

C L I N I C A L   S O C I A L   W O R K  
MASTER'S DEGREE



School of Social Work





## SOCIAL WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

St. Thomas is grounded in the Catholic Intellectual tradition - one that welcomes people of all faiths and beliefs - and is driven by a mission of social justice. In keeping with our social justice mission, the social work faculty developed a set of ten principles that represent the convergence of Catholic social teaching and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) code of ethics. These Social Work for Social Justice: Ten Principles provide a framework for strengthening the way in which we educate students to integrate macro perspectives and advocacy into their clinical practice to support the whole person and to strengthen systems that support total health for all.

Visit [stthomas.edu/socialwork/socialjustice](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/socialjustice) to view these principles.

2400+

Clinical MSW alumni network

95%

of our graduates have a social work position within a year of graduation

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*"I knew I was interested in mental health, but realized what was missing was the social justice piece. This is something I'm passionate about and is very specific to social work. It has allowed me to encompass everything I care about into one profession."*

- Whitney Wessels MSW '14, Clinical Social Worker, Pediatric Oncology, University of Minnesota Health  
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### THE ST. THOMAS DIFFERENCE

- Mission-driven focus on social justice and total health
- Faculty of recognized scholars, researchers, and practicing clinicians who represent the diversity of the profession
- Commitment to student development, teaching excellence, and one-on-one mentoring relationships
- Exceptional preparation for clinical practice and licensure
- Eight program completion options to meet the needs of both full-time and part-time students from throughout the region
- Collaborative, supportive field education partnerships
- A caring community and professional network for life

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ST. THOMAS DIFFERENCE »





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*"At St. Thomas, we take a holistic view of clinical social work. Clinical work isn't defined by the setting you're in, it's the lens you bring to your setting. Having the mental health training prepares our graduates to maximize their potential impact on their clients, their communities and their careers."*

- Jane Hurley Johncox, MSW, LICSW, clinical faculty

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## MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT

Clinical social workers bring the additional knowledge and application of clinical skills to their practice, including bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment and interventions - interventions that look at all dimensions of people's lives to empower clients, enhance their functioning and support their total health and well-being.

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*"Clinical knowledge is vital to success for the people you're working with. One of our core philosophies as social workers is to help people move forward and progress with their strengths. Having the clinical knowledge puts you in a better position to do so."*

- Tim Markgraf MSW '15, Outpatient Mental Health Therapist, Northland Counseling Center-Aitkin

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**↑19%**

Healthcare social work and mental health and substance abuse social work are expected to grow much faster than average for occupations through 2024.

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*"My MSW taught me that the sky is the limit in a social work career. I travel all over the metro and I collaborate with doctors, nurses, family members, and others to make recommendations on how best to serve the client."*

- Kiana Joyner MSW '13, Clinical Social Worker, Associated Clinic of Psychology

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Hear more from our recent graduates:

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/mswtestimonials](https://stthomas.edu/socialwork/mswtestimonials)



### Growing areas of clinical social work practice include:

- Aging/gerontology
- Military/veterans
- Practice with immigrants/refugees
- Mental health and substance abuse
- Healthcare/medical
- Child/family/school

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*The interaction with the professors was profound. They were able to get to know you and really help you zero in on your strengths.*

- Emily Rogers MSW '14, Hospice Social Worker, Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital  
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## DEVELOP YOUR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION

### PROFESSORS WHO PRACTICE WHAT THEY TEACH

Social work is all about relationships, and no relationships are more critical to a great education than yours with your professors. Faculty at St. Thomas are experts in their field - but they put you first. Being clinically licensed and actively engaged in clinical practice is the norm among our faculty, so they bring current, topical issues into the classroom. Their diverse backgrounds, clinical methodologies, and practice perspectives enrich your education.

Even before your field experiences, you will have the benefit of their real-world experiences. With our small class sizes and low student-to-faculty ratio, you'll get more than personal attention. You will receive one-on-one mentorship to develop your strengths and hone your personal approach to the profession.

Learn more about our faculty:  
[stthomas.edu/socialwork/faculty](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/faculty)

Dr. Kari Fletcher researches ways in which social workers can support service members, veterans, and their families.



Dr. David Roseborough is a Certified Cognitive Therapist (CCT) who studies psychotherapy and other mental health-related interventions, trying to answer questions such as, "Who gets better?" "In what ways?" and "When?"



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*"I always felt supported and encouraged. The faculty was engaged and the real-world experience they offered was priceless."*

- Danielle Lee MSW '15, Audiology Social Worker, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
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*"I would recommend this program because of the strength of its clinical focus. The training and the intensity made this program difficult, but it was a good challenge. It really prepared me for real-world clinical practice."*

- Francois Vang MSW '15, Systemic Family Therapist, Nystrom & Associates, Ltd.



