

Chatham College Social Work Program

Program Mission

The mission of the social work program at Chatham College is to prepare students for strengths and evidence based beginning generalist practice. This includes the knowledge and skills necessary for work with diverse populations, for critical thinking, and for continued professional learning. The program seeks to enhance professional and personal development, promote awareness of and commitment to social and economic justice, and to prepare students, as appropriate, for graduate study in social work.

Building upon a liberal arts foundation that incorporates intercultural experiences, diversity, the arts, science, and citizenship and civic engagement, graduates of the social work program at Chatham will be prepared for beginning generalist social work practice. Possessing a common core of knowledge, skills, and values, graduates will be able to function in a broad range of settings and serve diverse client populations.

Program Goals

The overarching goal of the Social Work Program is to prepare social work practitioners for competent beginning generalist practice with diverse populations. As beginning generalists, they will approach the needs of client systems in an ethical manner, performing the roles of caseworker, group-worker, case manager, researcher, mediator, administrator, planner, advocate, and broker, among others. Utilizing the current knowledge base to direct and evaluate their practice, graduates will incorporate assessment, intervention, and evaluation on micro, mezzo, and macro levels, whether working with client systems of individuals, families, groups, or communities.

The goals listed below reflect the mission of undergraduate social work education and its intersection with the strengths and mission of Chatham College. The specific goals for student learning are consistent with Educational Policy, Section 1.1 Purposes of Social Work Education and to Educational Policy, Section 1.2 Achievement of Purposes.

- 1. Goal:** To develop generalist social work practitioners who utilize knowledge, values, and skills to serve client systems of diverse sizes and types.
- 2. Goal:** To develop generalist practitioners who value, understand and apply knowledge of diversity to all types to social work practice.
- 3. Goal:** To prepare practicing social workers who understand and appreciate the importance of the changing knowledge base of social work and related disciplines and utilize this knowledge base to inform practice decisions and evaluate outcomes.
- 4. Goal:** To prepare generalist practitioners who promote social justice and advocate on behalf of oppressed groups
- 5. Goal:** To develop generalist practitioners who are knowledgeable about issues relevant to women including the promotion of social and economic justice and women's status as a population at risk.

Chatham Social Work Program Objectives

The Social Work Program at Chatham seeks to prepare students who can:

- 1.** Utilize a generalist social work practice model at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work practice;
- 2.** Utilize communication skills differentially with client systems, with professional colleagues, and members of the community;
- 3.** Apply empirical knowledge and theories of individual behavior and human development to understand interactions among and between individuals, families, groups, organizations, and social systems;
- 4.** Integrate knowledge about forms of diversity, oppression, and oppressed groups, particularly women, to inform advocacy and social change strategies;
- 5.** Use social work values and NASW Code of Ethics to guide practice decisions and to provide competent practice;
- 6.** Demonstrate the application of empirical research studies to select appropriate intervention strategies;
- 7.** Demonstrate the ability to evaluate their professional practice;
- 8.** Implement strategies that promote social and economic justice;
- 9.** Demonstrate the application of strategies for analyzing, formulating, and influencing social welfare policy in generalist social work practice;
- 10.** Identify current professional structures, issues and values within the context of social work history;
- 11.** Apply critical thinking to generalist social work practice;
- 12.** Identify organizational barriers to change and seek to ameliorate these barriers;
- 13.** Demonstrate respect for all clients by practicing without discrimination as to age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation;
- 14.** Function within service delivery systems and a variety of organizations;
- 15.** Use supervision and consultation to guide practice;
- 16.** Demonstrate the use of the strengths based perspective in social work practice.