MSW in Clinical Social Work Practice

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING
TOTAL HEALTH FOCUS
Information session slide overview:

• Accreditation (Slide 3)
• Social Work for Social Justice (Slide 4)
• Our Faculty (Slides 5–7)
• MSW Mission Statement (Slide 8)
• Clinical social work (Slides 9–15)
• Social work licensure (Slides 16–17)
• MSW completion options (Slides 18–20)
  • Advanced Standing / Regular Standing
  • Weekday/Evening
  • Hybrid MSW
• St. Thomas MSW curriculum (Slides 21–23)
• Field education (Slides 24–25)
• AE Scholars & HEALS programs (Slides 26–28)
• Admission process (Slides 29–30)
  • Application and deadlines
  • Prerequisite courses
• Tuition & financing (Slides 31–32)
• Other considerations (Slides 33–34)
• Questions? Connect with us! (Slide 35)
Accreditation

• Our clinical MSW program has been offered as a collaboration 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.

• After August of 2019, our formal collaboration will end and the universities will be pursuing independent social work programs. The abbreviated one-year candidacy process for collaborative programs pursuing independent accreditation will begin in 2019.

• We will transition from being accredited as a collaborative, to being accredited as independent programs.

• We anticipate that students beginning a 2019 summer-start program track will be “transferred” to the St. Thomas MSW program in fall of 2019.
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 2006, 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 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 and well-being for all.

Visit stthomas.edu/socialwork/socialjustice to view these principles

“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
Our Faculty

PROFESSORS WHO PRACTICE WHAT THEY TEACH

“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

“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
Our faculty represent the diversity of the profession... a few examples:

In his clinical practice, Lance Peterson provides individual, couple, and family counseling.

David Roseborough is a Certified Cognitive Therapist (CCT) who studies mental health interventions to answer questions such as, “Who gets better?” “In what ways?” and “When?”

Mari Ann Graham is interested in spirituality and social work practice. She uses music, poetry and other art forms to empower students so that they can empower their clients.

Colin Hollidge’s practice expertise includes psychotherapy with trauma and PTSD.

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

Renee Hepperlen’s research and practice interests primarily center on maternal and child health concerns and disability policy.
Our Faculty

DEVELOP YOUR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION

- Our full-time faculty are recognized scholars, researchers and practicing clinicians. They are committed to teaching excellence, student development and community engagement.

- For the 2019-2020 academic year, the St. Thomas School of Social Work anticipates having 19 full-time faculty, the vast majority of which will be engaged with our MSW students.

- We’ll help you discover your unique contribution to the profession within small class settings, with outstanding professors who teach from industry experience and become personal mentors.

80%+ of St. Thomas MSW faculty are clinically licensed and engaged in clinical practice / research

Learn more about our faculty: stthomas.edu/socialwork/faculty
“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.”
What is Clinical Social Work?

According to the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work:

“Clinical social work is a **mental-health profession** whose practitioners, educated in social-work graduate schools and trained under supervision, master a distinctive body of knowledge and skill in order to **assess, diagnose, and ameliorate problems, disorders, and conditions that interfere with healthy bio-psychosocial functioning of people** – individuals, couples, families, groups–of all ages and backgrounds.”

“The nation’s 200,000 Clinical Social Workers provide more mental healthcare, of more types and in more settings, than any other profession.

“Clinical Social Workers typically provide bio-psychosocial services, including diagnosis and clinical treatment (e.g. psychotherapy), that are **reimbursable under health insurance programs and by every major self-insured company in America.**”
What is Clinical Social Work?

In other words....

- Clinical social workers are the largest and most versatile group of mental health services providers in the nation.

- Clinical social workers are trained not only to practice counseling and therapy, but to examine and integrate entire systems in support of their clients and to advance social justice.

- Our clinical MSW students are educated to support the TOTAL HEALTH and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

“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
Why Clinical Social Work?

“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, ‘15 MSW, Outpatient Mental Health Therapist, Northland Counseling Center-Aitkin
Exclusive Clinical Practice Focus

Our MSW curriculum is guided by the Board of NASW & the American Board of Examiners of Clinical Social Workers’ definition of Clinical Social Work

Our MSW graduates are prepared to:

• Think critically and diagnostically
• Develop and implement clinical interventions
• Evaluate relevant client outcomes
• Work in multiple settings
• Engage with diverse populations
• Integrate macro perspectives in clinical work with individuals, families, and small groups
Why St. Thomas for your clinical education?

