

Chapter 1

Introduction Social Work at Indiana University

The Indiana University School of Social Work offers baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree programs in social work on various Indiana University campuses. As a system school, its curricula and policies are consistent across campuses. The Bachelor of Social Work program prepares students for generalist social work practice. The Master of Social Work program prepares graduate students for advanced social work practice in an area of specialization. The Doctoral program prepares students for leading roles in areas such as social work education, social welfare policy analysis and development, administration, social work practice, and advocacy.

Brief History¹

The Indiana University School of Social Work was founded in 1911 as the Department of Social Services. Shortly thereafter, the first courses in the field of social work were offered through the Department of Economics and Sociology. Between 1911 and 1944, various administrative and curricular changes were put into effect and degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels were offered. In 1944, the Indiana University Division of Social Service was established by action of the Trustees of Indiana University. The organizational status was changed in 1966 when the Graduate School of Social Service was created. In 1973 the name changed to the School of Social Service and, in 1977, it became the School of Social Work in order to reflect more clearly its identification with the profession. The Master of Social Work (MSW) program received its accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 1923, and the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program received accreditation in 1975. Since then, both programs have enjoyed accredited status. The next review for reaffirmation of accredited status will be in 2021. The School started the Ph.D. in Social Work program in 1994 and a Pre-Doc program in 1977.

Indiana University Mission Statement

Indiana University is a major multi-campus public research institution, grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, and a world leader in professional, medical, and technological education. Indiana University's mission is to provide broad access to undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education for students throughout Indiana, the United States, and the world, as well as outstanding academic and cultural programs and student services. Indiana University seeks to create dynamic partnerships with the state and local communities in economic, social, and cultural development and to offer leadership in creative solutions for twenty-first century problems. Indiana University strives to achieve full diversity, and to maintain friendly, collegial, and humane environments, with a strong commitment to academic freedom.

¹Note: The information for the Brief History was partially extracted from: Rogers, H.C. (1980). Seventy years of social work education at Indiana University. Indianapolis, IN: IUPUI Press.

Indiana University School of Social Work Vision and Mission

The Indiana University School of Social Work (IUSSW) strives to be *an exemplary university and community-based collaboration advancing social and economic justice, empowerment, and human well-being in a changing global landscape*. The mission of the IUSSW is *excellence in education, research and service to promote health, well-being, and social and economic justice in a diverse world*.

IUSSW Policy on Non-Discrimination

An extremely important policy infused in all aspects of the School is the Policy on Non-Discrimination. This policy states:

Based on tradition of the social work profession, and consistent with Indiana University's Equal Opportunity Policy, the Indiana University School of Social Work affirms and conducts all aspects of its teaching, scholarship, and service activities without discrimination on the basis of race color gender, socio-economic status, marital status, national or ethnic origin, age, religion/creed, disability, and political or sexual orientation.

The School of Social Work has a strong commitment to diversity and nondiscrimination. Indeed, diversity is a celebrated strength. This perspective is demonstrated by the composition of its faculty and student body, curriculum content, recruitment and retention activities, participation in University committees dealing with oppressed populations, numerous service activities, including advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged, selection of field practicum sites, and School policies.

Council on Social Work Education

The Bachelor of Social Work and the Master of Social Work programs are both accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national body authorized to accredit the baccalaureate and graduate level social work programs in this country, to assure student exposure to a quality professional educational experience. This accreditation enables Indiana University BSW and MSW graduates to sit for the state licensing exam(s) in Indiana as well as in surrounding states. BSW graduates also qualify to apply for advanced standing in a graduate social work program.

CSWE promotes high quality social work education through accreditation of programs, annual conferences for social work faculty and practitioners, professional development activities, task force work on educational programming, and the publication of several journals.

Further information regarding CSWE including a national accredited program directory can be found at <http://www.cswe.org>.