



---

## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Reorganization of Clinical Concentrations in the School of Social Work

**SPONSOR:** Susan A. Cole, Associate Professor and Director of MSW Program (217) 244-5231, [sacole@illinois.edu](mailto:sacole@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Min Zhan, Associate Professor of Social Work, Associate Dean, (217) 244-5252, [mzhan@illinois.edu](mailto:mzhan@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** We are proposing to integrate our current four clinical concentrations Children, Youth and Families, Healthcare, Mental Health, and School Social Work (Appendix A, Diagram 1) into one concentration in advanced clinical practice with special focus areas as options (See Appendix A, Diagram 2). The proposed concentration will be available to the on-campus MSW program as well as the outreach MSW program.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The social work profession at the master's level is experiencing a change in the education needed for advanced practitioners. In the past, there were practice and accreditation demands for distinct 'concentrations' or 'specializations' in social work practice. Research, funding, policy, agency and client demands during the last five years have necessitated changes that make the preparation for our four advanced clinical concentrations outdated. Currently, the major distinctions among the four clinical concentrations are the two required concentration courses in each area of practice. The practice environment is requiring all social work practitioners to be prepared to deliver evidence-based interventions that can be applied over a broad array of client needs across traditional social work practice settings (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, etc.).

The changes in service needs and educational demands are reflected in Children, Youth and Family Services (foster care, adoption, human trafficking and juvenile and adult incarceration) and School Social Work, for example. The limited availability of practitioners to provide mental health services for children and families has required social workers in both concentration to have skills as mental health interventionist to meet children and family needs. Policy changes based on empirical research in health and mental health have identified the close link between physical and psychological well-being as well as the social determinants of physical health. New federal policy initiatives such as the Affordable Care Act have increased the need for Health Care trained social workers to be prepared to administer a quick assessment (SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) to meet patients' immediate mental health

needs and quickly refer for further interventions. All social workers need to be educated and prepared for these interventions, regardless of the field of practice or setting.

With this change, students will still have the opportunity to receive specially focused training in the traditional practice areas, but they will also have greater flexibility to develop a focus in their distinct interest area – a difficulty in the current rigid concentration structure. The special focus courses will continue to be offered on a regular basis. By grouping into one concentration, this change will also reduce the number of assessments from four to one.

The changes we request will positively affect the MSW curriculum. It provides students the flexibility to build a curriculum that best fits their needs.

### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

#### **1) Resources**

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?
  - No additional staff or dollars are needed to carry out these revisions. This is a realignment of the structure and course requirements. The proposed changes do not require financial support.
- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?
  - Not applicable to these revisions
- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.
  - None
- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.
  - See attached letter from Dean Wynne Korr.

#### **2) Resource Implications**

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.
  - None
- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.
  - No other units will be impacted by these changes.
- c. Please address the impact on the University Library
  - The University Library will not be impacted by these changes.
- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)
  - We will continue to ensure that we meet the student-faculty ratios required by our accreditation standards.
  - We expect a modest savings of resources as we shift from four separate assessments of advanced student competencies (one for each separate clinical concentration) to one.



**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Summer 2016 (The start of program year for new MSW students)

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAM STUDY CATALOG:**

## **Social Work**

[www.socialwork.illinois.edu](http://www.socialwork.illinois.edu)

Head of the School: Dean Wynne Korr  
1010 W. Nevada St.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-2261  
E-mail: [socialwork@illinois.edu](mailto:socialwork@illinois.edu)

Director of Graduate Studies: Associate Dean Min Zhan

On-Campus Program: Social Work  
Degrees Offered: M.S.W., Ph.D.  
Graduate Concentrations: Leadership and Social Change (M.S.W. only), Advanced Clinical Concentration (M.S.W. only)

Off-Campus (Outreach) Program: Social Work  
Degree Offered: M.S.W.  
Graduate Concentrations: Advanced Clinical Concentration (M.S.W. only)

Joint Degree Program: Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work and Master of Public Health  
Degrees Offered: Ph.D. and M.P.H.

