

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CHILD WELFARE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the Graduate Child Welfare Certificate Program for Master of Social Work students planning to pursue social work practice with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and/or in other child welfare practice settings that require mastery of child welfare practice competencies, effective Spring/Summer 2018. The School of Social Work (SSW) will be the sponsoring program for the proposed Graduate Child Welfare Certificate Program.

Background

The SSW Child Welfare Certificate (CWC) responds to the substantive need to provide critical and competency-based knowledge and training in graduate education for practice with vulnerable children and families. The program prepares professionals serving and promoting the welfare of children and families in the Detroit metropolitan area and the state of Michigan. Other universities in Michigan offering graduate certificates in child welfare include the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Andrews University.

Program Description

The CWC is designed to provide current specialized knowledge and best practices for child welfare social work practice in the Detroit metropolitan and state of Michigan practice arenas. Historically, professional social workers have worked with families and children impacted by social injustice and adverse economic situations. The CWC curriculum is designed to provide best and competent practices in situations where families and children encounter child maltreatment, often with compounding issues of poverty, racism, substance abuse, domestic violence and other experiences of trauma.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. CWC Admissions requirements are subsumed under the Admissions process for graduate/MSW students and follow the WSU Graduate School and the SSW admissions procedures, policies and timelines for application and admission to the graduate SSW.

Curriculum Requirements

The academic requirements for the graduate CWC follow the requirements for a WSU Certificate Program as outlined in the WSU Graduate Certificate Policy (<https://gradschool.wayne.edu/program-proposals/certificate>).

The CWC consists of **12** graduate level semester credits. Required courses are:

SW 5755 - Introduction to Child Welfare (3 credits)

SW 6100 - Child Welfare Social Systems: Context for Case Management Practice (3 credits)

SW 7700 - Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice (3 credits)

And one of the following related electives:

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SW 6535 Juvenile Delinquency: Social Functioning (3 credits)

SW 6540 Effects of Drugs and Alcohol on Physical and Social Functioning (3 credits)

SW 7010 Infant Mental Health Practice (3 credits)

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to remain in good standing in the WSU Graduate Program and Child Welfare Certificate Program.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with the Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within 3 years of admission.

Program Administration

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Social Work is assigned academic oversight for the child welfare and other certificate programs sponsored by the SSW, and reports to the Dean of the SSW. The coordinator for the CWC Program is a full-time permanent member of the school faculty. CWC admissions requirements are subsumed under the admissions process for graduate/MSW students and follow the WSU Graduate School and the SSW admissions procedures, policies, and timelines for application and admission to the graduate SSW.

Federal Student Aid Eligibility

The program is not seeking Title IV federal student aid eligibility. Students seeking the certificate will need to self-fund.

Budget and Resource Requirements

No additional resources or staff will be required to maintain the program.

Accreditation

Established in 1935, the WSU SSW is nationally recognized among its peer colleges and universities as a leader in producing well-trained and highly competent social work practitioners at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of social work professional education. The Bachelor's and Master's Social Work programs are both fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The school also offers a WSU-approved PhD Program and four WSU-approved Certificate Programs: Alcohol and Drug Abuse [CADAS]; Gerontology; Disabilities; and Social Work Research and Evaluation.

Approvals

The proposal for the Graduate Child Welfare Certificate Program was approved by the social work faculty, the Dean of the School of Social Work, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost.