

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Children, Youth & Families prepares students to improve the lives and well-being of children, youth and their families. Students in this department are prepared to support children, adolescents and transitional age youth within agencies, institutions, communities, families and other social and organizational contexts.

This department is for students who want to become licensed clinical social workers helping children, adolescents and transitional age youth with issues pertaining to social welfare, safety, early childhood education, childhood development, juvenile justice and mental health, among other areas. Whether you are interested in helping victims of abuse or children in foster care, this department will train you in new, evidence-based approaches in interventions and supporting child and adolescent welfare and development.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The department's course work, tracks and hands-on field education training, equip students with a toolkit of skills, including:

- Problem Identification in Early Childhood Development
- Client Assessment
- Clinical Interventions
- Treatment Planning
- Documentation, Case Management & Resource Coordination
- Service Delivery Models & Policies
- Ethical Decision Making
- Data Collection & Research
- Outcome Evaluation
- Policies, Theories & Principles for Social Work Practice in Schools
- Navigating Juvenile Justice Systems
- Responses to Special Challenges in Public Child Welfare



CAREERS & WORK SETTINGS

Many Children, Youth & Families students pursue licensure after they graduate. Some students become child protective services case workers, school guidance counselors, foster care therapists, adoption specialists, family counselors, child and family therapists or correctional probation officers. Sample work settings include:

- Adoption Agencies
- Community-based Organization
- Diversion, Day Treatment and Re-Entry Services for Delinquent Youth
- Foster Care Services
- Health and Mental Health Clinics
- Hospitals

- Juvenile Courts
- Nonprofit Agencies Providing Prevention, Early Intervention and Positive Youth Development Services
- Public Child Welfare Agencies
- Residential Care Facilities
- Schools

FIELD & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Students complete 1,000 hours of hands-on training, which amounts to 14-20 hours per week. Sample field and internship locations include:

- School Settings
- Social Service Agencies
- Public Child Welfare Agencies
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Government Agencies
- Community Organizations

