Social Change and Innovation
A guide to the SCI department of study within the MSW Program.

This department focuses on designing social change and leading innovation. The curriculum prepares students to improve living conditions and work environments for individuals, groups, families, organizations and communities on a larger scale. Students will acquire the knowledge to lead and implement sustainable social change for good. Practicing in this field includes working with individuals, groups, families, organizations and communities to influence the laws, legislation and institutional practices and policies.

Required Courses
- Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups
- Science of Social Work
- Policy and Advocacy in Professional Social Work
- Applied Learning in Field Education

Skills Learned
- Research & Evaluation for Community, Organization & Business Environments
- Management and Organizational Development for Social Workers
- Social Work Practice in Workplace Settings
- Generalist Practice
- Applied Learning in Field Education
- Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice

Electives
- Applied Learning in Field Education
- Science of Social Work
- Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups
- Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Global Immersion in Social Policy and Social Work Practice

Student Experience

FACULTY
Renée Smith-Maddox, Clinical Associate Professor
Russian, the central language of the Soviet Union, is one of the main languages of the world. In addition to being a critical resource for advancing social change, Russian is also important for understanding the history and culture of Russia and the former Soviet Union. In this seminar, students will develop fluency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Russian. The course will also cover topics such as Russian culture, history, and current events.

Annalisa Gerlach, Clinical Associate Professor
Professional and research skills are essential for success in the field of social work. This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop these skills through hands-on learning experiences. Students will engage in case studies, role plays, simulations, and other activities to enhance their understanding of social work practice.

Field Internships

First Year
- Research & Evaluation for Community, Organization & Business Environments
- Management and Organizational Development for Social Workers
- Social Work Practice in Workplace Settings
- Generalist Practice
- Applied Learning in Field Education
- Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice

Second Year
- Leadership in the Social Work Profession and Organizations: Theory and Practice
- Policy Advocacy & Social Change
- Advanced Elective or Option Course
- Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education
- Integrative Learning for Advanced Social Work Practice

Career Trajectory
Social Change & Innovation provides students with the educational foundation and learning experiences to work across a wide variety of fields. Graduates may also pursue entrepreneurship.

FAST FACT: SCI students have the most flexibility in designing their career paths. Students may pursue careers in non-profit management, public affairs, community organizing, corporate social responsibility or human resources, among other fields.

Department Vision
The Department of Social Change and Innovation prepares students to lead and drive positive change in communities, organizations, businesses and government.

Philosophy
Strong communities and organizations are in need of big picture thinkers who can solve problems while supporting the needs of individuals. More and more social workers are taking on that role, becoming the voice that helps large entities thrive without losing sight of those who depend on them.

Departmental Elective Courses
- Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice
- Policy Advocacy & Social Change
- Advanced Elective or Option Course
- Advanced Applied Learning in Field Education
- Integrative Learning for Advanced Social Work Practice

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

SCI Fellowship Program
Participate in an intimate, hands-on learning design process to strengthen professional skills, innovative thinking, and leadership capabilities.

Social Impact Fast Pitch
Students powerfully communicate their innovative ideas, program or organization to solve a Social Work Grand Challenge in five minutes.

Navy Langley Days
A two-day event in Langley, VA where students meet with state legislators and professional lobbyists to experiencing the political process in action.

The University of Southern California Department of Social Work