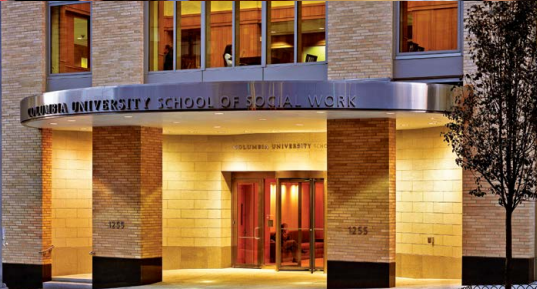


 COLUMBIA | SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

# MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK





## FIRST school of social work in the United States,

known for pioneering the field and leading the way in advancing the practice of social work globally.

## 19,000+ alumni who are demonstrated leaders in the social work profession.

## 90% of students

who filed a FAFSA for the 2018-2019 academic year received over a total of \$12 million in institutional financial aid.

## HIGHEST social work licensing pass rate

of any school of social work in New York and 15 percent higher than the national average.

## TOP RANKED research university

with \$1 billion in sponsored research projects each year in over 200 research centers and institutes.



# THINK DEEPLY. ACT BOLDLY.

“What richer place to think about how to have a meaningful impact on the world?”

**Courtney Cogburn**  
Associate Professor

Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) invites students with a strong commitment to social work to apply to its Master’s of Social Work (MSW) program, the oldest of its kind in the United States.

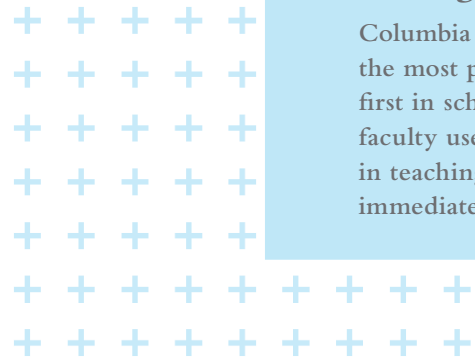
CSSW has been the national leader in shaping public policy and social work practice, research, and education since its founding in 1898. The School’s story is the story of the social work profession itself. CSSW counts among its early ranks Jeannette Pickering Rankin, the first woman elected to federal office in the United States, and the Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, an icon of the women’s suffrage and peace movements. Today, our graduates make active and meaningful contributions to a global profession that is poised to grow 15 percent through 2026.

Our students are committed to social work. They thrive in a changing profession, are resilient, and function independently when the need arises. We invite talented, focused individuals to join us and discover how the birthplace of social work education continues at the forefront of the field in the 21st century. You will be challenged and transformed by your experiences at Columbia School of Social Work.

**APPLY NOW**  
[socialwork.columbia.edu/apply](https://socialwork.columbia.edu/apply)

### Distinguished Scholars. Leading Experts.

Columbia School of Social Work faculty are repeatedly recognized as the most productive and influential in the country. Frequently ranking first in scholarly publications, and often cited in popular media, CSSW faculty use their unparalleled diversity of interests to combine excellence in teaching and research in exceptional balance. Our students have immediate knowledge of new developments.



# \$86 MILLION grant awarded

in 2019 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to support research led by social work professor Nabila El-Bassel and her colleagues. Their work focuses on reducing opioid deaths in New York.

### LEADING faculty in the field of social work,

consulted for their expertise by organizations, scholars, and leaders around the world.



*At the Social Intervention Group training site, students are exposed to all stages of designing and implementing community-based social and public health research. They have a chance to learn how science is used to produce solutions to critical issues such as HIV, gender-based violence, and drug use. Graduates have gone on to conduct research and provide evidence-based interventions in many different agencies and organizations around the world."*

**Nabila El-Bassel**, University Professor and Willma and Albert Musher Professor of Social Work



*It's an incredibly rich educational environment. We have some of the most recognized and respected voices in policy and in social work here at CSSW."*

**Heidi Allen**, Associate Professor



### Innovative Research Centers

CSSW's multidisciplinary research centers and programs provide a network of opportunities to seek innovative solutions to the most pressing social challenges. Our research centers are hubs for leading scholarly work and offer students opportunities for independent studies, internships, and research assistantships. Students deepen their knowledge in areas such as the relationship between gang violence and social media, the effects of racism on health, the opioid epidemic, clinical interventions and implementations, poverty alleviation, and complicated grief.

