

# MISSION STATEMENT OF SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

As part of the overall mission of the School of Social Work in promoting social justice through provision of excellent education for social workers, there is a growing focus on the faculty's research and scholarship. As faculty members expand their funded studies, they develop and disseminate new knowledge for the profession and the wider community, and their scholarly accomplishments re-invigorate the curriculum.

The School's cornerstone program remains the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree, which prepares graduates for advanced practice in a variety of settings and is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The curriculum emphasizes social work practice that focuses on helping individuals, families, and groups to mobilize their personal and environmental resources in order to reach desired goals, and on methods of administration, policy formulation, advocacy and social action to help achieve organizational and social change. In addition, the School offers the only Ph.D. in social work in Connecticut and the only such degree in a public university in New England. The doctoral program provides the opportunity for experienced MSW social workers to acquire research knowledge and skills that will prepare them for careers in research, teaching and senior levels of management and policy planning. Notably, since the Ph.D. was established, the School's ranking by U.S. News and World Report rose by eight points, a gain that can be expected to increase as further goals are accomplished.

In all its programs, the School emphasizes competence in responding to culturally diverse communities. For example, the Puerto Rican/Latino Studies Project offers courses, cross-cultural exchange and outreach programs relevant to the rapidly changing national demographics and growth of the Latino population.

The School of Social Work takes a leading role in human service outreach programs, working collaboratively with state and voluntary agencies. A notable example is a large and long-standing contract with the State Department of Social Services to provide comprehensive employee training and organizational development for the agency.

The School's division of Staff Training and Education for the Profession (STEP) offers continuing education for credit for those wishing to move ahead with careers in social work but not ready to matriculate. In addition to helping students who later begin their degree program, STEP offers to the community a wide range of non-credit courses that support the interests of post-master's practitioners and provide them with opportunities to earn Continuing Education Credits necessary for maintaining state licenses.