

SOCIAL WORK CAREER PATHS



UMBC's B.A. in Social Work offers a unique environment of small class sizes, close faculty and student collaboration, and a diverse student population. Our fully accredited program is responsible for preparing social work professionals in generalist practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. In the final year, students are placed in an agency setting under the supervision of a social worker and take a corresponding course that addresses the theory and skills they will have the opportunity to practice with clients in a social work agency.

More than 80% of graduates go on to graduate and professional schools. Additionally, many of our graduates work in mental health and addictions agencies, schools, shelters, community-based programs, prisons, healthcare and advocacy organizations.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SOCIAL WORK DEGREE?

Professional social workers bring to their work a generalist knowledge and understanding of theories in human behavior, social justice, skills in problem solving, assessment, and intervention with individuals, groups, and communities. Social workers' roles include:

Advocate

Assist clients in upholding rights

- **Case or Client Advocacy**
Seek to protect, enforce, and ensure clients rights, entitlements, resources, services and benefits (Micro practice)
- **Cause or Class Advocacy**
Promote changes in policies and practices affecting all persons of a certain group or class (Macro practice)

Educator

Prepare clients with knowledge to prevent problems or enhance functioning

Clinicians/Counselors

Help clients better understand their lives, help them modify behaviors

Case Manager

Link between client and community services

Mediator

Help negotiate conflicts in a neutral manner

Researcher

Evaluate effectiveness of programs and research best practices



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A NOTE FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr. Katie Morris, LCSW-C

One of the strengths of our program is the integration of coursework and the field placement. The introductory social work courses focus on social policy, human behavior and social work practice. In the final year, students complete a field placement extending from September to May. This placement coincides with theory-based courses, which allows you to learn skills and have the opportunity to practice those skills in a setting with support from a social worker. This field placement provides amazing experiences; it builds your resume and can lead to job opportunities. It also allows you to fully experience the social work profession.

There is collaboration and support throughout students' endeavor at UMBC. We invite you to visit UMBC at Shady Grove and learn more about the program.

Dr. Katie Morris, LCSW-C
Program Director
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Social workers are agents of change with the following populations:

- Children
- At-risk teens
- Child welfare
- Immigrants and refugees
- Families in need
- Homeless individuals
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Individuals affected by addiction or mental illness
- Individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities
- Veterans and military members and their families
- Aging population
- Juveniles and adults involved in the court system

Social workers make a difference in the following settings:

- Schools
- Health care agencies
- Policy and advocacy organizations
- Community organizations
- Aging communities
- Detention and correctional facilities
- Mental health clinics
- Hospitals: medical and psychiatric
- Research organizations
- Sexual health clinics
- Shelters
- Non-profit and government agencies