Joint Degree Program: Master of Social Work and Ph.D. in Social Work  
Degrees Offered: M.S.W. and Ph.D.

## **Graduate Degree Programs**

The School of Social Work offers programs leading to the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The MSW program offers courses on the Urbana campus and off-campus through its MSW Outreach program.

## **Admission**

For the MSW program, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad;

2. a grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) or greater for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work;
3. 20 hours of completed coursework in a liberal arts core consisting of social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, and biological sciences
4. evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work;
5. a score of 580 or above on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (237 or above on the computer-based test) for any applicant whose native language is not English; and
6. provision of a written supplementary statement.

For the Advanced Standing MSW program applicants must meet all the requirements above, and in addition have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a CSWE accredited program in the past 7 years.

The Ph.D. program is open to students who demonstrate a potential for research and other scholarly work, who have aptitude for leadership in the field of social work and allied professions, and who have had education in social work or in related professions or disciplines. Admission requirements for the M.S.W. also apply.

## **MSW Outreach Program**

Designed for the working professional who cannot attend a graduate program on the University of Illinois campus, the MSW Outreach Program allows students to remain in their home community while pursuing a graduate degree. The School offers a three-year part-time program of study through its MSW Outreach Program. This program is offered across the state and for students in adjoining states. Classes are offered in on-line and hybrid/blended learning formats. Face to face class sessions are offered on weekends. In their third year students complete two concentration courses on campus. After completing their coursework students do an internship/field placement back in their home communities. Students complete the same course requirements as students in the on-campus MSW program (see above). Outreach students who qualify for the Advanced Standing program may complete a shorter two-year course of study (see above).

## **Post-MSW Certification Program**

The School offers a post-MSW certification program in School Social Work. Individuals with an MSW from an accredited School of Social Work are eligible to apply for the certification program. Individuals enrolled in the post-MSW certification program take two School Social Work focus area courses and complete a one semester internship in a public school. Students whose MSW did not have sufficient clinical coursework may be required to complete additional coursework to meet ISBE criteria. Upon completion of the program students are eligible for the School Social Worker under an Illinois Professional Educator License from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

## **Centers, Programs, and Institutes**

The school operates the Children and Family Research Center (CFRC) which has offices on the Urbana campus and in Chicago. The CFRC is dedicated to supporting and conducting research that contributes to keeping children safe, assuring permanent homes for children, and supporting child and family well-being. The CFRC is an independent research center created in 1996 at the School of Social Work by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Center's mission is to:

1. Study the needs of children and families in their social contexts
2. Monitor the achievement of child welfare outcomes
3. Evaluate service demonstrations and system reforms
4. Audit programs to ensure service quality and efficiency
5. Provide training and consultation to advance best practice
6. Disseminate knowledge on research-based practice

## **Master of Social Work in Social Work**

The master's degree provides specialized study for advanced social work practice. Students take foundation and advanced courses in social work practice methods with individuals, families and organization, in policy and services, in research, and in human behavior and the social environment. A two-semester field placement/internship (minimum 900 hours) in a social service agency is required. A total of 72 hours of graduate coursework is required for the M.S.W. degree. The curriculum may be completed in 16 to 24 months of full-time study.

Students choose from one of the two concentrations listed below. Students in the LSC concentration prepare for advanced macro practice which focuses on work with communities and organizations rather than work with individuals and families. In the LSC concentration students are prepared to work in either leadership/administration or advocacy/policy. Students in advanced clinical concentration prepare for clinical practice with individuals, families and groups, and their special focus area in this concentration is in one of the four specialized fields of practice: Mental Health, Health Care, Children Youth and Families, and School Social Work.