## CLINICAL PRACTICE: IT'S WHAT WE DO

### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Regular and Advanced Standing students take: | <b>3 Credits:</b> History and Philosophy of Social Work | Provides grounding in the profession and the St. Thomas perspective on social justice   |
| Regular Standing students take:              | <b>18 credits:</b> Foundation Coursework                | Theory and practice of generalist social work, including a 400-hour Foundation Field Placement  |
| Regular and Advanced Standing students take: | <b>35 credits:</b> Clinical Coursework                  | Theory and practice of clinical social work, including a 600-hour Clinical Field Placement and three elective courses (at least two must be clinical) |

- Advanced Standing\* students complete a total of 38 credits; Regular Standing students complete 56 credits.
- \*See page 9 for overview of Advanced Standing and Regular Standing program options
- See PDF of Master of Social Work Program Completion Options overview for list of required courses and elective options: [stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWoptions](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWoptions)

### REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

Do you want to deepen your expertise in a focused area? St. Thomas offers opportunities to conduct research that will expand the knowledge base in the field while developing your skills as an objective evaluator of social work practice.

Marcus Kuboy MSW '15, a former medic in the Minnesota National Guard and AEMP scholar, researched mindfulness therapy for veterans with head injuries and PTSD and presented his research at the national Military and Veteran Social Work Conference.



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"This program has a strong commitment to licensure and practice preparation. My classmates and I passed the LGSW exam the first time we took it."  
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- Lauren Abdill MSW '18, Outpatient Therapist, Relate Counseling Center



## PREPARED FOR PRACTICE

The St. Thomas MSW program prepares you for the demands of clinical social work practice. Our rigorous curriculum is designed to maximize your exposure to clinical theory and methods of practice including:

- Therapeutic relationship building
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Formulation of treatment plans
- Evidence-based practice
- Clinical methodologies for treatment

Our curriculum includes program management, supervision and practice research to help you meaningfully advance the profession throughout your career. Additionally, you will gain insight and hands-on experience to integrate community and policy-oriented perspectives into your practice - tools to make substantive changes at the societal level.

## PREPARED FOR LICENSURE

Maximize your practice options by preparing for clinical social work licensure. Clinical licensure is increasingly preferred or required for master's-level social work roles, even those that do not include direct treatment/therapy. Our MSW has been designated a "Path to Licensure" program by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).

Before committing to a graduate program, we recommend that you explore the specific requirements for licensure in the state (or states) in which you hope to practice, as well as the desired licensure for the roles you plan to explore, and compare this with the preparation you will receive.

Minnesota has rigorous clinical licensing requirements, which makes it an excellent training ground for you, regardless of the state in which you plan to practice.

Learn more about preparation for licensure and our Path to Licensure program:

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/licensure](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/licensure)

**20%+**

higher than the national average total pass rate on the ASWB graduate licensure exam

**100%**

of graduates receive all 30 hours of supervision training required to be a social work supervisor in Minnesota

## ELIGIBILITY FOR MINNESOTA LICENSURE

To meet the requirements for clinical licensure in Minnesota MSW graduates need:

MSW degree + supervised practice in clinical settings (4,000 hours) + ASWB Clinical exam + 360 hours of graduate/postgraduate clinical curriculum content in six clinical knowledge areas.

Not all of our graduates ultimately apply for clinical licensure in Minnesota (LICSW), but all are academically on track to do so:

- Regular Standing students can complete the 360 required content hours while in the program.
- Advanced Standing students meet the vast majority of the required hours during the program, determined by the elective courses taken, and can complete the remaining content within required post-LGSW continuing education.

## FIND YOUR TRUE NORTH

When you begin your journey at St. Thomas, you don't have to have your path "all figured out." A compelling aspect of clinical social work is the versatility of its practitioners and the sheer variety of their roles. Over the course of your career, you'll find it possible to translate your skills from one type of work setting to another to stay continually inspired by what you do.

Deciding on an initial career direction starts with exploration. Examples of elective study that can help you choose a focus include, but are not limited to:

- Children/adolescents
- Healthcare
- Couples/families
- Treatment of trauma
- Group work
- Spirituality in social work
- Grief and loss
- Advanced clinical therapy such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

Some students choose to deepen their focus further through the following programs.

### AREAS OF EMPHASIS SCHOLARS

MSW students may apply to become an Area of Emphasis Scholar in one of three critical, emerging practice areas:

- Aging/practice with older adults
- Military practice
- Practice with immigrants and refugees

Learn more at:

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/AEScholars](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/AEScholars)



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY

The School of Social Work is proud to be a part of St. Thomas' Interprofessional Center (known as the IPC) for Counseling and Legal Services, a pro bono clinic located in downtown Minneapolis. This unique collaboration between the St. Thomas School of Social Work, Graduate School of Professional Psychology, and School of Law offers an important free-of-charge resource to clients in our community. Many of our MSW students complete a field practicum at the IPC, which offers the opportunity to engage in interprofessional learning and collaboration among disciplines - a critical skill in today's work environments.

