undergraduate School Social Work Licensure Program
Department of Social Work
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Name: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Address: ____________________________ Social Security Number: __________________

City: ____________________________ Phone: __________________

Email address: ____________________________

   Students are required to have 84 hours by spring semester of their junior year.

2. Current overall undergraduate grade point average: ____________
   Students must have a 2.5 GPA or above to be admitted to Teacher Education.

3. Indicate if you have completed the following courses:

   SWK 582: School Social Work  Status: ______________  Grade: _____
   ELC 381: The Institute of Education  Status: ______________  Grade: _____

4. This application, along with a 2-3 page typed essay on why you are seeking Licensure in School Social Work, must be submitted to the Coordinator of School Social Work Licensure Program by January 20th of the applicant’s junior year (spring semester).

   Student Signature ____________________________ Date: ________________

Do not write below this line!

_____ Student is recommended for admission to the Undergraduate Licensure Program in School Social Work

_____ Student is not recommended for admission to the Undergraduate Licensure Program in School Social Work

Reason(s): ____________________________

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Coordinator of School Social Work Date