1. Master of Social Work, Leadership & Social Change (LSC) Concentration
  - o The LSC concentration is focused exclusively on macro practice and is not for students interested in direct service.
2. Master of Social Work, Advanced Clinical Concentration

### Advanced Standing MSW

Students with a Bachelors degree in Social Work (BSW) within the past seven years from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and a GPA of 3.0 (A = 4.0) or greater for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work are eligible for the advanced standing program. This is a three semester/44 hour program that may be completed in 12 months by most students. Students with a

concentration in school social work participate in a one semester internship during their second Fall semester for a 3 semester/44 hour program completed in 16 months.

- Advanced Standing MSW, Leadership & Social Change Concentration
- Advanced Standing MSW, Advanced Clinical Concentration

### Master of Social Work, Advanced Clinical Practice

Methods	16
Policy	12
Research	8
HBSE	8
Field Education	24
Electives	4
Total Hours	72
Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>	
A concentration is required.	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	48

Illinois Educator's License with School Social Work Endorsement (Type 73) requirements for School Social Work Special Focus Area

Minimum GPA 3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Handbook and the Graduate College Handbook.

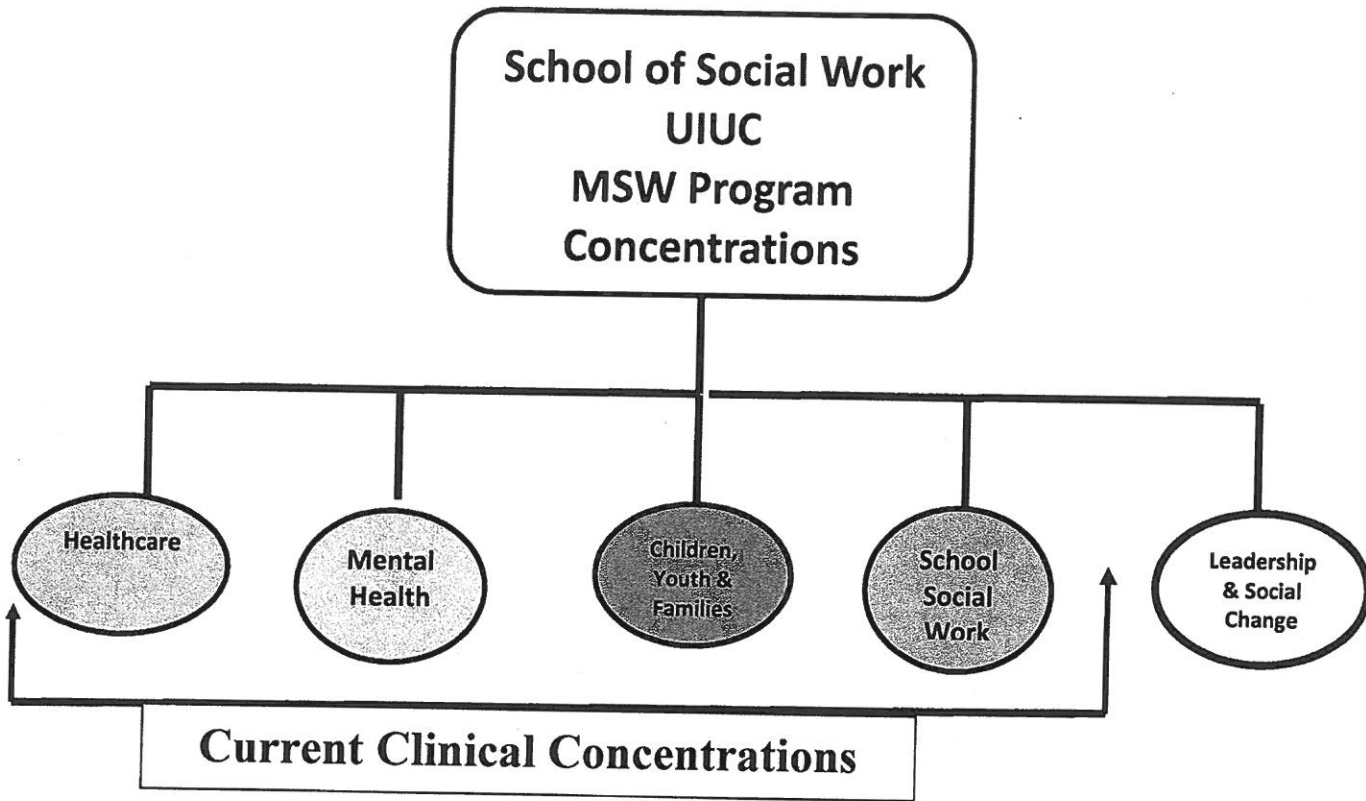
### Advanced Standing MSW, Advanced Clinical Practice