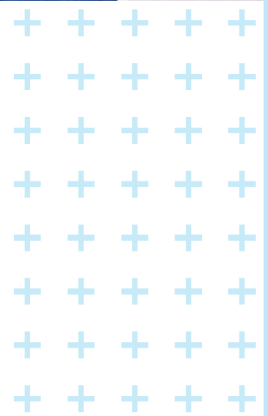
- + ASPIRE: Advancing Solutions in Policy, Implementation, Research, and Engagement for Refugees
- + China Center for Social Policy
- + Cogburn Research Group
- + Columbia Justice Lab
- + Columbia Population Research Center
- + Dialectical Behavior Training Program
- + Center for Complicated Grief
- + Global Health Research Center of Central Asia
- + Center on Poverty and Social Policy
- + Center for Research on Fathers, Children, and Family Well-being
- + SAFE Lab
- + Social Intervention Group
- + Center for Social Policy and Practice in the Workplace



### Classroom to Career: A Focus on Student Success

At Columbia School of Social Work, you will have access to the strength and dedication of a comprehensive network of student support services committed to your intellectual and professional development. They will provide personalized writing consultations, career counseling, and much more. Faculty and staff will treat you as an individual, offering mentorship and guidance to help you achieve your professional goals. Our community is centered on students. Student service offices include:

- + Academic Affairs
- + Career Services and Leadership Management
- + Computing Services
- + Enrollment and Student Services
- + Field Education
- + Financial Aid
- + Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- + Office of Advising
- + Social Work Library
- + Writing Center



*Staff and faculty members really want to know who you are. They want to know your social work story. They want to know what you are passionate about and they want to feed and fuel that passion.”*

**Karma Lowe**, Assistant Dean,  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



### A Commitment to Inclusion

The recently established Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is the result of a student-led initiative to demonstrate a commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusion. The office oversees and develops programming and services that link issues of diversity, multiculturalism, inclusion, intersectionality, and social justice for students, faculty, and staff.

**20**  
students

assigned to each advisor, allowing for a personalized, holistic approach to advising for every student

**225+**  
student events

sponsored by the CSSW campus community annually, including panels, lectures, conferences, arts, entertainment, and social events



## Field Education: At the Nexus of Theory and Practice

From classroom to the field, our curriculum reinforces advocacy in the pursuit of human rights as well as social and economic justice. Our field placements exist and operate from the core of social work practice.

In the field, you will apply classroom theory and evidence-based practice skills as you develop your professional identity and begin your commitment to serving people, communities, and organizations. You will be self-reflective and self-evaluating in your work as you navigate how to best support those you are serving. Through the integration of coursework and field education, you will be trained to become a program planner, administrator, policy practitioner, researcher, or counselor as you work to assist diverse populations with complex concerns.

Columbia School of Social Work's comprehensive network of field internship partners in the New York metro area and across the country provide unrivaled opportunity for a diversity of experience and practice.

**800+**  
field agencies

in New York and around the nation  
that are engaged in long-standing  
relationships with CSSW

**ONE**  
of the only social  
work schools

offering intensive training in  
motivational interviewing as part of  
comprehensive field preparation



“My field placements exposed me to the complexities of social work practice and reinforced the skills we developed in the classroom. After graduation, I was hired by my second-year field placement to advance municipal financial empowerment efforts nationally, and each year I look forward to supporting incoming interns from CSSW.”

**Paige Diner**, MSW, 2017  
*Associate, Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund*



“The time I spent in my field placement shaped my social work lens in every way. As an eighth grade counselor in the South Bronx, I learned that young people, particularly young people of color, are not here to be ‘saved.’ It was not their privilege to have me there—it was mine to be there with them. All of their strengths, beauty, and resilience were on display every day. It taught me about the strength within communities, particularly those labeled ‘disadvantaged.’”

