INTEGRATED HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

» The Integrated Health Scholarship Program promotes the integration of health, mental health, and behavioral health services so that individuals, families, and communities receive a continuum of preventive, curative and palliative care services.

» Approximately 10 scholarships will be awarded to incoming MSW students. The program prepares students to work within and promote collaborative care models that attend to physical, emotional and behavioral health issues across a wide range of care settings.

PROGRAM FUNDING

» $5,000/semester ($20,000 total)

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In the integrated health care model, patients seeking treatment for a physical health issue would also be screened for mental and behavioral health issues, such as depression and substance abuse. A collaborative, interdisciplinary team of primary care physicians, specialists, therapists, psychiatrists, nurses and others manage a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses the challenges in caring for patients with multiple healthcare needs. Close communication between members of the team, as well as with the patient and their family members, is what makes the integrated health care model so unique.

“In traditional healthcare settings, people are often treated in silos, meaning they’re treated for a specific disease without consideration or diagnosis of other factors that may be contributing,” says Katharina. “Integrated health care brings all of the pieces together, and social workers play an important role in that process. It’s an exciting time in the field. Doctors are more collaborative with social workers now, and it’s rewarding to see how both fields value one another.”

“I’ve always believed in the mind-body connection,” says Katharina Diessel. “Integrated healthcare is a holistic approach that looks at the whole person in order to gain a deeper understanding of their individual experience. It’s a humane approach that brings a collaborative spirit to the healthcare setting.” Katharina is one of 12 students who comprise the inaugural cohort of Integrated Health scholars. Graduates of this new program will be prepared for employment in healthcare settings of all types, serving diverse populations who face significant physical, emotional and behavioral health problems.