

SOCIAL WORK

Chair	Secretary	Location	Department Phone
Dr. Yvonne Eaton-Stull	Michelle McFeely	4 Jack Dinger Annex	724-738-2705

Department Web Site URL (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/ches/departments/social-work/>)

Department Fact Sheet URL (<https://www.sru.edu/documents/programs/factsheets/undergraduate/socialwork-fs.pdf>)

Faculty

Kristie Abbs

Assistant Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Capella University
M.Ed., Slippery Rock University
M.S.W., Ohio State University
B.S., Radford University

Thomas Bechard

Assistant Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Adelphia University
M.S.W., Barry University
B.A., University of Maine
B.A., Hubertus College

Yvonne Eaton-Stull

Associate Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Capella University
M.S.W., Boston College
B.A., Clarion University

Denna Hays

Assistant Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Capella University
M.S.W., University of Pittsburgh
B.S., Slippery Rock University

Tracy Leet

Instructor
Social Work
M.S.W., Edinboro University
B.S.Ed., Slippery Rock University

Bonnie Marsh

Assistant Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Kutztown University
M.S.W., University of Pittsburgh
B.S.W., Penn State University

Tami Micsky

Assistant Professor
Social Work
D.S.W., Millersville University
M.S.S.A., Case Western Reserve University

B.S., Edinboro University

Christopher Streidl

Assistant Professor
Social Work
Ph.D., Walden University
M.S.W., Wayne State University
B.S.W., University of Toledo

Christophas Walker

Associate Professor
Social Work
Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh
M.Ed., University of Pittsburgh
B.A., University of Pittsburgh

Eunice Yeboah

Assistant Professor
Social Work
Ph.D., Southern Illinois University
M.S.W., Southern Illinois University
B.A., University of Ghana

Programs

Majors

- Social Work - Advanced Standing, Master of Social Work (MSW) (<https://catalog.sru.edu/graduate/health-professions/social-work/social-work-advanced-standing-msw/>)
- Social Work, Master of Social Work (MSW) (<https://catalog.sru.edu/graduate/health-professions/social-work/social-work-msw/>)

Certificates

- Animal Assisted Social Work, Certificate (<https://catalog.sru.edu/graduate/health-professions/social-work/animal-assisted-social-work-certificate/>)
- Social Work Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Certificate (<https://catalog.sru.edu/graduate/health-professions/social-work/social-work-cognitive-behavioral-therapy-certificate/>)

Courses

SOWK 590 - Experimental

A unique and specifically focused course within the general purview of a department which intends to offer it on a "one time only" basis and not as a permanent part of the department's curriculum.

Credits: 1-3

Term(s) Typically Offered: Offered as Needed

Enrollment limited to students with a semester level of Graduate.

SOWK 595 - Workshop

A workshop is a program which is usually of short duration, narrow in scope, often non-traditional in content and format, and on a timely topic.

Credits: 1-6

Term(s) Typically Offered: Offered as Needed

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

SOWK 598 - Selected Topics

A Selected Topics course is a normal, departmental offering which is directly related to the discipline, but because of its specialized nature, may not be able to be offered on a yearly basis by the department.

Credits: 1-3

Term(s) Typically Offered: Offered as Needed

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

SOWK 600 - Human Behavior & the Social Environment

Human Behavior and the Social Environment. This course will provide students with an introduction to the theories and knowledge of human bio-psycho-social development including theories and knowledge about the range of social systems impacting individuals, families, groups, organizations, agencies, and communities.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Science or Master of Social Work degrees.