Our Clinical Practice Advantage

• Almost 30 years exclusively focused on clinical practice

• Being clinically licensed and engaged in clinical practice is the norm among our MSW faculty

• We are a teaching-focused university. Student development / mentorship is our top priority

• Powerful regional network: **Over 2400 clinically-prepared MSW alumni**

• Exceptional reputation in clinical practice at both regional and national levels
Why St. Thomas for your clinical education?

“I would recommend this program because of the strength of its clinical focus. The training and the intensity made the program difficult, but it was a good challenge. It really prepared me for real-world practice.”

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

“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.”

- Lauren Abdill MSW ‘18, Outpatient Therapist, Relate Counseling Center
Demand for Clinical Social Workers

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), there are more clinically trained social workers than psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses combined.

Much Faster Than Average for All Occupations Through 2026

10 year projected growth nationally, 2016-2026*:

All Social Work: 16%
Healthcare Social Work: 20%
Child, Family & School Social Work: 14%
Mental Health & Substance Abuse SW: 19%

* Bureau of Labor Statistics
Social Work Licensure in Minnesota

Categories of Licensure

**Licensed Social Worker (LSW)**
- BSW (CSWE)
- ASWB Bachelors Exam
- Once licensed, 4000 hours supervised practice
- 40 CE hours at biennial renewal

**Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)**
- MSW (CSWE)
- ASWB Masters Exam
- Once licensed, 4000 hours supervised practice
- If clinical, requirement is ongoing, not to exceed 8000 hours and must test for LICSW
- If not clinical, one time requirement of 4000 hours supervised practice
- 40 CE hours at biennial renewal

**Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)**
- MSW (CSWE) or DSW
- ASWB Advanced Generalist Exam
- 4000 hours post-LGSW supervised practice
- 40 CE hours at biennial renewal

**Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)**
- MSW (CSWE) or DSW
- ASWB Clinical Exam
- 360 clinical knowledge clock hours
- 4000 hours post-LGSW supervised clinical practice
- 40 CE hours at biennial renewal
Social Work Licensure

- Our MSW has been designated as a Path to Licensure program by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).

- Our MSW student pass rate on the ASWB Graduate exam (LGSW) has averaged well-over 90% over the past 10 years, **20% higher than the national average**

- Not all of our graduates ultimately sit for clinical licensure, but all are academically on-track to do so.

- To be eligible for clinical licensure in Minnesota (LICSW), graduates must have 360 clock hours in specific clinical knowledge areas:
  - **Regular Standing** students can complete the 360 required content hours while in the St. Thomas MSW program.
  - **Advanced Standing** students meet the vast majority of the required hours during the program (exact number determined by the elective courses taken) and can complete the remaining content within required post-LGSW continuing education

- Before committing to an MSW program, we recommend that you explore the specific requirements for licensure in the state(s) in which you hope to practice and compare this with the preparation you will receive.

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/licensure](stthomas.edu/socialwork/licensure)
St. Thomas MSW Program Formats & Completion Options

8 PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM:

**Regular Standing**

Applicants do not have an undergraduate degree in social work – 56 credits

Completion options:
- RS2: Two-year full-time
- RS3: Three-year extended time
- RS4: Four-year extended time
- RS Hybrid MSW (Three years; summer start)

**Advanced Standing**

Applicants have an undergraduate degree in social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education – 38 credits

Completion options:
- AS1: One-year full-time (summer start)
- AS2: Two-year extended time
- AS3: Three-year extended time
- AS Hybrid MSW (Two years; summer start)

stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWoptions
Course Schedule

• Afternoons:  
  1:35 - 4:00 pm (a few)

• Late Afternoons:  
  4:40 - 7:05 pm

• Evenings:  
  7:20 - 9:45 pm

• Classes meet once a week, Monday-Thursday

• All classes will meet at the University of St. Thomas’ St. Paul campus
The Hybrid MSW (online / on-campus)

• 2-year Advanced Standing and 3-year Regular Standing completion tracks

• Designed for students throughout the region

• Students take 2 courses at a time, summer / fall / spring

• The Hybrid MSW has a summer start

• Courses meet on campus three Saturdays per term, 9:30 – 5:30 pm, at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul

• Students complete online coursework between sessions

➤ **NOTE:** Field placements for all tracks typically take place during regular business hours. Working students must have some flexibility in their schedules to accommodate the field education requirement.

