

CHAPTER I – THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK PHILOSOPHY

Vision, Missions and Goals of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh- Department of Social Work

VISION

The vision of this Department reflects a central belief that its curriculum be guided by the principle of doing what is right and just – teaching students to willingly accept the professional responsibility to act as the “heart and conscience” of the profession in their respective communities or as part of the profession-at-large, to advocate on behalf of those who suffer from discrimination, devaluing and oppression. The Department’s missions and goals stem from its vision.

MISSION OF THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The BSW Program guides and prepares students to engage in generalist practice social work in both local and global contexts, that is focused on strengths and skills, social justice values, critical thinking, and is evidence-based.

GOALS OF THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

1. Graduate competent (based on Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Foundation Competencies and Practice Behaviors) BSW level social work professionals
2. Prepare graduates for entry-level employment in generalist social work practice positions
3. Prepare students for entry into graduate school and stimulate engagement in regional professional development activities
4. Prepare students for state/national examination for certification as entry-level social workers

MISSION OF THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The Master of Social Work is a strengths-based graduate education program that prepares students for advanced professional practice and leadership in both local and global practice contexts, with a commitment to evidence-based knowledge, critical thinking, and social justice values.

GOALS OF THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

1. Prepare advanced degree social workers to assume leadership roles in clinical/mental health and health care settings in order to meet the growing needs of the Fox Valley and beyond
2. Prepare professional social workers to engage in activities that will contribute to the development and improvement of social policy at local, regional, state and national levels as it pertains to culturally relevant mental health and health care services

3. Engage in collaborative partnerships with other academic units and degree programs at UW Oshkosh, as well as with organizational entities in the Fox Valley region in order to improve community well-being
4. Engage in teaching, research and evaluation activities that promote best practices in mental health and health care practice and encourage innovation and discovery to improve the well-being of those in need