**Raana Kashi**, MSW, 2007  
*Senior Director of College Access Planning*  
Field Placement: NYC Department of Education  
Counseling in Schools 219



“I think New York is the perfect place to have a school of social work. There is no issue that someone may be interested in for which they can't find a field placement. Whether you want to look at it from a clinical perspective, direct practice, or from a macro level, there are places to go. If you are focusing on incarceration like I am, there are numerous placement opportunities.”

**Durrell M. Washington**, MSW, 2018  
*Research Fellow/Staff Associate*  
*Officer of Research, Columbia Justice Lab*  
*PhD Candidate, University of Chicago*  
*School of Social Service Administration*  
Field Placement: SAFE Lab

## Your Master's of Social Work Pathway

### 4 METHOD AREAS

- + **Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice** emphasizes assessment, intervention, and evaluation within a field of practice, using evidence-based individual, family, group, and case management strategies; clinical application of risk and resiliency theories, research to at-risk populations; and clinical issues with specific client populations.
- + **Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming (AGPP)** analyzes the causes and consequences of larger social problems at the individual, community, and organizational levels. Students partner in developing culturally-relevant interventions that are responsive to varying values, beliefs, and world views. AGPP prepares students to collaborate with stakeholders on needs assessments, program design, grant writing, community building, advocacy, policy development, and program evaluation.
- + **Policy Practice** explores policy analysis and advocacy, including the development of knowledge, values, and skills needed to define policy issues from a social work perspective, collect and analyze relevant data, develop policy options, prepare testimony, and present recommendations.
- + **Social Enterprise Administration (SEA)** builds knowledge, skills, and values in administering social service programs, including program planning, program evaluation, financial management, staff development and training, and human resource management and supervision. Students create new ventures that address compelling social issues.

### 7 FIELDS OF PRACTICE

- + Aging/Gerontology
- + Contemporary Social Issues
- + Family, Youth, and Children's Services
- + Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities
- + International Social Welfare and Services to Immigrants and Refugees
- + School-based, School-linked Services
- + World of Work

### 9 DUAL DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES

Partner Institution	Degree
+ Columbia Business School	MBA
+ Columbia Law School	JD
+ Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation	MS, Urban Planning
+ Mailman School of Public Health	MPH
+ School of International and Public Affairs	MPA or MIA
+ Union Theological Seminary	MDiv
+ Bank Street Graduate School of Education	MEd
+ Jewish Theological Seminary	MA, Jewish Studies



*This is an incredibly robust program, and that's what makes it unique. You will learn rigorous research methodologies, understand how to really work with communities, and how to partner with them as collaborators. But more importantly, you will understand the real-world impact of power, race, oppression, and privilege in the classroom. You will really be prepared to enter this market."*

**Desmond Patton**, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Social Work and Sociology



### The Columbia Difference

- + **Dialectical Behavior Therapy**  
The first and only program of its kind within a school of social work, giving advanced clinical students the opportunity for intensive study of DBT theory and skills.
- + **Motivational Interviewing**  
A practical, clinical strategy students will learn to utilize, drawing on client-centered counseling, cognitive therapy, and a strengths perspective to build motivation for change.
- + **PROP Curriculum**  
An in-depth, self-reflective examination of Power, Race, Oppression, and Privilege (PROP), providing students with a common foundational framework for study and practice.
- + **Accelerated Policy Practice**  
An early and focused specialization program in which students with an interest in policy practice take three of the policy specialization courses in their foundation year.
- + **Emerging Technology, Media, and Society**  
A new academic minor that allows students to examine how social work practice intersects with advancing technology, media, and society's most pressing problems.

**CSSW is a LEADER**  
in online social work education excellence.

Our online campus consistently receives accolades and recognition by the International E-Learning Association, Network for Social Work Management, Online Learning Consortium, University Professional and Continuing Education Association, United States Distance Learning Association, *Workforce* magazine, and more.



*I have exposure to policy as well as more clinical courses. That intersection between different methods and fields is preparing me to be a more well-rounded clinician in the future."*

**Ashley Leeds**  
MSW, 2020



**7 Program Options**

**TWO-YEAR**

Traditional full-time, two-year program, consisting of two years of consecutive fall and spring semesters.

