

Helping Hands, Healing Hearts



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Department Chairperson: George Ashley, Ph.D.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Oakwood University Department of Social Work strives to demonstrate our love for God and humanity by imparting to students a passion for promoting human and community well-being. This is accomplished through the intentional development of social work knowledge, values, and skills which include: person and environment, a global perspective, understanding and respecting diversity, social and economic justice for disadvantaged groups, infusion of a Black perspective of practice, and integrating faith into Generalist social work practice from a Christian perspective.

MAJORS OFFERED

Bachelor in Social Work (B.S.W.)

Double Major:

Bachelor in Social Work and Spanish (BSW/BA Spanish)

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Department Goals

1. To prepare competent, ethical, Christian social workers who are committed to integrating their faith as the foundational and motivational influence for effective intervention with diverse client systems of various sizes including the Black Diaspora.
2. Prepare students who are committed to utilizing the profession's knowledge, values, and skills to strengthen practice implementation that will support and/or enhance the social and economic well-being of clients.
3. Prepare students to apply effective critical thinking skills for problem-solving, promotion of social justice and human rights within a world of global diversity, difference, and oppressive forces that impact marginalized populations.
4. Prepare students to identify and apply the content, context, and breadth of the human development and behavior experience within practice.

Requirements

High school students who anticipate entering the field of social work should take as many college preparation courses as possible. Courses in the social sciences and those relating to marriage and family and to the problems of society will be helpful, as well as basic computer courses designed to enhance student software application skills.

Application for Admission

To be admitted as a major in the Department of Social Work, students must have:

1. Completed the application form.
2. Completed at least 30 hours of course work, including EN 112 Freshmen Composition.
3. Completed SW 202 Introduction to Social Work, with a minimum grade of C.
4. An overall minimum GPA of 2.5
5. Successfully completed a criminal background check.

The application process occurs during SW 202. Applicants must submit an autobiography, a resume, a disposition form, self-assessment

form, an unofficial transcript, professional references, and a series of personality tests. Each student is required to complete a professional interview with the Social Work faculty. Students are notified in writing concerning the department's decision regarding their admission to the Social Work Department. Transfer students who have already completed SW 202, are also required to apply to the Social Work Department for admission.



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Internship and Service Learning Opportunities

Internships and service learning are an integral part of the learning environment for all social work majors. Internship opportunities are provided with local community agencies in which students are supervised by professional social workers. Service learning opportunities are also included as a part of the Social Work required learning curriculum.

Sample Course Offerings

SW201 Introduction to Social Welfare

A study of the historical development of social welfare programs, practices, and policies.

SW400 Generalist Skills and Practice

Examination of activities and skills used by social workers in direct practice (counseling and therapy skills used by social workers).

SW330 and 331 Human Behavior and Social Environment A study of the biological, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual

foundations of development; their inter-relationship for normal and abnormal behavior. A two part course that covers periods from birth to old age.

SW334 Understanding Diversity and Oppression

An analysis of racism, discrimination, and powerlessness and its implications within societal systems. Effective ways of intervention will also be explored.

SW420 Research in Social Work

Students learn how to use research to increase their practice effectiveness. Students are involved in individual and group research projects.

SW451 General Methods of Micro Social Work

An introduction of the general method of social work intervention with individuals, families, groups, organizations, groups, and communities, with an emphasis on utilization of General Intervention Method with families and groups.



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Alumni Accomplishments

The Department has produced many outstanding professional social workers who have become social development leaders within the profession. Some of the accomplishments of our Social Work alumni currently work as lawyers, counselors, therapists, agency directors, school social workers, social work educators, social work researchers, and politicians.

