

Our Mission

The mission of Messiah University's Social Work Department is to offer a professional degree that trains students for **ethical and competent** generalist social work practice. The Department integrates principles of the Christian faith with social work values, knowledge, and skill.

We are committed to equipping students with **evidence-based** practices, **service learning** at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels, **community involvement**, a respect for **diversity and human rights**, and support for the enhancement of social and economic **justice** for all people.



Contact Us

Department Chair

Dr. Ling Dinse

ldinse@messiah.edu

Field Director

Professor Michelle George

mgeorge@messiah.edu

Administrative Assistant

Debbie Chopka

dchopka@messiah.edu



Social Work Department



helping people
making a difference
advocating for human rights

Our Curriculum

SOWK 099 Professionalism in Social Work
SOWK 120 Introduction to Social Work
SOWK 221 Human Behavior
SOWK 250 Practice with Individuals
SOAN 356 Social Inequality
SOWK 360 Practice with Families
SOWK 372 Practice with Groups
SOWK 382 Topics in Social Work
SOWK 385 Introduction to Research in Social Work
SOWK 420 Social Welfare Policies & Social Change
SOWK 475 Practice with Communities
SOWK 484 Preparation for Field Placement
SOWK 490 Field Practice in Social Work



Field Placements

Each social work course is designed to allow students to take learning outside of the classroom.

First Year: Students volunteer in the community

Second Year: Students engage in preliminary practice through a field placement, completing 50 hours of service each semester

Third Year: Students observe community groups and develop groups and programs on campus and in the community

Fourth Year: Students engage in a community project in the fall and complete a minimum of 400 hours of full time social work practice in the spring

Creating Professional, Ethical, and Competent Social Workers

CAREERS & OUTCOMES

Students graduate well-prepared to enter the workforce or to pursue their Master's in Social Work (MSW), which can be completed in just one year.

Recent graduates are currently employed at some of the following locations:

- Bethany Christian Services (Foster/Adoption)
- Compassion International (Poverty Alleviation)
- WellSpan Philhaven (Mental Health Services)
- Dauphin County Children & Youth (Child Welfare)

STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad opportunities give students valuable international experience that helps to develop cultural competency. The third year of study has enough flexibility for students to study abroad for a semester. In previous years students have gone to Lithuania and Uganda.

Senior practicum options are also available to students, allowing them to take their social work practice internationally to Uganda or Ecuador, or domestically in Chicago or Baltimore.

FAITH INTEGRATION

The Social Work Department is dedicated to fostering students' spiritual growth. Each class has an assignment pertaining to one of the chapters of Richard Foster's book, "Celebration of Discipline The Path to Spiritual Growth." Students learn about eleven spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, study, submission, and worship, and are asked to demonstrate their understanding and application of such disciplines.