

# **Social Work Major: Honors Program and Opportunities**

Social work is a profession devoted to working with all types of people to helping people function as well as they can within their environments. Social workers work with individuals throughout their life span to enhance their self-help abilities.

In the social work profession, there are many different employment opportunities including counselors (e.g., in adoption, bereavement, domestic violence, vocational and rehabilitation, hospice, mental health, substance abuse, youth services); as coordinators and case managers of services (e.g., in home health care, child welfare, housing, human resources, public affairs, student life, employee assistance programs; as therapists (e.g., child, adolescent, marriage and family); as administrators in public and private human service agencies; as community development workers, public policy analysts, global rights workers; and in juvenile and adult justice systems, to name a few. Social workers are found in health and human service agencies, governmental agencies, hospitals and schools, research organizations and think tanks.

B.S. W. graduates are entry-level generalist social work professionals. The B.S. W. program focuses on developing social work skills including advocacy, referral, casework and assisting clients in problem solving. The B.S. W. program has a unique program which collaborates with the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Child Protective Services to provide tuition assistance and a commitment to work within Child Protective Services after graduation. Other areas of specialized training include gerontology, integrative health and forensic social work.

The faculty in the School of Social Work are highly qualified instructors, researchers and scholars. Our faculty actively engage students in their ongoing social science research on many topics including sex trafficking, domestic violence, gerontology, child welfare, the human animal bond, poverty, high risk adolescence and intervention research related to substance abuse prevention in many different populations in the Southwest.

Upon acceptance into the Barrett, The Honors College, Honor students engage in honor-enhanced educational enrichment experiences while completing their BSW degree requirements. Additionally, Honors students complete an Honors Thesis. The thesis can be a social work research or creative project related to the student's field placement or area of interest. Students may choose their chair who much be a faculty member of the Social Work department. The second reader may be from Social Work or another ASU department or an expert in the field. A third reader for the thesis is optional.

Past Honors Thesis topics have included:

- Analysis of agency referrals and recommendations for battered women in a rural Mexican American community. (Earned Barrett Thesis of Distinction)
- What works: With the prison population topping 2 million, it's time to look at programs that are successfully working.
- Holistic hospice: End-of-life care for patients and their families.
- Crisis aftercare program.

- The elderly and depression: A focus on the Hispanic population within Tucson.

If you are a current or transfer ASU Downtown student interested in becoming an honors student, but have not yet applied to Barrett, The Honors College, please contact Reginald Miles at [Reginald.Miles@asu.edu](mailto:Reginald.Miles@asu.edu) or 602-496-0557. For more information about Barrett, the Honors College, please visit <http://honors.asu.edu>.

If you are interested in learning more about the Undergraduate Social Work Honors Program, please contact [terikennedy@asu.edu](mailto:terikennedy@asu.edu) (602) 496-0076 or [Laura.Orr@asu.edu](mailto:Laura.Orr@asu.edu) (602) 496-0800. For information about the BSW Program, please visit <http://ssw.asu.edu/portal/academic/bsw>

Faculty Honors Advisor for the School of Social Work is Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz who can be reached at [Dominique.roe@asu.edu](mailto:Dominique.roe@asu.edu) or 602-496-0093.

Please be advised that all Barrett students must complete a Barrett Thesis Prep Workshop before they can register for thesis credit. Completion of one of the following will fulfill this requirement:

- HON 498 “Thesis Prep Course,” a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus
- One of the “face-to-face” Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
- The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard

For more information see <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/New-Thesis-Prep-Req-2013-083013.pdf>