At Saint Louis University's School of Social Work, students earn a degree in the distinguished fields of social work or applied behavior analysis, fields that empower people to use their knowledge to touch the lives of others. The School of Social Work offers two master's degrees: Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Master of Social Work:
The Master of Social Work program prepares students to be advanced practitioners who, consistent with their chosen concentration, act as agents of change to promote individual and societal well-being and are prepared to engage in professional, evidence-based practice in a rapidly changing environment.

After completing professional foundation course work, students select one area of concentration to be the focus of their studies: community and organization, family, health and mental health, or applied behavior analysis.

The program requires 57 credit hours, as follows:
• Professional foundation courses
• Concentration core courses
• Advanced policy course
• Advanced research course
• Electives
• Value and ethics
• Practica and integrative seminars

Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis:
The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis curriculum includes six three-credit hour courses and three practica. The program requires 39 credit hours, as follows:
• Principles and concepts in behavior analysis
• Measurement and experimental design
• Assessment and selecting interventions
• Behavior change and processes
• Behavior change and ethics
• Special topics I and II
• Electives
• Practica (three), each with an integrative seminar
• Thesis

Recognition:
Saint Louis University's School of Social Work is a ranked in the top 25 percent of social work programs nationally by U.S. News and World Report. The social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the Applied Behavior Analysis Programs meet the certification requirements to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

Career Paths:
Possible careers include work in the fields of health care, mental health, school, child welfare, family services, criminal justice, gerontology, policy, advocacy, administrative and community development.
Social Work and Applied Behavioral Analysis

Faculty

Faye Abram, MSW, Ph.D., ACSW
Race and gender issues in low-income communities, African-American grandmothers and extended parenting, international social work

Rebecca Banks, MSW, ACSW
Interprofessional teamwork, field education, changing role of social work in health care settings

Dorothy Becvar, MSW, Ph.D., LMFT, LCSW
Family resilience, how healing happens, complementary and alternative medicine, spirituality

Marla Berg-Weger, MSW, Ph.D., LCSW
Gerontological social work, older adult mobility and driving, family caregiving

Julie Birkenmaier, MSW, Ph.D., LCSW
Financial capability (financial education and access), financial credit and assets, community development, older adults

William Brennan, MSW, Ph.D.
Human life issues, impact of language on oppression

Ellen Burkemper, MCSW, Ph.D., LCSW, LMFT
Ethical decision-making, rural social work practice, informed consent in social work practice

Shannon Cooper-Sadlo, MSW, LCSW
Co-occurring disorders of trauma and substance abuse with women in poverty, substance abuse and the incarcerated population, multi-stressed families in poverty

Jami Curley, MSW, Ph.D.
Asset-building policy, social economic development, child welfare policy

Jin Huang, MSW, Ph.D.
Asset-based social policy, asset building and social development, China social policy

Pamela J. Huggins, MSW, LCSW, ACSW
Political advocacy, field education, mediation for divorce and child custody, policy practice

Janice Khan, MSW, Ph.D., ACSW
Chronic and catastrophic illness, immigration, cross cultural social work

Donald Linhorst, MSW, Ph.D., ACSW
Insanity defense, evaluation of mental health and criminal justice programs, empowerment of mentally ill

Monica Matthieu, MSW, Ph.D.
Mental health, trauma, suicide prevention, disaster mental health, veterans, military social work

Michael Mancini, MSW, Ph.D.
Assessment and treatment of co-occurring health, mental health and substance use disorders, community mental health practice, qualitative injury, participatory action research and critical discourse analysis

Jolene Sy, Ph.D., BCBAD
Assessment and treatment of problem behavior exhibited by individuals with intellectual disabilities, delayed reinforcement

Susan Tebb, MSW, Ph.D.
Family care-giving, aging, yoga and mental health

Sabrina W. Tyuse, MSW, Ph.D.
Social welfare policies, family policies, housing and mentally ill involved in the criminal justice system

Michael Vaughn, Ph.D.
Etiology of antisocial behaviors, behavior genetics, juvenile psychopathy, drug abuse, psychiatric epidemiology, biosocial theory, prevention and treatment of adolescent problem behaviors

Stephen Wernet, MSW, Ph.D.
Political economy of human services; organizational change, adaptation of, and financial adaptation of nonprofit organizations; mergers and acquisitions among nonprofit social service organizations

Alyssa Wilson, Ph.D., BCBAD
Complex human behavior, physiological aspects of behavior therapy, assessment and treatment of behavioral addictions

R. Jan Wilson, MSW, Ph.D., LCSW
Support and empowerment, field education, diversity and oppression issues, school social work practice, women’s issues

Financial Support

The School of Social Work offers new and continuing students partial tuition remission, merit-based scholarships. Students receive scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $10,000. Applicants who do not initially meet the scholarship criteria or who have applied for scholarship and are not awarded a scholarship may re-apply during their first semester in the program. Scholarship awards are made based on information in the admission application.