Social Work: Help Starts Here
As a Child You Were Taught About

- Doctors
- Lawyers
- Fireman
- Policeman
- Nurses
- NOT about social work
Exposure

- Media does not cover social work
  - E.R.
  - Law & Order
  - Boston Public
  - COPS
  - Scrubs
When you think of the word “Social Work” what comes to mind?

- Most people think of ONE thing!
  - People who take children from abusive homes!
- Social Work is much more
- In fact social work is THE MOST DIVERSIFIED career field you will find!
What makes us unique?

- **Different professional job titles**
- M.D. – Medical doctor
- Teachers – Elementary, Secondary Teach
- Social Workers have **MANY** different titles.
Social Worker’s Work in?

- Mental Health - Counselors
- Criminal Justice – Parole, case managers
- Law – Family Lawyers
- Public Health – Health Prevention
- Public Housing – Counselors, community Workers
- Schools – School Social Workers
Social Workers Work: In…

- Hospitals – counselors, discharge planners
- Recreation – Leisure planners
- Adoptions
- Business – Counselors
- Government – Policy Makers
- Forensics – Forensic Social Work
- Private Practice -Counseling
- Research – Social Service, Health
Sample Employment Areas of Social Work
Administration & Management

- Proactive leaders in public & private agencies (i.e. United Way, DHR, Three Springs)
- Required to have knowledge about social policy and the delivery of social services, as in:
  - Policy information
  - Program Design and Implementation
  - Budget Development and much more!
Advocacy & Community Organization

- Advocacy is one the keystones of social work practice.
- These Social Workers help organize and participate in community groups formed around a specific problems or issues, such as education, health care reform, homelessness, or welfare reform.
Aging and Gerontology

- Retirement planning
- Short Term & Long Term Care
- Case Management
- Community development and advocacy
- Adult leisure and recreational programming
- Home Health Care
- Nursing Home Care
- wellness programs and a large variety of other fascinating fields.
Alcoholism & Drugs, Probation & Parole

- Substance Abuse Counselors
- Trained in alcohol, tobacco, and other drug treatment
- Inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, and in government policy-making positions.
- They help individuals, families and communities find ways to recover from substance abuse.
Child Welfare & Family

- Child welfare social workers are advocates for children, the most vulnerable population.
- These social workers **work to support families** and prevent neglect, abuse, and exploitation.
- Foster care
- Support vulnerable families and intervene when necessary to ensure the safety of children.
Counseling and Therapy

- Private practice or within public or private agencies
- Helping individual’s, families or groups understand, problem-solve and appropriately deal with personal, family or systemic problems
  - School social work
Q. Social Work or Counseling? Which Degree Should I Choose?

- From Tara Kuther, Ph.D., Your Guide to Graduate School.

I am in desperate need of advice. I am a practicing attorney, but have always wanted to be a therapist or counselor. I am gearing up to make the career change and am trying to decide whether to pursue a M.S.W. or Masters in Counseling. Which do I choose?

A. In my opinion, you're probably better off with an MSW for several reasons.

First, the public has more familiarity with it; most people have heard of a social worker and have a general understanding of the MSW degree.

Second, (and this one is important), you can be credentialed/licensed in all states with it.

Third, (also critical!) insurance companies have no qualms about reimbursements for MSWs.

Developmental Disabilities

- (formerly known as the mentally retarded population)
- The goal of the social worker in this environment is to link clients and their families to the appropriate service that support full participation in society.
- They may work with individuals or groups as well as provide counseling for families.
Health Care Social Work

- Social Workers are vital members of the health care interdisciplinary team, working in concert with doctors, nurses, and other health and mental health professionals.
- They educate and sensitize other health care providers to the social and emotional aspects of illness.
- Interdisciplinary team
- Discharge planners
Public Health

- Prevention
- Health Promotion
- Early diagnosis & treatment
- Long range planning, policy & legislation
International Social Work

- The functions of social work in international development are diverse.
- The include direct services in villages, refugee camps, orphanages, hospitals, and schools, as well as supporting the efforts of national governments, intergovernmental organization, and nongovernmental organizations to enhance social well being.
Mental Health and Clinical Social Work

- Clinical social workers are the nation’s largest providers of mental health and therapy services, outnumbering both psychologists and psychiatrists.
- They provide mental health services in both urban and rural settings.
- The provide therapy for individuals and families dealing with relationship issues, depression, anxiety disorders, antisocial behavior, and personality disorders.
Occupational & EAP Social Work

- Occupational social workers help employees with problems that affect their job performance and satisfaction.
  - Workman’s Compensation
- EAP (Employee Assistance Programs) social workers may lead groups on stress reduction or coping with layoffs. They also deal with substance abuse, domestic violence, single parenting, and vocational rehabilitation issues.
  - GM, FORD, GE, SONY
Policy and Planning

- This field allows social workers to have an influence on large numbers of people.
- Social Workers in this field address problems such as child abuse, homelessness, substance abuse, poverty, mental illness, violence, unemployment, and racism, among many others.
  - Usually work as agency directors (management)
Politics

- Increasingly, social workers are holding elective offices:
  - School boards
  - City and county governments
  - State legislatures
  - U.S. House Representatives
  - The Senate.
Public Welfare

- Public welfare in the United States provides income and support services for much of society’s most vulnerable populations—children, older adults, and people with chronic medical or disabling conditions.
- This job entails:
  - Financial Programs
  - Training and Supervising Staff
  - Setting and Evaluating Standards and criteria for service delivery.
Biggest Mistake Made By Students

- Not understanding the difference between social work & psychology
- Not understanding the full ramifications of their decision
- Psychologists usually work in research, counseling, therapy
- Social Work, anywhere!
Difference between social work and psychology?