[stthomas.edu/socialwork/HybridMSW](stthomas.edu/socialwork/HybridMSW)
Curriculum Overview:

• All Students Begin Program with GRSW 500: *History & Philosophy of Social Work* – 3 Credits
  • Provides grounding in our perspective on social justice and the integration of macro perspectives into clinical practice

• Regular Standing Students Take 18 Credits of Generalist/Foundation Coursework
  • Includes 400 hours of Foundation Field Placement / Integrative Seminar

• All Students Take 35 Credits of Advanced Clinical Coursework
  • Includes 600 hours of Clinical Field Placement / Integrative Seminar (8 cr)
  • Methods of Clinical Social Work Practice I & II (6 cr)
  • Psychopathology & Human Behavior (3 cr)
  • Social Policy & Program Development (3 cr)
  • Clinical Supervision & Program Management (3 cr)
  • Practice Research (3 cr)
  • 3 Electives (9 cr) - At least 2 must be clinical

100% of graduates receive all 30 hours of training in supervision required to be a social work supervisor in Minnesota
Clinical social workers are found in myriad settings and are skilled at working with diverse populations. However, students have the opportunity to focus their clinical program in a particular area of clinical social work practice through:

- Nine credits of guided electives
- Field placements
- Course assignments / topics of research
- Area of Emphasis Scholars programs; Dual MSW/JD degree
Students take 3 electives. Six of the nine elective credits must be at the clinical level and be taken within the St. Thomas Program

- Practice with Older Adults and Their Families
- Clinical Practice with Older Adults
- Spiritual Dimensions of Social Work Practice
- Grief Counseling and Therapy
- Clinical Practice for the Treatment of Trauma
- Family Resiliency and Diversity: Immigrants and Refugees
- Clinical Practice with Immigrants and Refugees
- Practice with Service Members, Veterans & their Families
- Clinical Practice in Military Social Work
- Clinical Practice with Groups
- Clinical Research Project
- Clinical Practice with Couples and Families
- Clinical Practice with Children
- Clinical Practice with Adolescents
- Cognitive Interventions in Clinical Practice
- Mental Illness: Clinical Issues and Practice
- Integrative Psychotherapy
- Brief Dynamic Psychotherapy
- Clinical Practice in Integrated Health
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

* Not all electives are offered every year
Our MSW field education process is well-established and closely monitored to facilitate high-quality experiential learning

- Students attend field orientation and most apply to, and are matched with, established field agency partners. Many supervisors are program alumni. Under certain conditions, our program also supports “self-initiated” placements for students seeking specific practice opportunities.

- Full-time summer block placements may be available with advance approval

- **Foundation Practicum:** first of two placements for Regular Standing students; 400 hours, 12-14 hours/week during academic year or 35-40 hours/week in the summer

- **Clinical Practicum:** second field placement for Regular Standing students and only field placement for Advanced Standing students. 600 hours, 16-20 hours/week during academic year or 40 hours/week in the summer

> **NOTE:** Field placements typically take place during regular business hours. Working students must have some flexibility in their schedules to accommodate the field education requirement.

stthomas.edu/socialwork/field
Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services (IPC)
30 S 10th St., Minneapolis, MN

Founded in 2003, the IPC is a collaborative effort between the School of Social Work, School of Law, and Graduate School of Professional Psychology. It is a free clinic focused on the underserved and staffed exclusively by students.

The IPC is an example of a unique interprofessional learning opportunity open to foundation and clinical MSW field students.

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

IPC co-director, George Baboila with colleagues from Graduate Psychology and the School of Law

stthomas.edu/IPC
Area of Emphasis Scholars Programs

AE Scholars Programs Focus on 3 Emerging & Critical Areas of Clinical Practice:

• Gero Practice (practice with older adults)
• Military Practice
• Practice with Immigrants & Refugees

AE Scholars programs include:

• Courses, course assignments, campus programs and leadership opportunities specific to area of emphasis
• Opportunities for networking and community collaboration
• Tuition stipend of $1,000

stthomas.edu/socialwork/AEscholars
Learn More About the AE Scholars

Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA):
stthomas.edu/socialwork/gerosocialwork
  • Tanya Rand, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Faculty and AEA Coordinator

Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP):
stthomas.edu/socialwork/militarysocialwork
  • Kari Fletcher, MSW, PhD, LICSW, MSW Program Director and AEMP Coordinator

Area of Emphasis in Practice with Immigrants & Refugees (AEIR):
stthomas.edu/socialwork/immigrants-refugees
  • Eva Solomonson, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Faculty and AEIR Coordinator
MSW Admissions Process

Priority application deadline: January 10*

Admission Criteria:

• MSW Application Form – No application fee

• Undergraduate degree – students must have completed a 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 needed from all schools from which you received credit.