The University of St. Thomas also offers a dual **MSW/JD** program between the School of Social Work and the School of Law.

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*"The Area of Emphasis in Aging program provides the knowledge needed for graduates to be employed in a high-growth, high-need area of practice. I had leadership and research opportunities specific to gero-social work and I built an incredible network of professional colleagues."*

- Beth Turbak, MSW '16, AEA Scholar

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# WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

## 8 PROGRAM TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

Choose from one of eight program completion options that fits your life, your goals and your educational background. You can earn an MSW from St. Thomas as a full-time or part-time student. Weekday /evening classes or hybrid (online/on-campus) options allow you to work or continue other daytime responsibilities.

### ADVANCED STANDING

You are eligible to be an MSW student with Advanced Standing (AS) if you have an undergraduate degree in social work from a BSW program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. You will complete 38 credits and a 600-hour clinical field placement.

Options include:

- One year weekday/evening (full time)
- Two year weekday/evening
- Three year weekday/evening
- Hybrid MSW: two years

### REGULAR STANDING

If you come to the MSW with an undergraduate degree outside of social work or from a school without CSWE accreditation, you will complete foundation and clinical coursework totaling 56 credits and 1,000 hours of field placement.

Options include:

- Two year weekday/evening (full time)
- Three year weekday/evening
- Four year weekday/evening
- Hybrid MSW: three years

### WEEKDAY/EVENING FORMAT

Weekday/evening classes are offered at the University of St. Thomas in a face-to-face learning environment.

- Each class meets on campus in St. Paul one time per week for approximately 2½ hours.
- Classes are scheduled Mondays through Thursdays, primarily during evening time blocks to accommodate work and field placements.
- Optional summer courses - primarily electives - are available during concentrated six-week sessions.

### HYBRID MSW

**If you need a more flexible program, the hybrid MSW may be for you.** It provides greater access for those outside the Twin Cities metro area and for working professionals who can't make it to campus for scheduled weekday/evening classes.

You get the flexibility of an online program with periodic on-campus classes for critical face-to-face discussions, focused practice experiences, and opportunities to build personal relationships.

- Come to the University of St. Thomas campus just three Saturdays per term, completing online coursework between on-campus sessions.
- Take two classes at a time during summer, fall, and spring terms.
- Explore field placement(s) in or near your home community.\*

\* Please note that field placements for all completion tracks typically take place during regular business hours. Employed students will need flexibility in their schedules to accommodate the field education requirements of the program as detailed under Field Education.

Learn more about our weekday/evening and hybrid MSW completion options:

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWoptions](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWoptions)



# FIELD EDUCATION: BRIDGING THEORY AND PRACTICE

Practical experience is at the heart of social work education, which is why we put so much emphasis on field education. We are committed to close, collaborative partnerships with field supervisors and we monitor students closely during placement to facilitate high quality experiences for both students and agency partners.

To help you apply what you learn to a rich variety of practice settings, you'll meet in faculty-led small group seminars every other week during your field placement.

Field placements are typically scheduled during the academic year in a part-time format, but in certain cases you may be eligible to consider a full-time summer block option. The vast majority of field placements take place during regular business hours.

Depending on your program, you will complete the following:

## MSW FOUNDATION PRACTICUM

Focused on generalist social work practice (first of two field placements for Regular Standing students)

- 400 hours, 12-14 hours/week during the academic year or 35-40 hours/week in the summer

## MSW CLINICAL PRACTICUM

Focused on applying clinical social work theory and practice methods (second field placement for Regular Standing students and only field placement for Advanced Standing students)

- 600 hours, 16-20 hours/week during the academic year or 40 hours/week in the summer

## PLACEMENT OPTIONS

Foundation and clinical level placements mirror the full spectrum of master's-level social work practice. Typical student roles/practicum settings include:

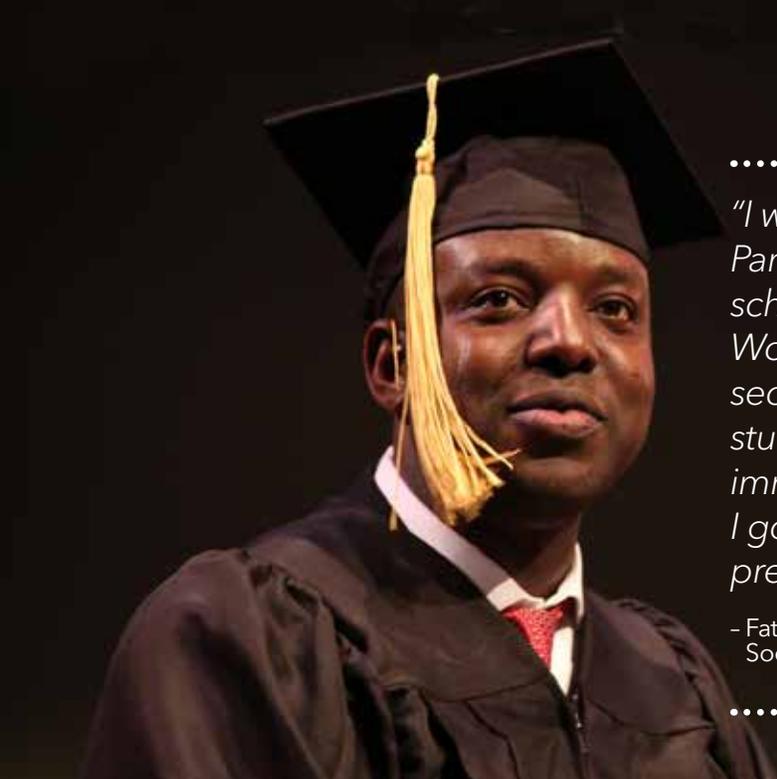
- Medical social work
- School social work
- Housing and community-based support
- Child welfare, foster care and adoption
- Corrections
- Community mental health
- Psychotherapy and outpatient treatment
- Day, partial hospital and residential treatment
- Addiction and chemical dependency treatment
- Case management

Under certain conditions, students who are interested in a practicum setting that is not already on the school's placement list can explore these opportunities within our well-established guidelines for self-initiated placements.

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/field](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/field)

Our field partnerships represent a wide array of practice settings serving the diverse, global population of the Twin Cities metro and beyond.





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*"I was fortunate to be a recipient of the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) scholarship in my first year and the Diversity Social Work Advancement Program (DSWAP) in my second year. The goal of DSWAP is to train diverse students to provide mental health services to immigrant, refugee, and minority populations. I got a lot of support and the entire program really prepared me to practice clinical social work."*

- Fatai Popoola MSW '14  
Social Work Supervisor, Hennepin County

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## NEXT STEPS

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A completed baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) preferred. Official transcripts from all schools from which you received credit.
- Prerequisite courses: **statistics** or **research methods**, **lifespan developmental psychology** (including child, adolescent and adult development) and **human biology**. Students may apply for the MSW program if they are missing one or more of the prerequisite courses, but they must make arrangements for all three courses to be completed prior to the first day of graduate classes.
- Current resume - prior social service experience preferred
- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statements

Acceptance to the program is determined based on the admission requirements, in addition to evaluation of the content and quality of the applicant's personal statement, recommendations, and experience. The priority application deadline is Jan. 10 for the following academic year.

For detailed admission requirements:  
[stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWadmission](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWadmission)

### ACCREDITATION

Our clinical MSW program has been offered as a partnership between St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas since 1990 and has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) continuously since that time. Our host universities have announced that after summer of 2019, each will pursue its social work programs independently. We will transition from being accredited as a collaborative to being accredited as independent programs.

### FINANCIAL AID

Financial assistance for MSW students includes:

- Dean's scholarships for academic achievement
- Diversity grants
- Alumni grants
- Yellow Ribbon Program for veterans
- School of Social Work endowed scholarships
- Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) scholarships
- MSW Area of Emphasis Scholars programs
- Tuition support tied to specific field placement opportunities (Diversity Social Work Advancement program; Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars program; Clinical Social Work Expansion Project; Washburn Pathways Fellowship)
- Research assistantships
- Federal loans

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWFinancialAid](http://stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWFinancialAid)



## MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Drawing from the Judeo-Christian traditions of social caring, we prepare students to use social work knowledge, values and skills to demonstrate the intrinsic value of all humankind as they serve those in need and promote social justice and human rights.

## MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE MSW PROGRAM

Grounded in the principles of dignity and respect for all persons, we prepare clinical social workers for reflective practice, supervision, leadership and practice-focused research with a commitment to critical inquiry, cultural responsiveness and social justice.

## CONNECT WITH US:

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSW](https://stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSW)

St. Paul, Minnesota • (651) 962-5800 • [MSWinfo@stthomas.edu](mailto:MSWinfo@stthomas.edu)

Master of Social Work  UNIVERSITY OF St. Thomas

TO DO LIST represents eight of the 12 Grand Challenges for Social Work: [aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative](https://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative). Are you #Up4theChallenge?

The University of St. Thomas is an equal opportunity educator and employer. St. Thomas does not unlawfully discriminate, in any of its programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, family status, disability, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. [stthomas.edu/eostatement](https://stthomas.edu/eostatement)

All programs offered by the University of St. Thomas shall be readily accessible to individuals with disabilities. For details, call (651) 962-6315.