SOWK 601 - Foundations of Social Work

This course will provide students with foundational knowledge of social work. Students will gain critical information about the values and ethics associated with this profession as well as an understanding of the expected competencies.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 605 - Social Welfare System

This online asynchronous course introduces the history, philosophy, development and current perspectives of social welfare and the social work profession. Study of the emergence of the profession of social work and the way it has and is currently responding to social problems. The course introduces public policy development and social welfare policies. This course traces the history of social welfare and within it, the evolving role of social work and social welfare. An analytic approach is used to highlight the forces that facilitate or inhibit changes in social policies.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 610 - Macro Social Work

Macro Social Work Practice introduces students to the knowledge, skills, and competencies for practice in communities, organizations and large social systems. This is a required course for student entering the MSW program without advanced standing.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 615 - Clinical Social Work & the DSM

Clinical Social Work and the DSM. This course will provide students with an introduction to the specialized practice of clinical social work. Emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness will prepare students to enter clinical practice.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 620 - Human Rights, Social Justice & Policy

The course applies a rights-based approach to policy practice and will provide the theoretical and experiential human behavior and social environment knowledge base related to difference, dominance (oppression and privilege), social justice, and liberation. Students will learn a practice framework that integrates a human rights perspective promoting the dignity, respect, and wellbeing of all persons with a social justice perspective which seeks to understand, challenge, and combat oppression, unequal access to resources, and social inequities. This course aims to help students apply specific advocacy skills, addressing policy issues in community, organization, and legislative settings. Using human rights principles, students will learn how to use specific policy analysis frameworks to plan for and develop advocacy strategies that facilitate social change.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 630 - Clinical Practice With Children & Families

Clinical Practice with Children and Families. Evidence-based Social Work clinical practice including the problems and DSM disorders of Children, Couples, and Families, using assessment instruments, implemented interventions, and evaluated programs of treatment; i.e., Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents, Conduct Disorder and ADHD in Children and Adolescents, Distressed Couples, Child Abuse and Neglect, Eating Disorders, and Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Problems in Adolescents and Young Adults.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 635 - Clinical Practice With Adults

Clinical Practice with Adults. Evidence-based Social Work practice including the DSM assessment, intervention, and evaluation of the adult disorders of schizophrenia spectrum disorders, depressive and bipolar disorders, substance use disorders, panic disorder, agoraphobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, antisocial and borderline personality disorders.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 650 - Field Education I

This foundational internship will place students in human service agencies. It is designed to help students learn and implement social work skills with clients in need.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Science degree.

Enrollment limited to students with department of Social Work.

SOWK 690 - Experimental

A unique and specifically focused course within the general purview of a department which intends to offer it on a "one time only" basis and not as a permanent part of the department's curriculum.

Credits: 1-3

Enrollment limited to students with a semester level of Graduate.

SOWK 695 - Workshop

A workshop is a program which is usually of short duration, narrow in scope, often non-traditional in content and format, and on a timely topic.

Credits: 1-6

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

SOWK 698 - Selected Topics

A Selected Topics course is a normal, departmental offering which is directly related to the discipline, but because of its specialized nature, may not be able to be offered on a yearly basis by the department.

Credits: 1-3

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

SOWK 700 - Independent Study

Independent Study courses give students the opportunity to pursue research and/or studies that are not part of the university's traditional course offerings. Students work one on one or in small groups with faculty guidance and are typically required to submit a final paper or project as determined by the supervising professor.

Credits: 1-3

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

SOWK 705 - Research Methods in Social Work

This course is designed for students to become competent in understanding research for professional social work practice. Students are introduced to the systematic approach to research including: research terminology, the scientific method, research ethics and the social work value base, problem formulation and conceptualization, measurement, research designs, sampling, quantitative and qualitative approaches, program evaluation and data collection.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 710 - Qualitative Research

The course is designed to provide substantive methodological content for various phases of the qualitative research process accompanied by experiential learning opportunities. The purpose of this course is to prepare students to select and implement qualitative research designs that are appropriate and adequate for answering contemporary social work practice and social welfare policy research questions.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 730 - Practice Skills Following Crises

This course will provide students with the ability to effectively intervene and resolve crisis situations in social work practice. Students will apply crisis intervention models to various simulated crises.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 731 - Practice Skills in Forensic Social Work

This course will provide graduate students with social work knowledge and skills required for working with clients involved in various aspects of the legal system. Students will be introduced to practice skills in areas including child welfare, juvenile justice, corrections, addiction, and diversion including treatment with both victims of crime and perpetrators.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 732 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This course will provide students with an indepth look at post-traumatic stress disorder, the etiology, symptomology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment interventions. Students will also explore the impact and challenges for families.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 733 - Disaster Management