**16-MONTH**

Full-time study beginning in the spring semester and continuing for four consecutive terms total, including one summer term. *(Available on campus only.)*

**ADVANCED STANDING**

One-year program designed for those who have earned a Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-accredited social work program.

**EXTENDED**

The ideal pathway for those who wish to work part time and then transition into full-time study, completing degree requirements in three or four years.

**REDUCED RESIDENCY**

For students with two or more years of full-time experience in a social services agency, offering the opportunity to continue working while taking classes part time for the first two years.

**TRANSFER**

For those who have already completed a full year of field work and coursework at another CSWE-accredited graduate school of social work in the United States within the past five years.

**FIVE-TERM INTERNATIONAL**

The International Students Program (ISP) is the pathway for international students who are unfamiliar with the U.S. social welfare system and who speak English as a second language. *(Available on campus only.)*



**What You'll Study**

Below is an example of a full-time, two-year degree pathway for a student enrolled in the Master's of Social Work program. You may choose from a wide range of programs and degree-completion options with varying timelines.

Year One Foundational Coursework	
<b>Semester One</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Introduction to Statistics</li> <li>+ Human Behavior and the Social Environment-A</li> <li>+ Social Welfare Policy</li> <li>+ Social Work Research</li> <li>+ Field Education</li> <li>+ Foundations of Social Work (Decolonizing Social Work)</li> </ul>	<b>Semester Two</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Human Behavior and the Social Environment-B</li> <li>+ Direct Practice</li> <li>+ Advocacy in Social Work Practice</li> <li>+ Field Education</li> </ul>
Year Two Specialized Training in Concentration, Field, Optional Minor	
<b>Semester One</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Advanced Research Course</li> <li>+ Advanced Concentration Method</li> <li>+ Field of Practice Course</li> <li>+ Field Education</li> <li>+ Electives</li> </ul>	<b>Semester Two</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Advanced Concentration Method</li> <li>+ Field Education</li> <li>+ Electives</li> </ul>

*Weekly schedule: two days in the classroom and three days in the field*

**7 Minors (Optional)**

- + Business Administration
- + Criminal Justice
- + Emerging Technology, Media, and Society (new)
- + International Social Welfare
- + Implementation Science
- + Law
- + Public Policy and Administration



## Your Pathway to a Meaningful Career

When you graduate from Columbia School of Social Work, you will join more than 19,000 graduates who are demonstrated leaders in the social work profession. As a student, you will be supported by a strong and active network of alumni, faculty, and professional staff who are committed to your success. Graduates pursue a wide range of academic and professional positions, including doctoral study, research fellowships, private practice, and active careers in the social service, nonprofit, NGO, government, and corporate sectors. Listed here are some of the organizations where recent graduates and alumni are employed:

- + **Medical Social Worker**  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center
- + **Dialectical Behavior Therapist (DBT)**  
Postgraduate Center for Mental Health
- + **Fellow, Behavioral Health**  
Yale School of Medicine
- + **Director**  
The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
- + **Policy Advocate**  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- + **Vice President, Education**  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- + **Human Resources Manager**  
Brooklyn Academy of Music
- + **Presidential Management Fellows**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- + **Child Protection Advisor**  
Save the Children International, Sweden
- + **Project Management Specialist**  
USAID-Thailand
- + **Director, Corporate, Foundation, and Government Relations**  
South Nassau Communities Hospital

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- + Complete online application
- + \$75 application fee
- + Resume/curriculum vitae
- + Three letters of recommendation
- + Three essays
- + Academic transcript(s)
- + For non-native English speaking applicants only: TOEFL and IELTS scores

*Note: Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores*

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Spring Term Deadline:** October 15
- Fall Term Priority Deadline:** December 1
- Fall Term Final Deadline:** February 15

## APPLY NOW

[socialwork.columbia.edu/apply](https://socialwork.columbia.edu/apply)





 COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

1255 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10027-5927  
212-851-2400  
[cssw-admit@columbia.edu](mailto:cssw-admit@columbia.edu)

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**APPLY NOW**

**[socialwork.columbia.edu/apply](https://socialwork.columbia.edu/apply)**

*Make waves. Move mountains. Change lives.*