



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## School of Social Work



# MSW



Put Change into Practice

The Boston College School of Social Work (BCSSW) is a global leader in social work education, dedicated to finding solutions to the pressing social issues of our time through pioneering practice and research.

Grounded in Boston College's 159-year tradition of service, BCSSW pursues the highest standards of intellectual rigor alongside a deep commitment to social justice, developing practitioners who think in new ways to improve the lives of others.

## The MSW Program

### Real-World Experience. World-Class Research. Lifelong Community.

Our top-ranked Master of Social Work (MSW) program offers a strong foundation in social work theory, practice, policy, and research by combining clinical and macro coursework with field education placements at organizations serving vulnerable individuals, families, and communities.

You'll learn from faculty who are recognized nationally and internationally for their research and practice. Dedicated to mentorship, these scholars, clinicians, scientists, and leaders draw on diverse disciplines—from social work and sociology to public health, epidemiology, and neuroscience—in their teaching and their work.

Full-time students complete the MSW program in two years, while part-time students can tailor their degree to graduate in three or four years. No matter how you enroll, our program will prepare you to partner with community members and allied professionals to help address today's complex social problems and initiate lasting change.



10:1

Student to faculty ratio

#11

Ranked school of social work, *U.S. News & World Report* 2022

#### MSW Program

12

Required courses

5

Elective courses

50+

Electives to choose from

4

Semesters of field education



# Equity, Justice, and Inclusion

At BCSSW, social justice is the foundation for all of our work. Through our research, our curriculum, and our work in the field, we strive to address inequities and create more just and inclusive outcomes for the communities we serve. Through our Equity, Justice, and Inclusion (EJI) Initiatives, we develop policies and practices that promote a caring, respectful, and inclusive community and expand access to opportunities and mental health care for historically marginalized groups, including women, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and the LGBTQ+ community.



ALEJANDRA TREJO, '23 MSW/MBA

“ ”

The BCSSW has challenged me to confront inequity and approach current systems with an innovative, inclusive, and trauma-informed lens. The development of these skills has created a shift in mindset, empowering my current and future work to have a greater impact towards the advancement of marginalized communities, especially my Latinx community.



47%

Faculty diversity



## Earn an MSW—Your Way

Flexible and innovative, our program allows you to customize your social work education around your interests and career goals. First, you'll choose a practice specialty—clinical or macro social work—and then you'll develop your expertise by selecting one of our six fields of practice:

[Afrocentric Social Work](#)

[Health](#)

[Children, Youth, and Families](#)

[Latinx Communities](#)

[Global Practice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

You can also build additional knowledge and specialized skills by completing up to two optional certificates embedded in your MSW degree:

[Advanced Research](#)

[Leaders for Equity and Justice in the Workplace](#)

[Aging Populations & Gerontology](#)

[Neuroscience & Social Work](#)

[Black Leadership](#)

[Refugees & Immigrants](#)

[Child Welfare](#)

[School Social Work](#)

[Latinx Leadership](#)

[Trauma](#)



## Dual-Degree Programs: Explore New Intersections

The School of Social Work offers three dual-degree graduate programs with other BC schools:

[MSW/JD with Boston College Law School](#)

[MSW/MBA with the Carroll School of Management](#)

[MSW/MA in Theology and Ministry with the School of Theology and Ministry](#)

We also offer a highly selective MSW/PhD in Social Work.

## Cross-Registration: Expand Your Expertise

MSW students may take up to two graduate courses total in other departments at Boston College. You can also cross-register for one social work-related elective per semester at other area schools in the Graduate Consortium—Boston University, Brandeis, and Tufts.



BCSSW by the Numbers / 2021–22 Academic Year

657

MSW students

23

PhD students

32

Full-time faculty members

102

Part-time faculty members



## Make a Difference in Boston and Beyond

Social work education is intentional in its integration of classroom instruction with experiential learning. From the moment you start an MSW at Boston College, you'll begin to gain real-world experience through a field practicum with an organization that complements your goals and passions.

Located on Boston College's main campus in Chestnut Hill—six miles from downtown Boston and easily accessible via public transit—BCSSW's ideal location offers rich and diverse opportunities for field education, research, and employment. We partner with more than 1,000 human service providers (such as health care institutions, community organizations, nonprofits, schools, and government offices) to offer field practica in the city itself, Greater Boston, across the US, and in countries ranging from Italy and Chile to Kenya and Cambodia.

1,000+

Field agency partnerships



## Field Education Practica: Setting a Foundation for Your Social Work Career

### First-Year Practicum

During your first year, you'll train 16 hours a week for a human service provider, completing a minimum of 480 hours. This practicum will set the groundwork for your development as a social worker. With training and mentorship from a supervisor, you will learn the limitless ways in which a social worker can make an impact on the lives of others.