Methods	12
Policy	8
Research	4
HBSE	4
Field Education	12
Electives	4
Total Hours	44
Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>	
A concentration is required.	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	36

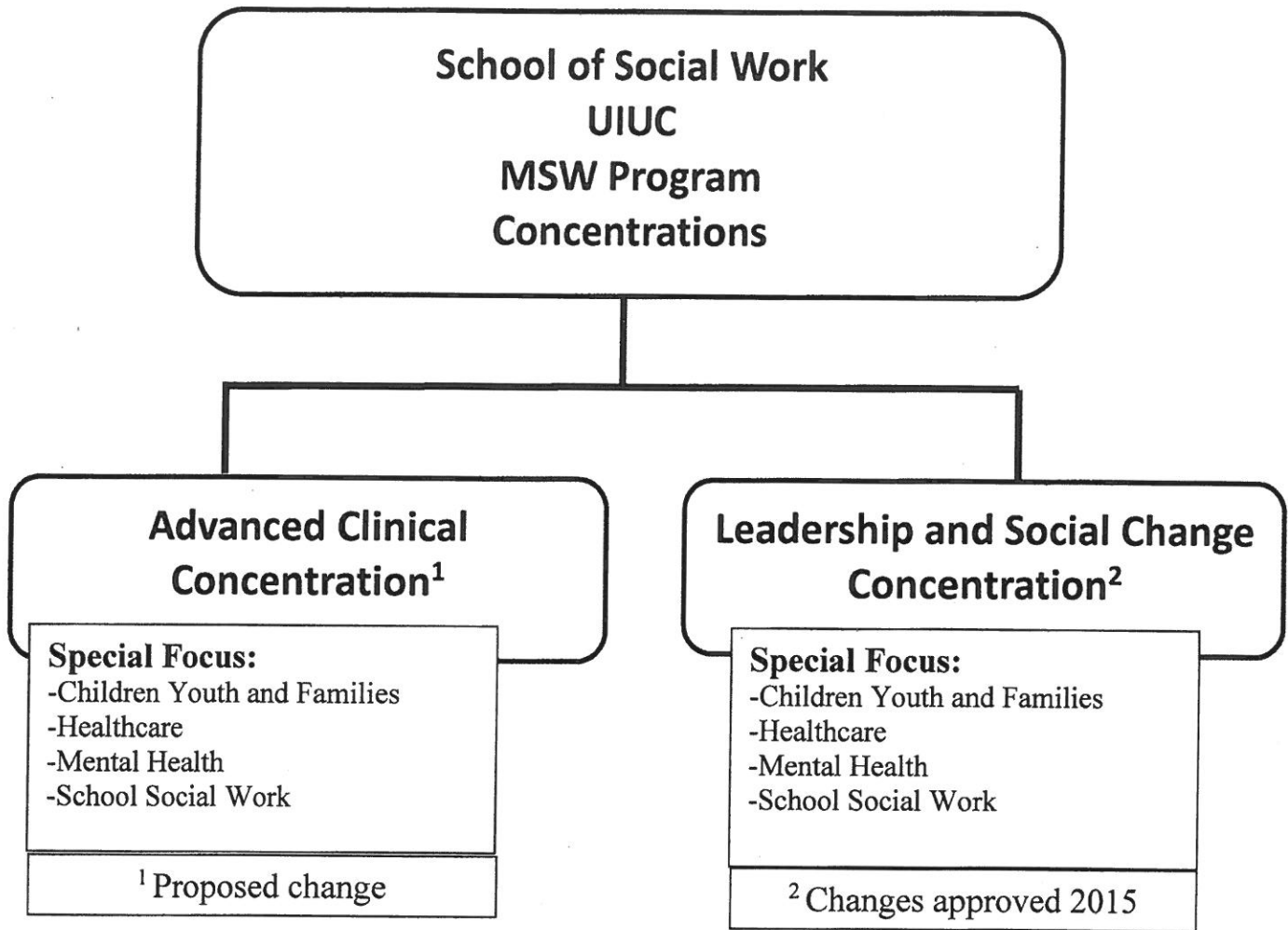
Illinois Educator's License with School Social Work Endorsement (Type 73) requirements for School Social Work Special Focus Area