This course will provide students with an understanding of the roles of disaster managers. Students will apply this knowledge to all phases of disaster management.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 734 - Trauma-Informed Care

This course will provide students with an understanding of trauma-informed care and how to apply these concepts in their social work practice and effectively assist those impacted by trauma.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 736 - Social Work With Families Impacted By Trauma

This course explores the impact of violence/crime, natural disasters, combat, and other trauma causing events on families. The changing relationship dynamics between adult partners and children and parents from initial events through recovery is given special emphasis. The course content includes an overview of the multiple consequences of trauma from a bio-psycho-social perspective, including resiliency and traumatic growth. Students will be introduced to evidence based interventions.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 737 - Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

Students will learn to identify adverse childhood experiences and assess the impact of these experiences on children and adolescents' emotional and behavioral functioning. Students will acquire the ability to identify risks for recurring adverse experiences in the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. Evidenced-based practices and pathways to recovery will be learned. Students will learn how to identify opportunities for collaboration between systems, understand the barriers to collaboration, develop skills to overcome barriers and maintain collaborative relationships. The course will discuss current evidenced based and promising behavioral health practice approaches currently being use in child welfare and juvenile justice settings.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 738 - Intervention for Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence

This course will focus on social forces, prevalence, dynamics, types, effects, assessment and interventions specific to trauma in interpersonal violence. Students will learn about individual and group intervention strategies specific to trauma and violence, including evidence-based models, crisis intervention, and cognitive-behavioral models.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 739 - Forensic Social Work in Corrections

Students will gain and demonstrate knowledge and skills to effectively assist those involved in the criminal justice system. This course applies social work processes to clients in correctional settings. Students will learn how to assess and treat various issues common to those who are incarcerated, such as needs of female offenders, substance abuse, mental health, personality disorders and sex offenses.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 740 - Animal-Assisted Social Work

Animal-Assisted Social Work Practice. This course will provide students with a foundation of animal-assisted social work practice. Integration of therapy animals into all aspects of practice will be discussed, to include assessment, intervention, evaluation as well as individual, group, family, and community levels of practice.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Science degree.

Enrollment limited to students with department of Social Work.

SOWK 741 - Grief & Loss: Theory & Skills for Intervention

This course explores the psychosocial process of grief and bereavement following a loss. Divorce, disaster, deployment, death, and other human experiences of loss will be discussed. This course will focus on the experiences of loss, grief, and bereavement as experienced by individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. We will consider how grief shapes lives, challenges one's response to change, and can determine how one forms, maintains, and lets go of relationships. This course will examine theories of grief and loss across the lifespan. In addition, we will consider how social factors i.e., culture, ethnicity/race, gender, class, ethics/values, and sexual orientation may impact the grieving process. We will understand and implement evidence based interventions to address grief and loss related issues. In the process of examining these, students will become aware and sensitized to one's own attitudes, beliefs, and reactions to experiences of loss.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

Enrollment limited to students in the College of Health Professions college.

Enrollment limited to students with department of Social Work.

SOWK 742 - Animal-Assisted Social Work with Kids

This course will provide students with practice skills to implement AASW with children and adolescents. Individual and group intervention applicable to various clinical issues and settings will be explored as well as special considerations when working with this population.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 743 - Animal-Assisted Social Work With Seniors

This course will provide students with practice skills to implement AASW with the aging population. Individual and group intervention applicable to various clinical issues and settings will be explored as well as special considerations when working with this population.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 744 - Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

This course will provide students with an understanding of animal-assisted crisis response and how to provide this special intervention to those impacted by crises and disasters.

Credits: 3

Enrollment is limited to students with a program in Social Work or Social Work-Advanced Standing.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

Enrollment limited to students in a Master of Social Work degree.

SOWK 750 - Field Education II

This advanced internship experience will provide students with direct client intervention experience in a human service agency.

Prerequisite: SOWK 650^C

^C Requires minimum grade of C.

Credits: 3

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