### Second-Year Practicum

You'll train 24 hours per week, completing a minimum of 720 hours during the academic year. During this field education experience,

you will build upon your practice skills and have increased autonomy under the mentorship of a skilled and experienced supervisor.

In addition to a field supervisor at your practicum, you will also receive support and guidance from an advisor at BCSSW, another experienced professional who is committed to your learning.

Throughout the MSW, you will also complete field education learning activities, which include written assignments that foster reflection, skill development, and a mastery of the tenets of social work.

2020-2021

313,920

Hours of experiential learning in practicum



## Partner with Communities to Make Change

As an MSW student, you may participate in one of three specialized initiatives. These initiatives help students develop a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by specific populations so they can collaborate with the people they serve to find community-derived solutions to tomorrow's issues.

### Black Leadership Initiative

The BLI supports, develops, and prepares practitioners to address issues faced by the Black community, taking an Afrocentric approach to social work practice that emphasizes community, collective action, and cultural context. BLI students take courses on the African diaspora and complete field placements within Black communities.

### Latinx Leadership Initiative

The LLI strives to develop social work leaders who are equipped to work with the Latinx community on sustainable solutions to problems such as access to equitable education, social services, and health care. Students develop a nuanced understanding of these issues through coursework, research, and field placements serving Latinx populations. Core courses are taught in Spanish.

### Trauma Integration Initiative

This initiative aims to integrate trauma-informed theory, principles, and practice into the curriculum, field education, and research. A strategic effort, it addresses the impact of trauma on individuals, families, and communities and prepares students to help their clients deal with trauma as well as guard themselves against its effects.



ERICK DUSHANE '22 MSW

“ ”

I valued BCSSW's extensive network of connections across Boston and beyond. I knew I would be able to tailor my field experience in a way that I could hone in on my professional skillset in the most impactful way possible. BCSSW's high ranking and alumni success stories were the cherry on top!

## Research-Driven Change

At BCSSW, our practice is grounded in research. We use data-informed knowledge to ensure sustainable outcomes for the communities we partner with, creating innovative approaches to the world's most complex social problems.

**\$15M**  
in grant expenditures



### Alumi Network

**9,032**  
Alumni

**189,497**  
BC alumni



# Incoming MSW Class Profile

2022–23 Academic Year

30

States

7

Countries  
(including USA)

## ADVANCED STANDING

Summer 2022

Number of Students 16

Average Undergrad GPA 3.6

Mean Age 23

Spring 2023

Number of Students 16

Average Undergrad GPA 3.6

Mean Age 23

## TWO-YEAR STUDENTS

MSW Students 186

Average Undergrad GPA 3.62

Mean Age 25

## THREE/FOUR-YEAR STUDENTS

MSW Students 34

Average Undergrad GPA 3.5

Mean Age 29

## CLASS DIVERSITY

African American/Black 5%

Asian or Pacific Islander 3%

Hispanic/Latinx 14%

Multiracial 2%

AHANA\* 24%

International 4%

\*AHANA: African American, Hispanic/  
Latinx, Asian American/Pacific Islander,  
Native American



100%

of students receive a scholarship

## Mentoring and Support

BCSSW offers a range of support services to assist you in meeting your greatest potential as a future social worker:

[BCSSW Advising Center](#)

[BCSSW Career Services](#)

[BCSSW Library](#)

[BCSSW Student Organizations and Committees](#)

[BCSSW Writing and Research Tutors](#)

[Disability Services Office](#)

[Peer Advisors](#)

[Office of Graduate Student Life](#)

[The Connors Family Learning Center](#)

[University Counseling](#)



## The Student Collective

Along with the support and guidance from field advisors, faculty, and mentors, BCSSW has a robust Student Collective that works to enhance the quality of student life through programs, activities, and meetings. The Collective also serves as a liaison between students and the BCSSW administration.

*Organizations and committees within the Student Collective include:*

[Social Workers for Social Justice](#)

[Social Events Committee](#)

[Social Work and Spirituality](#)

[Spectrum: LGBTQ+ Coalition](#)

[Part-Time Student Group](#)

[Umoja Union for Students of Color](#)

[Macro Social Work Student Group](#)

[SSW Executive Board](#)