Minimum GPA: 3.0

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Handbook and the Graduate College Handbook.







## Proposed Advanced Clinical Concentration Guideline for Students Without a BSW

There are 4 foundation and 8 advanced courses required in addition to a two-semester internship and two seminar courses.

Curricular Area	Required Courses	Supplemental Courses	Courses Required
Methods	SOCW 400: (foundation) SOCW 509	Choose two: SOCW 500 SOCW 501 SOCW 503 SOCW 504 SOCW 505 SOCW 506 SOCW 507 (SSW only) SOCW 508 SOCW 516 SOCW 553	4
Policy	SOCW 410: (foundation) SOCW 589	Choose one: SOCW 513 SOCW 514 SOCW 519 (SSW only) SOCW 580	3
Research	SOCW 427: (foundation) SOCW 541 or SOCW 542	None	2
HBSE	SOCW 451: (foundation) SOCW 552	None	2
Elective	None	Choose one (400 or 500 level course): See course descriptions for options	1
Field Education	SOCW 531 and SOCW 568: (first semester)  SOCW 532 and SOCW 569: (second semester)	None	Full-time (12 Semester hours each semester)

Special Focus Areas:

Healthcare- SOCW 553 and SOCW 513

Mental Health- SOCW 514

Children, Youth, and Family Services- SOCW 516 and 580

School Social Work (Illinois State Board of Education Admission and Licensing Requirements) – SOCW 507 and 519

## Advanced Standing

### **Proposed Advanced Clinical Concentration Guideline for Students with a BSW**

There are 8 advanced courses required in addition to a one-semester internship and one seminar course.

Curricular Area	Required Courses	Supplemental Courses	Courses Required
Methods	SOCW 509	Choose two: SOCW 500 SOCW 501 SOCW 503 SOCW 504 SOCW 505 SOCW 506 SOCW 507 (SSW only) SOCW 508 SOCW 516 SOCW 553	3
Policy	SOCW 589	Choose one: SOCW 513 SOCW 514 SOCW 519 (SOCW only) SOCW 580	2
Research	SOCW 541 or SOCW 542	None	1
HBSE	SOCW 552	None	1
Elective	None	Choose one (400 or 500 level course) See course descriptions for options	1
Field Education	SOCW 531 and SOCW 568: (starting Fall or Spring semester)	None	Full-time (12 Semester hours)

Special Focus Areas:

Healthcare- SOCW 553 and SOCW 513

Mental Health- SOCW 514

Children, Youth, and Family Services- SOCW 516 and 580

School Social Work (Illinois State Board of Education Admission and Licensing Requirements) – SOCW 507 and 519

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

School of Social Work  
Office of the Dean  
1010 West Nevada  
Urbana, IL 61801



Dean Wynne S. Korr  
Telephone 217-333-2260  
Fax 217-244-4499  
email: [wkorr@illinois.edu](mailto:wkorr@illinois.edu)

