At Michigan Social Work, our curriculum incorporates the latest innovations and scientific advances, and is committed to fighting racial, economic and social inequities. The MSW program offers a broad range of options, allowing you to tailor your course of study to your interests and passions. The School’s faculty are dedicated and accomplished teachers and leaders in the fields of social work and social science research. Our graduates are practitioners, educators and researchers, who are leading their fields and making a difference in the lives of others. As an MSW student, you’ll be part of a community which nurtures your passion for social change.

Explore our website, ssw.umich.edu, to learn more about our programs.

Robert Ortega
MSW Program Director and Associate Professor

Average Class Size
18 Students

400+ Locations for MSW Field Work

20+ Student Organizations

12:1 Students : Faculty

95% Employment Rate Over Last Five Years

300+ Scholarship Opportunities for MSW Students

ssw.umich.edu
MSW CURRICULUM

Pathways

- Community Change
- Global Social Work Practice
- Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse
- Management and Leadership
- Policy and Political Social Work
- Program Evaluation and Applied Research
- Social Work Practice with Older Adults and Families from a Lifespan Perspective
- Welfare of Children and Families

7 Different Program Lengths: from 12 months to 28 months
Determined to end the school-to-prison pipeline, Zainab Farhat pursued a dual degree in social work and public health.

“The dual degree was an ideal way to tackle systemic inequities related to health, education and justice system involvement particularly for black and brown youth. I am currently a Program Associate in the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at the Annie E. Casey Foundation working to end the youth prison model. I work directly with individuals with lived justice system experience and community organizations that hold the expertise to intervene. Together, we are creating solutions that include a continuum of care, support and intervention that is based on healing and restoration.”
FIELD
EDUCATION

Field Education presents you with multiple opportunities to become a part of the professional social work community, where you will learn to integrate classroom knowledge with practice and develop your social work skills.

There are more than 400 field work sites and over 800 licensed professional social workers who will mentor and help prepare students for a career in the profession.

Andrew Stewart
MSW 2017
School Social Worker, Lincoln Park Public Schools

“Children have so much potential. My field placement at the Detroit Achievement Academy is the one I wanted from the start because it was in Detroit and working with children. My field supervisors and Michigan Social Work faculty helped me realize how I could serve racially diverse, low income and underserved children. As a school social worker, I am able to use my organizational and interpersonal skills to help children. It is deeply gratifying to have been able to follow my personal beliefs through my social work education and work with young people today.”

BECOME PART
OF THE PROFESSIONAL
SOCIAL WORK COMMUNITY
Heather Dakki
MSW 2017
Clinical Social Worker,
Michigan Medicine Child and Adolescent Outpatient Psychiatry

“After nine years of working in population health research, I decided to follow my passion and work with individuals on a more personal level. I now work with youth and young adults who are struggling with a variety of mental health challenges. Collaborating with them on how to make positive changes in their lives has been more rewarding than I could have ever anticipated. Utilizing a holistic approach to health care, my field placement provided me with invaluable skills and opportunities to help my clients meet their personal goals.”
Maki Usui
MSW 2019
Olivia P. Maynard Children & Family Fellowship

“I was interested in global social work. When I applied to graduate schools, I focused on those with strong MSW programs and solid global programs. The U-M School of Social Work had both, so it became my top choice. My field placement was at Camp Risona, a refugee camp about an hour north of Athens, Greece. I helped bring the different refugee communities together and worked on building community, coming up with programming and creating space where anyone could come at any time.”
“My resilient grandmother grappled with the effects of ageism and ableism. I heard stories of other grandparents raising grandchildren, and I discovered there were not many programs to help them. I became passionate about healthcare policy regarding older adults. I see myself as an advocate for older adults and their families. I can see myself collaborating to improve the quality of care of older adults in facilities, or as an advocate for policy reform for older adults and their families, or in a nonprofit organization that assists older adults.”
SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Hannah Berger
MSW 2020
Career Counselor, Jewish Vocational Services
Shera Spar Dubitsky Scholarship Fund

“I could not be more grateful for the outstanding financial support, and education I received from JCLP. The skills and knowledge I have learned from this program help me to serve my community and ensure a strong future.”

