THE MISSION OF THE BOSTON COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IS TWO-FOLD:

- To prepare social work professionals with the knowledge, values, and skills needed to initiate and sustain change and provide visionary leadership within a framework that promotes individual dignity, respects diversity, and seeks distributive justice in the Jesuit tradition.

- To cultivate an atmosphere of intellectual discipline that facilitates faculty and student scholarship and research that contributes to the knowledge base of the profession and improves society's understanding of the domestic and global systems in which people, organizations, and communities thrive.

THE GOALS OF THE M.S.W. PROGRAM ARE:

1. To develop students' professional identity as a social worker, reflecting the knowledge of, and commitment to, the ethics and values of social work as exhibited in their relationships with client systems, colleagues, and employing organizations.

2. To promote critical thinking as students learn to explore and integrate multiple sources of knowledge including evidence-based practice and practice wisdom in identifying intervention strategies.

3. To cultivate students' abilities to critically assess the influence of diversity on client systems that may include oppression, privilege, or marginalization.

4. To enhance professional commitment to supporting individual and institutional efforts to achieve social and economic justice.

5. To nurture practice skills in the application of the principles of evidence-based practice to support or revise conventional practice wisdom in the development of interventions with client systems.

6. To foster practice skills in the critical application of theories of biopsychosocial development to guide the development of practice interventions.

7. To enhance skills in identifying, analyzing, and changing social policies to promote macro-level changes for client systems.

8. To promote an informed response to professional practice in a context of continuous change, attending to differences in client populations and social trends, with the intent to promote sustainable change.

9. To develop the practice skills needed to engage client systems in the change effort.

10. To develop practice skills needed to assess client systems, identify client strengths and challenges, and reach a mutual agreement on goals for intervention.

11. To prepare practitioners who are capable of identifying appropriate interventions that enhance client systems' capabilities as well as those interventions that require the social worker to mediate and advocate for those systems.

12. To prepare social work professionals who are able to critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.