September 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm pleased to write in support of the proposal from our MSW program to form an advanced clinical concentration with the option of special focus areas in fields of practice. The proposed concentration will help better prepare our students for practice in a variety of settings. For example, the Institute of Medicine (National Academies Press) just released a report on psychosocial interventions for mental and substance abuse disorders. People needing help with these disorders are just as likely to present in schools, primary care settings, and programs for abused and neglected children as in specialty mental health clinics. As the proposal notes, social workers in all settings are expected to have advanced skills in assessment, in evidence-based treatments, and in working collaboratively with other professionals.

The proposal will not lead to increased costs and will likely lead to some efficiencies. Each concentration has to have a unique assessment of student competencies. We will therefore be reducing the assessments from four to one. These assessments take significant faculty time to develop and implement.

The proposal has my enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wynne S. Korr".

Wynne S. Korr  
Dean and Professor

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.16.41

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Svanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



November 24, 2015

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the School of Social Work to revise the clinical concentrations in the Master of Social Work program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: M. Zhan  
S. Cole  
J. Hart  
A. McKinney

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall  
801 South Wright Street  
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive  
Committee  
2015-2016 Members

November 19, 2015

Wojtek Chodzko-  
Zajko  
Dean & Chair  
Graduate College

Kathy Martensen  
Office of the Provost  
207 Swanlund MC-304

Members

Dear Kathy,

Abbas Aminmansour  
Architecture

Enclosed please find the proposal from the School of Social Work and the Graduate College for a "Reorganization of Clinical Concentrations in the School of Social Work".

John D'Angelo  
Mathematics

The proposal was received by the Graduate College on October 13, 2015. It was forwarded to our Program Subcommittee for review. The Program Subcommittee approved the proposal to move forward to the Graduate College Executive committee pending the receipt of the following clarifications:

Nicki Engeseth  
Food Science &  
Human Nutrition

- Clarification if this concentration will continue to allow all the special focus courses to be offered on a regular basis.
- The Dean's letter states that the grouping into one concentration will reduce the number of assessments from four to one, but this is not mentioned in the proposal and should be described as an advantage.
- Clarification how students will have the "opportunity to receive specially focused training in the traditional practice interest area" (p2). Does this mean that the 2 courses per interest area will be consistently available? Or does it mean that students can cross over interest areas (e.g, take a course in healthcare and mental health versus 2 in mental health?)
- Will the unified concentration into one Advanced Clinical Concentration applicable to both the on-line/hybrid program and the post-MSW certification program?
- Clarification of the classes listed under supplemental programs in the two tables under Methods and Policy include the concentration classes.
- It is clear that the proposed program without a BSW is different from the program with the BSW, but how is this relevant for the merging of concentrations from four into one?

Susan Fowler  
Special Education

Rutilio Fratti  
Biochemistry

Paul Hergenrother  
Chemistry

Kevin Jackson  
Accountancy

Samantha Knoll  
Mechanical Science  
& Engineering

John Lambros  
Aerospace  
Engineering

Isabel Molina  
Media and Cinema  
Studies &  
Latina/Latino  
Studies

A response with clarifying information from the School of Social Work was received on November 4, 2015. The Graduate College Executive Committee reviewed and approved the revised proposal on November 16, 2015.

I send the proposal to you now for further review.

Kirsten Phelps  
Library and  
Information Science

Sincerely,

John C. Hart  
Executive Associate Dean  
Graduate College

Sandra Rodriguez-  
Zas  
Animal Sciences

Mark Rood  
Civil &  
Environmental  
Engineering

c: M. Zhan  
S. Cole  
A. McKinney

Lisa Rosenthal  
Art & Design

Angeliki Tzanetou  
Classics

Michelle Wang  
Statistics/Psychology  
Bioengineering