SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
ADVANCED DIRECT PRACTICE CONCENTRATION AND SPECIALIZATIONS

➤ Building on the foundation knowledge and skills obtained in the first year of the MSW program, advanced practice in the second year is designed to prepare students for enhanced competencies in working with individuals, families, small groups and communities.

➤ Emphasis on evidence-based practice, client strengths, social justice, and client empowerment.

➤ Goals are to educate and train advanced social work practitioners who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, values and ethics of the profession and who are competent for specialized practice.

➤ Objectives span micro and macro practice to some extent, with a focus on not only clinical skills, but cultural competency, social justice and social policy related to the student's specialization:

Advanced direct practice consists of three specializations that prepare students for professorial practice with diverse populations in a wide variety of settings.

Health/Behavioral Health with Adults

➤ Prepares students for advanced social work practice involving the delivery of health and mental health services to individuals, families, small groups and the community.

➤ Prepares students to work in mental health outpatient clinics, psychiatric hospitals, day treatment centers, supportive work agencies, emergency rooms, oncology, hospice, and other health settings.

➤ Course topics include: substance abuse, mental health and mental illness, intimate partner violence, community violence, cognitive and physical disabilities, physical illness, and other behavioral health concerns across the lifespan.

Children, Youth and Families

➤ Prepares students for advanced social work practice in the delivery of services to children, youth and families;

➤ Prepares social workers to provide a broad range of services to individuals and families in all phases of the family life cycle in settings such as outpatient mental health clinics,
➢ child guidance centers, positive youth development agencies, psychiatric hospitals, day treatment centers, and other child and family service agencies.

➢ Advanced clinical skills for working with children with mental illness, behavior problems, and positive youth development are emphasized

**Public Child Welfare**

➢ Provides opportunities to acquire specific skills and knowledge in preparation for working in Child Welfare

➢ Prepares students to work in public child welfare positions with DES as well as with agencies that contract with DES to provide services to their clients as well with nonprofit agencies that serve children and families experiencing child maltreatment

➢ Course topics include areas of current significance for social work practice with families and children in the child welfare system such as substance abuse, family violence, and serious mental illness

Students are placed in field agencies that are consistent with their specialization.

Courses differ to some extent across the 3 specializations.

**What all three specializations have in common are:**

- 2 advanced practice courses,
- SWG606 Assessment of Mental Disorders,
- SWG619 Practice-Oriented Research,
- a capstone course (Integrative Seminar, SWG621), and
- 2-3 electives.