

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Academic Complex, Office 210

Phone: 270-745-5312; Fax: 270-745-6841

Website: <http://www.wku.edu/socialwork> (<http://www.wku.edu/socialwork/>)

The undergraduate social work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The social work profession grew out of societal concerns about individual and social problems associated with the distribution of resources and opportunities. Today's social workers address social issues related to stresses on individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. As professionals, social workers give their attention to inequities in the distribution of resources and opportunities and other factors interfering with persons' ability to reach their full potential.

The undergraduate social work program depends on a strong liberal arts base and a generalist practice foundation to achieve its mission and goals. The mission of the BSW program at WKU is to prepare culturally competent social workers for practice with diverse communities and client systems. The program promotes a commitment to professional ethics, leadership, professionalism, social justice, and lifelong learning in order for graduates to practice effectively in a global community. For more information regarding the BSW program and its goals, please visit the departmental webpage: <http://www.wku.edu/socialwork/bsw> (<http://www.wku.edu/socialwork/bsw/>).

When planning a program of study in this department, each student should be aware of the University's academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter "Academic Information." Specific attention should be given to the subsections in the chapter entitled (a) Academic Programs, (b) Colonnade Requirements, and (c) Academic Requirements and Regulations. Students should be aware that some academic programs may require additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations, students should contact the department or visit the departmental webpage.

Students may be required to undergo criminal background checks and drug testing and to provide proof of health insurance, liability insurance, and/or immunization records prior to participating in any required experiences at selected off-campus facilities/agencies. Additionally, there may be certifications, training seminars, or other requirements specified by the facility/agency that a student must meet in order to be eligible for field or practical experiences at the facility. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all institutional and/or facility requirements are met as a condition of participating in the off-campus experiences; students may be responsible in part or in full for any costs incurred to meet such requirements. Students are also responsible for transportation to and from off-campus experiences.

## Degree

- Social Work, Bachelor of Social Work (594P, 594) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/social-work/social-work-bsw/>)

## Minor

- Social Work, Minor (459) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/social-work/social-work-minor/>)

## Certificate

- Strategies for Trauma-Informed Approaches to Improving Resilience, Certificate (1781) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/social-work/stair-certificate/>)

## Faculty

### Professor

Wesley J. Gabbard PhD (Social Work), The University of Alabama, 2004

Gayle M. Mallinger PhD (Social Work), University of Pittsburgh Camp, 2010

Dana J. Sullivan PhD (Social Work), University of Louisville, 2003

### Associate Professor

Austin G. Griffiths PhD (Social Work), University of Kentucky, 2017

Whitney R. Harper PhD (Human Devl and Family Studies), Michigan State University, 2015

### Assistant Professor

Daniel A. Boamah PhD (Social Work), University of Louisville, 2020

Erin T. Warfel DSW (Social Work), University of Saint Thomas, 2022

### Pedagogical Assistant Professor

Whitney Cassity Caywood PhD (Social Work), University of Louisville, 2005

### Instructor I

Lynn M. Hazlett MSW, Western Kentucky University, 2010

Monica G. Hines MSW (Social Work), Western Kentucky University, 2010

Shannon M. Sales EdD (Educational Leadership), Western Kentucky University, 2013