

## Westfield State University Master of Social Work Program Specializations

Each specialization requires 3 courses, a required advanced policy analysis course, and two electives.

### **Children, Youth & Families**

The Children, Youth & Families Specialization prepares advanced level social work practitioners by gaining focused knowledge and skills for clinical practice working with children, youth and families that is based on a firm generalist foundation. Students will gain competencies in developing and applying practice modalities that are rooted in various forms of evidence and understood within the context of applicable social policies and systemic barriers and protective factors.

- SOCW 631 Advanced Policy: Child Welfare
- *Choose 2 electives*
  - SOCW 653 Social Work Practice with Children and Youth
  - SOCW 659 Trauma Treatment in the Public Sector
  - SOCW 651 School Social Work

### **Health Social Work**

The Health Social Work Specialization prepares advanced level integrated behavioral health social work practitioners by gaining focused knowledge and skills for clinical practice working within various settings that address health and wellness. Grounded in a generalist foundation, students gain advanced competencies for interprofessional collaboration and addressing the social determinants of health as they work to impact systemic change and achieve greater health equity for their clients.

- SOCW 698 Advanced Policy: LGBTQ+ Populations
- *Choose 2 electives*
  - SOCW 655 Social Work Practice in Health Care and Aging
  - SOCW 656 Social Work Practice with Grief and Loss
  - SOCW 699 Integrated Behavioral Health Care

### **Substance Use & Addictions**

The Substance Use and Addictions Specialization prepares advanced level social work practitioners by gaining focused knowledge and skills for clinical practice working with individuals, groups, and families affected by addiction. Students will gain competencies in developing and applying practice modalities and the use of community-based supports throughout the phases of treatment and recovery. Content will be contextualized within applicable social policies while examining systemic barriers and protective factors.

- SOCW 698 Advanced Policy: Mental Health and Substance Use
- *2 electives*
  - SOCW 652 Substance Use Treatment
  - SOCW 699 ST: Crisis Treatment and Suicide

### **Latinx Community Health:**

The Latinx Community Health Specialization prepares advanced level social work practitioners to work with the Latinx community by examining the effects of macro level, structural inequities that exist in the U.S and their intersection with the social determinants of health. The effects of structural racism, and societal exclusion will be integrated into a clinical practice model that enables social work students working with the Latinx community to better assess, diagnose and treat the health needs of the Latinx community. Dynamics pertaining to immigrant integration, including refugee, asylum and immigration policy and contemporary frameworks of acculturation and their implications for the health assessment of Latinx clients will be introduced and applied. Dynamics specific to bilingualism, transnationalism, culture, race and racialization will be explored within the supervisory relationship, the social work-client relationship, and the engagement process of Latinx clients in medical and behavioral health services.

Students in the Latinx Community Health Specialization will take courses taught in a bilingual, English/Spanish format. Course lectures will be delivered in English, with content provided in Spanish for students who are bilingual and/or want to increase their Spanish fluency skills for clinical practice; students will complete in-class exercises in the language that they are most comfortable in, and that reflects the language spoken with their clients.

- SOCW 698 Advanced Policy: Promoting Racial and Social Equity\*
- *2 electives*
  - SOCW 699 Trauma and Social Identity\*
  - SOCW 699 Theories of Supervision for Latinx Professionals\*

*\*Courses are delivered in English/Spanish bilingual*