



Widener University

Online MSW Program

- Excellence in Treating Trauma and its Effects



Widener University

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- The Widener Mission:
 - Lead
 - Engage
 - Inspire
 - Contribute
- Private university that began in 1821
- Accreditation: CSWE
- The main campus is located in Chester, Pennsylvania
- Abundance of resources available – Zoom videoconferencing, Microsoft Office Suite, etc.



Jen Norton, MSW Online MSW Program Director

- I am thrilled to be a full-time member of Widener University's Center for Social Work Education. As a former graduate student in the MSW program and an adjunct professor with the center, I have had the privilege of getting to know the program on multiple levels. I can attest to the fact that the center is composed of faculty, staff, and administrators who live and breathe its motto, "Building Relationships. Changing Lives."
- As the Online MSW Program Director, I want to ensure that the center's motto extends to our students in the online MSW program. The center prides itself on the community it has built among the traditional students in the program. My goal is to foster a sense of community and connectedness among our online students and educators. I am grateful for the experiences that I had as a student in the center's MSW program, and I want our online students to graduate from the online MSW program with the same rich learning experiences that I enjoyed.



Joey Shannon, MSW, LCSW Online MSW Program Assistant Director

- Prior to obtaining an MSW, my professional and academic experiences have included researching the experiences of Deaf adults prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act from a person in environment perspective, Early Intervention for children with disabilities, and community and acute-inpatient mental health. During and after obtaining my MSW from Widener, my experience and interests have expanded to include clinical work with adults with and without Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, medical social work in a Trauma and Intensive Care hospital setting, neuroscience of clinical social work and teaching as Adjunct Assistant Professor for the MSW Online Program.
- My goal and approach for the online classroom is to create a supportive and challenging learning environment which utilizes the rich and diverse experiences each student brings to the program while inspiring each student to gain new insights, skills, and understanding of social work, human behavior in the social environment, and the populations we serve.



Michelle Brandt, MSW, LSW

Associate Director of Field Education

- I have spent more than 20 years working as a social worker in the health care field with a focus on older adults, hospice, palliative care, and oncology. Upon receiving my MSW, I became drawn to teaching and working with students to prepare them for rich careers in social work. My strong connection to social work values and ethics inform both my practice and my teaching.
- I utilize a variety of teaching strategies to engage the adult learner in the classroom and field setting. My commitment to the social work profession has led to my interest in working with students in the field setting. My role as assistant director of field education for the online MSW program allows me the privilege of introducing social work students throughout the country to the field.

Program Overview

- The online masters of social work (MSW), accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), from Widener University prepares you to improve both your life and the lives of others through clinical social work and social justice.
- Trauma is a leading factor in mental health challenges, often leading to substance abuse and other social-emotional issues that affect quality of life.
- Our program helps you understand past trauma as a root cause and the effect it has on individuals, families, and communities.

Program Overview

- Widener's MSW program qualifies and prepares you to sit for your state's licensing exam. In most states, after two years of supervised clinical practice, you may also apply for a clinical social work license.
- Our diverse faculty of experts prepares you for counseling, therapy, and clinical supervisory positions with:
 - Advanced assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills
 - An active understanding of policy, empowering you to empathize with and advocate for those in need
 - Self-reflection and critical thinking capacity to hold purposeful, informed interventions
 - A strong understanding in trauma-informed practice

Core Curriculum

- SW 503 Interpersonal Processes
- SW 501: Human Behavior & the Social Environment I
- SW 520: Methods of Social Work Research
- SW 540: Social & Economic Justice I
- SW 502: Human Behavior & the Social Environment II
- SW 541: Social & Economic Justice II
- SW 505: Generalist Social Work Practice
- SW 506: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, & Small Groups
- SW 552 Field Instruction I & Seminar
- SW 553 Field Instruction II & Seminar

Advanced Concentration

- SW 664: Treating Trauma
- SW 630: Clinical Social Work with Individuals
- SW 633: Clinical Social Work Families
- SW 636: Organization & Program Development
- SW 639: Clinical Social Work Seminar
- SW 637: Field Instruction III & Seminar
- SW 638: Field Instruction IV & Seminar

Elective Courses

- SW 626: Biographical Timeline
- SW 648: At Risk Families and Children
- SW 655: Social Work with People Who Have Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
- SW 663: Social Work Practice with Individuals with Substance Use Disorders & their Families
- SW 670: Grief & Loss Across the Life Cycle
- SW 671: Human Sexuality for the Social Work Professional
- SW 674: Spirituality & Social Work
- SW 684: Medical Social Work
- SW 686: Social Work Practice with Older Adults

Canvas – Your Online Classroom

- The online classroom at Widener is Canvas – a user friendly platform that integrates social learning, collaboration tools, and mobile access.
- Canvas Highlights:
 - Asynchronous platform
 - Accessibility
 - Integration
 - Multimedia capabilities
 - Student Resource Center

Building Community

- Video lectures and presentations by instructors
- Video introductions and presentations by students
- Dyad and small group activities and assignments
- Town Hall meetings via Zoom
- Coffee Hour events with faculty via Zoom
- Civic engagement and networking events on/near campus
- Social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
- Just the beginning 😊

Field Education

- CSWE designates field as the *signature pedagogy*
- Generalist Placement (first year) – Two consecutive semesters in a single agency
 - Total of 420 hours – 14-16 hours per week
- Specialization Placement (second year) – Two consecutive semesters in a single agency
 - Total of 680 hours – 22-24 hours per week
 - Extended Field Option allows students to complete 16 hours per week over three consecutive semesters (delays graduation by one semester)
- The field placement process is a collaborative process. All students are assigned a field director who will support and guide you through the process. ***Communication is key!***
 - Get in the habit of checking your WU Mail regularly
- Evening and weekend hours are sometimes available, but not guaranteed based on agency availability.
 - Students are required to have at least ***one full business day available for field.***
- Students ***may*** be able to complete field hours at their place of employment ***if*** there is opportunity for new learning (different tasks than employment) and a designated MSW field instructor.