



School Social Work Certification Program

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE | 
College of Social Work

The Tennessee State School Social Work Certification Program is available to:

- Currently enrolled Bachelor's level and Master's level students
- Persons who currently hold either a Bachelor's and/or Master's degree in Social Work from an accredited program

For undergraduate students:

- Senior field placement will be in a school system supervised by a certified school social worker
- Social Work 535 School Social Work practice* is required in the spring semester senior year

* In accordance with the University of Tennessee eligibility policy undergraduate students working on the Bachelor's degree are eligible to take a 500 level MSSW course with approval from the graduate school. Additionally student's must be in their last 30 semester hours and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. This course can only be counted once -on either the undergraduate transcript, or graduate transcript.

This certification program in school social work equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice in school settings throughout the state of Tennessee.

The UT College of Social Work, in collaboration with the UT College of Education, will certify applicants for the state of Tennessee school social work certification after the satisfactory completion of the requirements detailed in the application packet.

For application materials:

Jennifer Scagnelli at 865/974-1096 or
jenscag@utk.edu

For additional information:

David Dupper at 865/974-8109 or
ddupper@utk.edu

School Social Work Standards

1. Understanding of social, emotional, cultural and economic issues affecting students and schools and ability to assist students and families overcoming barriers to learning.
2. Understanding of the needs of students at risk due to disability, economic condition, family disruption or other environmental factors and ability to work with teachers, school counselors, school psychologists and family resource center staff in addressing student needs.
3. Ability to serve as liaison between home and school, assist parents in understanding their children's needs, interpret student assessments to parents, and work with the parents in developing parenting skills.
4. Ability to perform case management functions, facilitating the coordination and integration of community services to benefit students and their families.
5. Ability to support students with special needs by preparing social histories, contributing to the development and implementation of individualized education programs (IEPs) and helping ensure the participation of parents.
6. Understanding of federal, state and local laws and policies affecting students including issues such as services for disadvantaged students, services required by students with disabilities, due process rights of students and families, child abuse and neglect, HIV and AIDS, confidentiality, attendance, suspension and expulsion.