

Department of Social Work Mission Statement

The Department of Social Work at Indiana State University is committed to contributing to the profession of social work through teaching, research, and community service. The focus of the undergraduate (Bachelor of Social Work) education is on the promotion of social and economic justice and on the development of competent and skilled social work professionals.

Revised: June 21, 2010; July 15, 2009; May 2006; November 1, 2004

Department Supports University and College Missions

When the Department of Social Work became a free standing program in 1994, the University was responding to the community's demand for the development of an accredited social work BSW program. Prior to the mid 1990s there were few professionally educated social work practitioners at either the BSW or MSW levels in this region of Indiana and the social service delivery system lacked the quality that was required for providing essential services. The mission and core competencies of the program grew out of the needs of the community as well as the values of the profession.

The Department of Social Work supports the mission of the University and College of Arts and Sciences by providing 1) quality generalist BSW graduates who fill workforce needs; 2) faculty and students who are actively involved in research, community engagement and leadership in the enhancement of service delivery systems at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels; 3) faculty and students global experiences that contribute to the dissemination of knowledge, and; 4) creative partnerships with the local, state and international communities (e.g., Hamilton Center Inc., over 30 local community social service agencies, Title IV-E state child welfare training, and international partnerships in Morocco and Russia).

The social work program's mission statement is truly an extension of the University and the College's mission statement's, providing the framework for BSW education and is appropriate to BSW practice.

Department of Social Work Core Competencies

Graduates demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify as a professional social worker & conduct one-self accordingly.
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
6. Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice.
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
 - a. Engagement
 - b. Assessment
 - c. Intervention
 - d. Evaluation

Revised July 2009; Summer 2007