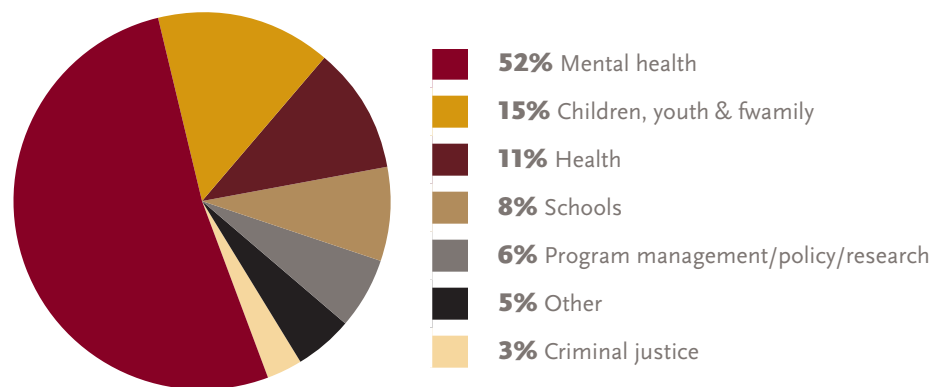


## Prepare for an Impactful Career

Through your academic and field education, you'll graduate from BCSSW with the skills and firsthand knowledge you'll need to practice as a professional social worker.

With an extensive alumni network to support them, our recent graduates have a track record of securing employment in a short timeframe.

### Employment by Area of Focus



### Select Job Titles

- |                                                                                |                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Adolescent and Adult Clinician</a>                                 | <a href="#">Oncology Social Worker</a>                               |
| <a href="#">Afghan Placement &amp; Assistance Project Healthcare Navigator</a> | <a href="#">Outpatient Clinician</a>                                 |
| <a href="#">Assistant Director, Annual Giving</a>                              | <a href="#">Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health Social Worker</a> |
| <a href="#">Clinical Trauma Therapist</a>                                      | <a href="#">Policy &amp; Advocacy Coordinator</a>                    |
| <a href="#">Family Support and Stabilization Clinician</a>                     | <a href="#">Residential Clinician</a>                                |
| <a href="#">Fiscal Policy Analyst</a>                                          | <a href="#">School-Based Mental Health Therapist</a>                 |
| <a href="#">Homeless Liaison</a>                                               | <a href="#">Social Science Research Analyst</a>                      |
| <a href="#">In-Home Therapist</a>                                              | <a href="#">Substance Abuse Clinician</a>                            |
| <a href="#">Nephrology Social Worker</a>                                       | <a href="#">Training Program Manager</a>                             |

# 99%

Employed within one year of graduation



### Select Employers

- |                                                              |                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Boston Children's Hospital</a>                   | <a href="#">Jesuit Refugee Services</a>                   |
| <a href="#">Boston Public Schools</a>                        | <a href="#">Maine Behavioral Healthcare</a>               |
| <a href="#">Bradley Hospital, Adolescent Inpatient Unit</a>  | <a href="#">Massachusetts General Hospital</a>            |
| <a href="#">Brookline Center for Community Mental Health</a> | <a href="#">McLean Hospital</a>                           |
| <a href="#">Cambridge Health Alliance</a>                    | <a href="#">Pine Street Inn-Men's Stabilization</a>       |
| <a href="#">Catholic Relief Services</a>                     | <a href="#">Suffolk County Children's Advocacy Center</a> |
| <a href="#">Codman Square Health Center</a>                  | <a href="#">Walden Behavioral Care</a>                    |
| <a href="#">Doc Wayne Youth Services</a>                     | <a href="#">Wayside Youth and Family Support Network</a>  |
| <a href="#">Institute for Health and Recovery</a>            |                                                           |

### Career Outcomes for Class of 2021

# 1.6

Months average length of job search

# 76%

Starting salary of \$50,000+

# 93%

Master's level licensure first try pass rate for Class of 2020



# Ready to Apply?

## MSW Application Checklist

To apply to the Boston College School of Social Work, you'll need the following:

- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Three letters of recommendation
- ☐ Personal statement
- ☐ Transcripts
- ☐ Application fee

## Important Dates

### For Full- and Part-Time MSW Applicants and Spring Advanced Standing Students

<b>December 1</b>	Early Application Deadline
<b>January 15</b>	Priority Application Deadline
<b>March 15</b>	Regular Application Deadline

*Applications received by the dates listed above will be eligible for the greatest number of scholarship opportunities. After March 15, applications will be considered on a rolling basis.*

### For Summer Advanced Standing and Transfer Students

<b>January 15</b>	Application Deadline
-------------------	----------------------



## Apply now

For information and to learn how to apply, visit [bc.edu/msw-app](https://bc.edu/msw-app).



Connect with us @bcsw



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
School of Social Work

McGuinn Hall  
140 Commonwealth Avenue  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
617-552-4024 | [swadmit@bc.edu](mailto:swadmit@bc.edu)

[bc.edu/ssw](https://bc.edu/ssw)