Joel Arnold
MSW 2018
Outpatient Therapist, network180

“My Detroit Clinical Scholarship helped me as a first generation student and parent who was raising children when I was in school. If I hadn’t received scholarships, the reality is I wouldn’t have been able to earn an MSW. My training made me a very competitive job applicant. I secured a position as a therapist with the community mental health authority of Kent County where I work with a multidisciplinary team serving residents with complex and severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders.”
“U-M School of Social Work provided opportunities and resources for me to create, learn, travel and collaborate. I was able to be placed as a My Brothers Keeper/Girls Equity Network Scholar at One Love Global Lansing, an organization which facilitates racial equity work towards social justice. Then as a National Community Scholar, I was able to travel to Boston to work over the spring/summer at Hyde Square Task Force, where I helped create curriculum centering Afro-Latinx cultures, and learned more about community organizing and civic engagement in communities. Recently, I organized with Amaru, founder of Greenwood District Studios, the first Black owned movie studio in Michigan. Together we hosted a documentary screening of Questlove’s “Summer of Soul,” a beautiful celebration of Black historical music movements capturing the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival.”
CAREER SERVICES

Develop the tools you need to reach your career
• Networking Trips Across the Country
• Job Search Workshops
• Resume & Cover Letter Writing

Expert guidance accessible to all students
• Licensure Counseling
• Mentoring and Advising

Access our 18,000+ alumni worldwide with 15+ workshops and alumni networking events.
Lidi Armenta

MSW 2014
Portfolio Management Specialist
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

“I attended the current student and alumni job networking trip to Washington D.C. arranged by the SSW Career Center. On the trip, I learned about the Presidential Management Fellows program. The trip provided me the opportunity to learn directly from past Fellows who shared their experiences and encouraged me to apply. Back in Ann Arbor, the Career Center prepared me for the lengthy government application process. Thanks to the Career Center, I am working for HUD in Detroit.”

95% Employment Rate Over Last Five Years

ssw.umich.edu/career-services
David Córdova
Associate Professor of Social Work
Prevention Research and Health Equity Lab

“I see it as my responsibility to provide opportunities for students to further develop their research skill set, with a shared goal of advancing science and identifying solutions to health and mental health challenges.”

Jamie Mitchell
Associate Professor of Social Work
Gender and Health Research Lab

“For me, mentoring students is about demystifying the process of getting from where you are to where you want to be. I never want students to feel as if they have to read between the lines; if you want to know how to succeed in a given area, here are the steps.”
Students working in the Parenting in Context Research Lab have opportunities to gain community-based research and evaluation experience, focusing on fathers and families. I work closely with students to help them identify their interests, carve out their own niche and reach their academic and professional goals.
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTING MSW STUDENTS TO INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES

EFFECT CHANGE ALL OVER THE WORLD
Laura Sanchez

MSW 2018
Community and Policy Coordinator
Office of Detroit City Council Member
Raquel Castañeda-López

“My global field placement experience in Chile was invaluable. Being exposed to an international social work setting furthered my goal of building strong, sustainable and equitable communities using multicultural and community-based approaches. My global field placement set the foundation for inclusive policy advocacy and community engagement and organizing. I was also able to reinforce my Spanish speaking skills, which have been essential in my job, as I work in one of the most diverse districts in Detroit.”
From an anti-racism workshop to a child welfare student association to a Saturday football game, life at U-M is full of opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. You’ll learn the lessons of leadership, connect with a myriad of on- and off-campus communities and be a part of something larger than yourself.
As a graduate student at the University of Michigan you will join a vibrant community of renowned faculty and intellectually adventurous students who learn in an environment of limitless possibilities.
Ann Arbor – where the streets are brimming with an amazing array of restaurants, cafes, galleries and boutiques, plus arts and entertainment and 200+ parks to explore – making for a vibrant, inspiring scene where people engage in the art of living.
Crysta Wing Sum Au

Summer 2019 Exchange Student
Hong Kong, China

“I have been enjoying Ann Arbor from the moment I arrived. There are tons of things to do, from floating down the Huron River to experiencing the diverse local food scene. I love exploring the city!”