Chatham University Social Work Program

Program Mission
The mission of the social work program at Chatham University is to prepare students to be competent generalist social workers and prepare students, as appropriate, for graduate study in social work. The program incorporates the core social work values of service, integrity, and human dignity throughout the curriculum and promotes the importance of human relationships, social and economic justice, human rights, and scientific inquiry. The values, knowledge and skills necessary for work with diverse populations, for critical thinking, and for continued professional development form the basis for student learning and professional competency.

The program builds upon Chatham’s long-standing liberal arts foundation that incorporates the humanities, the arts, science and technology. It prepares graduates to help improve the quality of life for the groups they serve and to identify, ameliorate and prevent conditions that contribute to poverty and limit human rights. In order to promote the well being of individuals, groups and communities, a common core of knowledge, skills, and values enables graduates to function in a broad range of settings and serve diverse client populations. As beginning generalists, graduates will approach the strengths and needs of client systems in an ethical manner that considers the environmental context and utilizes research based interventions with client systems of individuals, families, groups, or communities.

Program Goals
The overarching goal of the Social Work Program is to prepare competent social work practitioners for beginning generalist practice with diverse populations. The eight goals listed below reflect the mission of undergraduate social work education and its intersection with the particular strengths and mission of Chatham University and Chatham College for Women. 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.

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.

1. **Goal:** To prepare generalist social workers who demonstrate professionalism informed by critical thinking in all aspects of their practice.

2. **Goal:** To develop generalist social work practitioners who demonstrate the appropriate professional knowledge, behavior, values, and skills to build on strengths and serve client systems of diverse sizes and types.
3. **Goal:** To prepare generalist social workers who integrate knowledge about how individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations grow and change within the context of their environments.

4. **Goal:** To develop within generalist practitioners both an appreciation of the impact of the cultural context on social work practice and the human condition and the competencies necessary for respecting and engaging diversity and difference in practice.

5. **Goal:** To prepare generalist social work practitioners who utilize social work values and ethics, as stated in the NASW Code of Ethics, in their professional decision making throughout their professional practice and social work careers.

6. **Goal:** To prepare practicing social workers to respond to changing environmental contexts to help improve the quality of services through advocacy and policy based practice.

7. **Goal:** To prepare generalist practitioners who can conduct and use research to inform practice decisions and improve practice, policy and service delivery.

8. **Goal:** To develop generalist practitioners who integrate knowledge about issues relevant to women in all aspects of their practice including the advancement of social and economic justice.

**Program Competencies**

The Social Work Program at Chatham seeks to prepare students to practice as generalist social workers. The curriculum is based on helping student develop these professional competencies:

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself 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 particularly regarding issues affecting women.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
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.

11. Identify issues that impact women and identify strategies to provide effective interventions.