- Psychologist are professionals who study behavior and mental processes.
- Various levels of specialty – i.e. experimental, clinical, educational, counseling.

- Treatment modalities for mental illnesses
- Both Social Workers and Psychologists often work together and serve the same clients but for DIFFERENT reasons (i.e. mental health center).
Psychology and Social Work in Mental Health

- Psychologist will be the one to administer psychological tests and measurements, diagnose and assess the clients mental illness.
- Clinically treat mental illness’s using various theories.
Psychology and Social Work in Mental Health

- Social Worker involved in treatment plans
- Assessment
- Behavior modification
- Family re-unification
PIE = Person In Environment

Environment

Other People

Houses

Ideas

Person

Trees

Emotions

Memories

Feelings
Disaster Preparedness & Relief

- Crisis Management
  - Defusing crisis
  - Short term and long term care
- Provision of necessary support services
- What are some examples?
  - Red Cross, Adventist Disaster Relief Agency
Social Work

- The social worker focus is helping/social concerns: e.g. individual, family, social problems, counseling, finances, work, housing, life skills etc.
Social Work Degrees

- Terminal degree for social work is an MSW
- Psychology it is a Ph.D.
- Social Work degree is a “Professional” degree

- It is easier to get a job as a BSW social worker vs. psychologist, because it is a professional degree (far more positions available).
What is a Profession?

- Have skills that their members use to serve others
- Have a body of knowledge its members must know
- Skills members use to serve others
Professional Degree

Social Work

- Has a body of knowledge its members are expected to know
- Adhere to a set of shared ethics and values –
  - e.g. The Social Work Code of Ethics
What is Social Work?

- Applied science of **helping people** achieve an effective level of social functioning by creating conditions that will enhance their social well being.
Need for Male Social Workers

- Work with males
- WHY?
- Usually promoted to administrative positions
OU Social Work Program

- Accredited professional program
- Have specific standards that program must adhere to.

- Intro. to social work
  - Must complete an application package & professional interview,
What is Social Work?

Social Workers work with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
What is Social Work?

- Helps people obtain tangible services to improve their overall well-being: emotional, social & health

- SOCIAL WORK IS THE HELPING PROFESSION!!
Our Work = His Work

- **Jesus** is considered the “Master Social Worker”
- His life was spent exclusively on helping people, by bringing healing to the poor, less fortunate, sick, and those on the fringes of society
Jesus the Master Social Worker

- Jesus worked with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- Social work is a powerful profession, it allows us to directly interact and influence people who are in need
Profession itself has been around since the late 1800’s when charity organizations were founded to help less fortunate individuals and families.
Social Work Today

- Profession has over 600,000 social workers in the U.S. today
- 1000’s of other social workers around the globe
Graduate Degree

- Our program is an accredited institution by CSWE
- Graduate with a GPA of 3.0 and above, are eligible for advanced standing in graduate school.
  - Social work students with a GPA of 3.0 and above, eligible for advanced standing in graduate school.
- Oakwood strongly encourages students to strive for a MSW degree, Why?
  - More options and mobility

With Christ!
Graduate Degree

- Many graduate school recruiters will travel to Oakwood University to recruit Social Work seniors.
- The better your grades, service participation (e.g. Social Work Club), the greater chance you will have in being able to receive a scholarship for graduate school.
Social Work Salaries

- Average BSW salaries range start from $30,000 to $40,000
- MSW can start at between $35 to $50,000 plus benefits which often equals about 30 to 40% of one’s salary
- (Princeton Review,
Social Work Managers

- Goal for our students is to become leaders! Why?
  - Capacity to Provide Christian Influence
- Median income is $68,390
- Low being $59,268
- High being $81,606
  - CNNMoney.com (April 2007)
  - CareerJournal.com (July 2006)
- IMPORTANT: Your pay can be dramatically affected by compensable factors such as employer size, industry, employee
Social Work Salaries

- MSWs make 18.5% more than BSWs
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States
- The profession is expected to grow by 30% by 2010

This data is based on surveys administered to 2003-2004 graduates, 10 to 18 months after graduation, for which there was a 55.8% response rate.

For additional job survey information, please look at the "Job Survey Results For MSW Graduates 2003-2004"
OU Social Work Program

- Must have a 2.5 GPA overall or in SWK courses
- Have three opportunities for internships (direct experience in the field)
- 35 hours
- 75 hours
- 400 hours
OU Social Work Program

- Students are expected to take an introspective look at themselves
- High expectations for students
  - Expect you to be leaders
- Curriculum is thorough, & challenging, but students appreciate the results
- Our students are Highly valued and heavily recruited by graduate school recruiters
- **All students are expected to attend graduate school**
Our Graduates

Graduates are working as leaders in:

- Schools
- Educator’s
- Child Welfare
- Law (lawyers)
- Rehabilitation
- United Nations (International Social Work)
- Private agencies
Our Faculty

- Caring & warm
- Christ-centered
- Experienced
- Deliberate in expectations
- All have years of clinical experience
Program Committed to Preparing Christian Social Workers
Your Success is IMPORTANT to US!
Contact Information

George Ashley, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Social Work
Oakwood University
7000 Adventist Blvd.
Huntsville, AL
35896

Tel.: (256) 726-7344
E-mail: socialwork@oakwood.edu or gashley@oakwood.edu
Website: oakwood.edu (see Academics)