why you belong here

Are you interested in a career that allows you to work with people in a variety of settings and offers the satisfaction of helping others achieve their goals? Are you interested in completing a nationally accredited and recognized professional degree as an undergraduate and gaining real work experience before graduation? If so, then this program is right for you.

At Chatham University, you will not only learn the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to work with people in a social work position, but you will also be exposed to topics that are central to the University’s mission and that of your chosen profession, such as social justice and cultural competency.

Fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, Chatham offers a unique setting and college experience for those wishing to pursue their bachelor’s in social work in a closely-knit, caring college community.

what you can expect

In addition to a competency-based social work curriculum at Chatham, you will find a faculty who all have professional experience in a variety of settings and bring this experience to the classroom. You’ll also meet and interact with practicing social workers from the community who serve as guest lecturers and adjunct faculty. Unlike the social work programs at larger universities, your class sizes at Chatham will be small, enabling your professors to provide the personalized attention you need to be successful and to help you identify a field placement that aligns with your interests.

Learn from a social work program that emphasizes gender and identity

Accumulate 500 hours of field experience prior to graduation

Gain a solid foundation for advanced standing in graduate social work programs or work in a variety of related fields

Graduate with a professional degree in social work

be the one to make a difference
what you will learn

Chatham’s bachelor of social work degree is a professional major built upon a liberal arts foundation that prepares you for professional social work practice or graduate studies in social work and related fields. As a major in social work, you will receive academic and career guidance every step of the way from advisors who are faculty with real world experience as practicing social workers.

As part of our accredited social work curriculum, you will learn how to connect individuals, families, groups, and communities with services to help them function successfully. We focus on teaching you how to help people build on their strengths as they respond to life’s challenges and opportunities. You may choose to enhance your major with a minor in criminology, psychology, or public policy.

During your senior year, your field placement will give you a closely supervised, valuable hands-on experience that connects your classroom learning with real world work experience in social work. You will complete 500 hours of field placement work by the time you graduate.

where it will take you

Field placements and internships offer firsthand experience and the chance to apply your skills and knowledge gained in the classroom to the workplace. You may choose your field placement from — and possibly later work for — organizations like the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, United Cerebral Palsy, Community Human Services, Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, or Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families.

As a graduate of the social work program at Chatham University, you can receive advanced standing in graduate social work programs across the country or go on to related careers in psychology, administration, law, public policy, and many other fields.

learn more

Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and download the Chatham University Social Work Program Student Handbook at chatham.edu/socialwork.

“Choosing Chatham for my BSW was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Through the encouragement of my professors, I was able to take my social work degree to the next level and obtain my MSW. Without the solid foundation that I received from at Chatham, this never would have been possible.”

— Morgan Gable, Class of 2004, University of Michigan MSW ’06 Policy Analyst, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

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