• Current resume or CV (prior social service experience preferred)

• Prerequisite Content (required by start) – See next slide for details

• Three Letters of Recommendation

• Personal Statements

• GRE or Miller Analogy - not required

• For Advanced Standing applicants: Fieldwork Evaluation from BSW program (if available)

*There will be a second application deadline of March 10 for all extended-time completion options, pending space availability

stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWadmission
Prerequisite Courses

• Statistics or Research Methods
• Lifespan Developmental Psychology
• Human Biology

• Students may apply to the MSW program if they are missing one or more prerequisites, but all prerequisites must be completed **before the first day of graduate classes.**

• Required content may have been taken under a different course name and/or between several different courses. Contact MSWinfo@stthomas.edu to determine if your prerequisites have been met.

• The MSW maintains a list of schools/courses to consider for meeting prerequisite requirements. See link on Application FAQs web page.

• NOTE: Most Advanced Standing applicants have met the prerequisite requirements
Tuition

Please refer to our tuition web page for the current tuition rate*:

stthomas.edu/socialwork/graduate/financing/tuition

NOTE: Advanced Standing students take a total of 38 credits; Regular Standing students take a total of 56 credits.

➢ The MSW program awarded over $260,000 in scholarships & grants last year! See next slide to start exploring your options!

* Tuition for the next academic year is set by the University of St. Thomas Board of Governors by February.
University of St. Thomas Financial Aid

• Federal/State Loan Programs
• Yellow Ribbon Program for Post 9/11 GI Bill Recipients
• St. Thomas Graduate Diversity Grants
• Resources to explore national and state loan forgiveness & repayment options

• FAFSA code: 002345

stthomas.edu/socialwork/MSWFInancialAid

School of Social Work Aid

➢ No application needed for:
  • Dean’s Scholarships for Academic Achievement (20% discount)
  • Diversity Grants (20% discount)
  • Alumni Grants (10% discount)

➢ After accepted, can apply for:
  • AE Scholars Programs
  • Endowed Scholarships
  • Research Assistantships

➢ Opportunities tied to field placement:
  • Diversity Social Work Advancement Program (DSWAP)
  • Washburn Pathways Fellowships
What program option is right for me?

Please give careful consideration to the following questions when selecting the length of your program:

• What is the level of support from my family, spouse or partner?

• How much time can I realistically dedicate to school in addition to work and personal demands?
  • Plan on 2 – 3 hours per credit per week in addition to class time. For example, a 3-credit class will typically require 6 – 9 hours of work per week outside of class time.

• What resources will I be using to pay for graduate school? How stable are these resources?

Not sure? Connect with us to discuss your options
Acceptance

• When do I find out about the acceptance decision?
  – The timing varies slightly each year. Students applying to a full-time program completion track (Advanced Standing-1 year and Regular Standing-2 year) will receive a letter by mid- to late-February if they applied by the January 10 priority application deadline. All students applying to an "extended-time" completion track (Advanced Standing 2- and 3-year tracks; Regular Standing 3- and 4-year tracks) should receive a letter by the end of February.

• Can I defer or change programs?
  – Please consider your program track carefully before you apply to the program so that having to request a change after acceptance is unlikely. The program plans course schedules, field placement options, etc… based on how many students we have in each track. Deferral and changing tracks is an option, but we’d like to have the conversation with applicants before they apply, rather than after they are accepted. Questions about deferral and track changes should be addressed with the MSW program manager, Lisa Dalsin.

• Is there an orientation for accepted students?
  – Yes. The field orientation for full-time students typically takes place in mid-March. The program orientations for all incoming students are held in late May / early June.
Further questions? Connect with us!

- **Cindy Lorah**  
  Director, Marketing & Recruitment  
  - general questions; requests for campus visits; and to arrange follow-up conversations with the MSW Program Director or another faculty member  
  - 651-962-5814  
  - MSWinfo@stthomas.edu

- **Lisa Dalsin**  
  MSW Program Manager  
  - non-degree enrollment questions  
  - MSWinfo@stthomas.edu

- **Becky Stevenson**  
  St. Thomas Graduate Financial Aid  
  - financial aid questions  
  - 651-962-4053  
  - becky.stevenson@stthomas.edu

**Don’t know who to contact?**  
Email: MSWinfo@stthomas.edu  
or call the School of Social Work at 651-962-5800 and ask to speak to someone on the MSW program team