



## SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

# SOUTH DAKOTA

Introducing MSW students to the history of Native Americans in the U.S. and pertinent social, political and economic concerns of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) Reservation.

This weeklong immersion invites graduate students to work in conjunction with the Sioux YMCA and their community partners on the CRST Reservation. Students will engage and be a part of the relationship building that USC has developed with the Lakota Indians of South Dakota. The ultimate goal is to become an ally to those who provide services that honor the Native American worldview and cultural traditions (which may diverge from the Western social work practice paradigm).

Four virtual seminars prior to immersion.

Lectures, field trips and hands-on work with children and families at the Sioux YMCA.

Visits to the Indian Health Clinic, local schools and social services programs working directly with the Lakota community.

Post-immersion presentations on campus and/or in the community about the experience.



## Who can participate?

The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a rolling admissions basis. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have completed all foundation/generalist practice requirements.

## Will I get credit for the program?

If you are enrolled in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, you will receive 3-elective unit credits for completing the program.

## What if I am taking 15 units of credit during the spring semester?

If you are a student in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and are enrolled in 15 units during the spring semester, you will not need to pay additional tuition for the required 3-elective unit course.

## Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

Employers, regardless of profession, are eager for employees who bring new and innovative approaches shaped by experiences in non-traditional classroom settings.

## Is financial aid available?

If you are receiving or are eligible for financial aid, you may be able to apply it toward this program. For details, contact the School's Scholarship Programs Office.

## Where will we stay?

USC will arrange housing in Rapid City and Dupree in South Dakota.

## How much will the program cost?

Program costs include seven nights of accommodations (double-room occupancy or more), daily meals, local transportation during program hours and field excursions during the South Dakota portion. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from their home to Rapid City, South Dakota, non-program-related transportation and other incidentals.

For additional information, please contact:

### Dan Hester

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**“ Social work is about connection. This experience, this immersion, provided me the opportunity to do that. Whether it was with the elders, the children or the people providing services here, I was able to connect with them and it feels really good to be a part of that.**

#### ALONSO FUENTES

President, Student Organization  
Board, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck  
School of Social Work



**“ Coming on this immersion, especially towards the end of my academic career, really refocused me and reminded me that this is the type of grassroots work that I want to do. This is why I fell in love with this profession. This is why I want to become a social worker.**

#### KENDRA BULLOCKS

2017 MSW Graduate,  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck  
School of Social Work



Apply online and attend an info session to learn more:  
[dworakpeck.usc.edu/global/national-immersion-programs](http://dworakpeck.usc.edu/global/national-immersion-programs)