

Marshall University Master of Social Work Mission Statement:

The mission of the Marshall University Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is to prepare students for an advanced level of practice as social work specialists grounded in core professional values and competencies of social work practice. Students will gain these professional values and competencies in the classroom and through field instruction. Students are provided with evidence based, specialized instruction, and supervised clinical field placements focused on interactions with clients experiencing Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) as outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services (2014).

Consistent With Profession's Purpose and Values:

The mission of the Marshall University Master of Social Work Program is consistent with the social work profession's purpose and values which include the promotion of human and community well-being, respect for human diversity, and evidence-based practice. The mission of the Marshall University MSW Program also encompasses the profession's values of social justice; dignity; integrity; competence; human rights; scientific inquiry; and self-worth, as evidenced through the program's attention to the growing need for an integrated approach to primary and behavioral health care. Marshall University's MSW program prepares students to work in the field of integrated primary and behavioral health care which is defined by the Hogg Foundation (2013) as: "The systematic coordination of physical and behavioral healthcare. The idea is that physical and behavioral health problems often occur at the same time. Integrating services to treat both will yield the best results and be the most acceptable and effective approach for those being served." The program is grounded in generalist practice which provides the foundation for building a knowledge and skill base in the specialization of integrated behavioral health.

MSW Program Context With The College Of Health Professions And Consistency With The College Of Health Professions Mission

The Marshall University MSW Program mission is in keeping with the College of Health Professions (COHP) and Marshall University's mission statements. The COHP mission is in line with the larger mission of Marshall University and includes: "Dedication to the integrity of programs through maintenance of rigorous professional education Generalists as well as high expectation of student learning and performance". The Marshall University Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is actively seeking accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States. This accreditation assures that the Master of Social Work Program meets the College of Health Professions mission of program integrity through rigorous professional education Generalists, high student learning, performance expectations, and outcomes.

The mission of the MSW Program seamlessly connects to the COHP/University missions as evidenced by the MSW Program mandate regarding required faculty educational Generalists, Generalists involving evidence-based curriculum and instruction, and

culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse student body, faculty, staff, and administration. In context with the COHP/University mission statements, MSW faculties will be continually engaged in scholarship and service. Projects that highlight these activities involves students engaged in faculty supervised research projects which will be sponsored or requested by a community agency. In this way policy and research, and service are combined with practice to instruct students on how these areas intersect. As a program housed within the Marshall University College of Health Professions, the MSW program will be involved in various interdisciplinary projects. The program is an excellent fit with the College of Health Professions program menu as evidenced by the varied and interrelated disciplines and degrees offered within the College. Social work is an ideal program in the context of the COHP largely due to Social Work's focus of collaboration and coordination offering Social Work students rich and numerous opportunities for inter-collegial collaborations. Social Work graduate students will have many opportunities to engage in interprofessional activities and simulations with a variety of students from interdisciplinary programs with the College of Health Professions.

The mission statement of Marshall University states that "Marshall University is a multi-campus public university providing innovative undergraduate and graduate education that contributes to the development of society and the individual. The University actively facilitates learning through the preservation, discovery, synthesis, and dissemination of knowledge." The mission statement further describes what the University, faculty, staff, and administration will provide, as well as opportunities that will be provided for students. Such opportunities include "use their knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking skills to make their communities better places in which to live; examine critically the many issues facing society and, through the process of civil discourse, prepare themselves to become socially responsible individuals who contribute to the betterment of society; and appreciate and to cultivate diversity, and to value difference." Among the list describing what faculty will do: "regularly review the curriculum, degree, and programs offered, and recommend necessary additions and deletions to meet changing needs of the state and region." These are consistent with the mission and goals of the social work program.

The Marshall University (MSW) Master of Social Work Program supports the mission of Marshall University by:

- Providing opportunities for students to undertake intensive graduate level education in their chosen fields upon admission to graduate school, giving them solid foundations for becoming competent professionals
- Providing opportunities for students to use their knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking skills to make their communities better places in which to live
- Providing opportunities for students to examine critically the many issues facing society and, through the process of civil discourse, prepare themselves to become socially responsible individuals who contribute to the betterment of society
- Enabling students to appreciate and to cultivate diversity, and to value differences
- Educating a citizenry capable of living and working effectively in a global environment
Furthering the intellectual, artistic and cultural life of the community and region.