Alumni Student Remarks

In 2001 I earned my Bachelors of Social Work from Oakwood University. During my matriculation through the program the Social Work faculty at Oakwood was supportive in numerous ways. The collaborative group efforts that took place during my undergraduate classes contributed much in preparing me to work effectively and fluently with professional colleagues. The assigned reading as well as being a member of the Social Work Club assisted me in understanding how to make the knowledge and experiences that I attained transferable and applicable in handling current

job responsibilities effectively. As a result of the efforts of a dedicated and well-known professor I had the opportunity to assist with



an international research project in Nigeria during the summer of my junior year. This was a life changing experience, and I can honestly say this experience still has an impact on me as a professional. Currently, as a Child Welfare Trainer with the Tennessee Child Welfare Consortium, I continue to use my former professors as a source of evolving information and wisdom as I research relevant topics and move forward towards obtaining my doctoral degree.

Gary Jones MSW
Class of 2001

The Social Work Department at Oakwood University was instrumental in shaping my life as a Christian young woman. The staff truly cared about more than just the academic performance of their students – they held us to the standards of true educational excellence in



our emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth. They stretched us to operate from a place of meaningful introspection, challenging our view of ourselves and the world around us. Working to meet the standards my professors put forth gave me the confidence, competence, poise, and Christian work ethics I needed to enter the next stage of my professional development several steps ahead of my peers.

Kerriane Golding
Class of 2003



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Alumni Accomplishments

Oakwood's Social Work program has truly been a blessing to my life. Growing up in the foster care system has instilled in me the



desire to help those who encountered similar life experiences. I always knew I had the ability to do better than average work, however I lacked the motivation. My Social Work

professors taught me that it is essential for me to know myself and deal with any personal issues that I had before trying to help others. My professors have instilled within me the confidence needed to successfully acquire two competitive national internships. In addition, they have instilled in me the values and skills that are essential for the field of Social Work.

Yolanda Burris
Class of 2007

I was blessed this summer to intern at Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice. I very much enjoyed this experience. I will be obtaining my masters in Social Work (advance standing) from University of Michigan I was accepted into my first choice which was Columbia University, as well as University of Penn, and George Washington University, however the financial package offered to me by U of M was the best option. I was really nervous about applying to

very prestigious schools however this proves to the fact that Oakwood University students with God's help, I can acquire anything. Classes begin September 8th and I am settling into my Michigan now. Thanks again for everything you have ever done for me. It is truly appreciated and I couldn't have made it with you and the support of the department.



Delia Williams
Class of 2008



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Alumni Accomplishments

I believe that the Social Work Department has helped me grow as an individual. In order to effectively assess and intervene with others, an effective clinician must be able to evaluate himself or herself. This Department has helped me to evaluate myself, aided me in discovering who I am and what I can be. The Department provides practical learning experiences that equip you with skills necessary to deal with real world situations. The instructors in this Department are inspirational and willing to bend over backwards for their students. This Department has helped me become a leader and I too am now willing to go the extra mile in pursuit of excellence”.



Tracy Augustin
Class of 2008

Although I have only been here a year, I can honestly say that the professors in the Social



Work Department have been an amazing source of help, directing and guiding me to find the right classes, and helping me to focus on my career development. The department has helped me to design and implement goals and has encouraged and assisted me as well as all Social Work majors in their academic, emotional, spiritual and physical capacities. I am very proud to be Social Work Major. Social Work is a wonderful profession and I'm glad to be one of God's chosen people to help people in need, and do his work.

Jasmine Jones
Class of 2010



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Faculty Remarks

Your interest in Oakwood University as a potential higher educational institution in which to pursue a career in social work is a noble pursuit, and one in which you will NOT regret.

The Social Work Department here at Oakwood University has a strong reputation for producing graduates who are desired by many graduate schools and are leaders within their communities. Our program seeks to aspire excellence among students by challenging them to:

1. Develop a positive Christian disposition.
2. Stimulate sound critical thought.
3. Acquiring practical working skills that will enable them to be change agents within their respective communities.
4. Establish a strong sense of spiritual identity that will help them to cope with the social issues they will encounter in our turbulent world.

Please take a moment to check out the following link:

<http://www.aurahost.net/SocialWork/OC-CollegeDays.ppt>



You can also check out our website at:

www.oakwood.edu

Click on “academics”, then “Social Work” and you will find further details of our program including our picture album.

Contact Information

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