Social and Economic Development Concentration

Brief Description

To affect change social workers must not only work with individuals and families but also with larger systems. Social workers should be at the forefront of addressing multi-faceted and complex social and economic problems confronting our communities. To address complex development problems of communities – rural and urban – social workers must seek and promote sustainable development predicated on robust institutions, and capable communities. Lasting social and economic development rests on capacity building at the individual, institutional, and societal levels. The Social and Economic Development Concentration trains social work graduates in integrated and sustained development of communities, regions and nations.

The Social and Economic Development (SED) Concentration is designed to prepare students for advanced social work practice in various development functions and roles in the US and other countries. Development refers to improvements in living conditions and economic opportunities in neighborhoods, communities, urban and rural areas, regions or nations, which are struggling to achieve and maintain basic life necessities such as employment, food, shelter, health care, and transportation. The Brown School curriculum considers development issues in the international arena, as well as in the United States.

The concentration focuses on knowledge and skills such as: 1) the extent, effects, and causes of poverty; 2) the assessment of institutions and organizations; 3) the engagement of diverse social, economic, political, and cultural groups and the development of communities; 4) the implementation and evaluation of a broad range of interventions at multiple levels, often simultaneously; and 5) strengthening the institutional capacity of communities to bring about sustained development.

Although the SED Concentration maintains the core structure of theory courses, policy courses, methods courses, evaluation courses, and practicum courses, the concentration does not support an administrative track option. Students are required to take two concentration-level theory courses. Students are required to take S20-5011, Economics of Social Welfare in order to understand the economics behind development work and policy decisions regarding the structure of societies. Then, they choose from one of two other concentration supported theory courses as listed below. Students are required to take two practice methods courses. Students may choose from S60-5016, Community Development Practice; S60-5018, Organizing, Coalition Building and Lobbying; and S60-5056, Development Practice in International Settings. To meet the evaluation requirement for the concentration, students may choose from two courses: S50-5050, Evaluation of Programs and Services or S40-5842, Social Policy Analysis and Evaluation.

Competencies

Concentration courses are designed to prepare students to obtain competence in 10 areas. Competencies are measured by practice behaviors that are detailed on each course syllabi as appropriate to the content.
1. **Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.**

   Concentration course work builds on the course objectives and educational outcomes for S15-5038, Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups and S15-5039, Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Evidence Based Practice Skills for BSW Graduates S15-5999 and the foundation practicum in the foundation curriculum. Content relevant to this competency is provided in all of the practice courses.

2. **Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.**

   Concentration course work builds on the content of S15-5015 Social Justice and Human Diversity, S15-5038, Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups and S15-5039, Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Evidence Based Practice Skills for BSW Graduates S15-5999 and the foundation practicum in the foundation curriculum. All required concentration courses and the concentration practicum support this competency.

3. **Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**

   This content is integrated throughout the foundation and concentration courses and practica expectations.

4. **Engage diversity and difference in practice.**

   This content is integrated throughout the foundation and concentration courses and practica expectations.

5. **Advance human rights and social and economic justice.**

   This content is integrated throughout the foundation and concentration courses and practica expectations. It is especially emphasized in the following courses: S20-5030 International Social Development, S20-5013 Poverty and Inequality in America, S20-5014 Social Justice: Exploring the Reality of America’s Promise, S60-5016 Community Development, S60-5056 Development Practice in International Settings.

6. **Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.**

   Because of the focus on evidence-based practice at the Brown School, this content is integrated throughout the foundation and concentration courses and practica expectations.

7. **Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.**

   This content is integrated throughout the foundation and concentration courses and practica expectations.

8. **Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services**

9. **Respond to contexts that shape practice.**

Concentration course work builds on the content of *S15-5005 Research Methods, S15-5015 Social Justice and Human Diversity, S15-5038 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups* and *S15-5039, Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Evidence Based Practice Skills for BSW Graduates S15-5999 and the foundation practicum* in the foundation curriculum. This content is integrated in the concentration courses, especially the practice courses and concentration practicum.

10. **Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities**

Concentration course work builds on the content of *S15-5005 Research Methods, S15-5015 Social Justice and Human Diversity, S15-5038, Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups* and *S15-5039, Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities, Evidence Based Practice Skills for BSW Graduates S15-5999, S15-5040, Social Welfare Policies and Services and the foundation practicum* in the foundation curriculum. At the concentration level this content is supported in the practice methods courses: *S60-5016 Community Development, S60-5056 Development Practice in International Settings, S60-5018 Organizing, Coalition Building, and Lobbying and in concentration practica.*
Social and Economic Development Concentration Course Requirements

(See “Proposed Course Offerings” for prerequisites and co-requisites)

Social Policy

S40-5861  Social and Economic Development Policy

Theory, Problems, and Issues

Students are required to take:

S20-5011  Economics of Social Welfare

And select one of the following:

S20-5013  Poverty and Inequality in America
S20-5030  International Social Development
S20-5014  Social Justice: Exploring the Reality of America's Promise

Practice Methods

Students select two of the following:

S60-5016  Community Development Practice: Basic Concepts and Methods
S60-5018  Organizing, Coalition Building and Lobbying
S60-5056  Development Practice in International Settings

Evaluation

Students select one of the following:

S40-5842  Social Policy Analysis and Evaluation
S50-5050  Evaluation of Programs and Services

Practicum

A minimum of five credits (600 hours) of concentration practicum is required. The practicum experience must be in an approved practicum site where the primary focus is on community/social/economic development. Organizations may be public or private, with a mission to serve poverty groups and/or groups that are at risk because of race, gender, geography, or other variables. Examples include community and neighborhood organizations; planning and development agencies; agencies for economic development; and government offices. These may be local, state, national or international agencies.

SED Concentration Information:

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