The School of Social Work at Wayne State University has been providing social work education for 78 years and has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1945. Our research informs community and clinical practice and social welfare policy.

The Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) program, ranked for many years by The Gourman Report as the number one B.S.W. program in the country, is offered on Wayne State’s main campus and at the University Center Macomb. Also offered is an online B.S.W. degree program, which is called WOW! (Where Online Works).

The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program is offered on the main campus with additional course offerings online and at extension centers in Macomb and Oakland counties. Students have options for blended and weekend courses. Both the family systems and cognitive behavioral theory track course sequences are offered in the online format. Students with a B.S.W. degree from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited school in the U.S. or equivalent in Canada may be admitted into the advanced standing program, which is a 38-credit-hour program that begins in the summer semester. Students who hold a bachelor’s in a discipline other than social work may be admitted into the 60-credit-hour program core program, which begins in the fall semester.

The advanced year of the M.S.W. program is divided into two concentrations: Innovation in Community, Policy and Leadership (I-CPL) and Interpersonal Practice (IP). I-CPL, the newly revised macro concentration, has an urban focus, emphasizing competencies and values that prepare students to employ strategies, advocacy and interventions that impact sustainable change. I-CPL includes three platforms: leadership, community building/development and policy. IP includes three theory tracks: cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic, and family systems. These tracks combine content from research, theories of practice, and human behavior in the social environment.

Field education is an integral component of our students’ social work education. The School of Social Work has some 450 public, private and faith-based agency partners in the U.S. and Canada. In 2013, the School of Social Work was selected to participate in the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Social Work Field Placement Project focusing on offering integrated care course content, creating an integrated care field placement for social work students, and participating in field placement learning network activities.

Our innovative Ph.D. program offers full- and part-time study opportunities to conduct research on contemporary urban or clinical issues with full tuition and stipend awards. It now includes options for a Clinical Scholarship Track, Dual-title Ph.D. in Social Work and Gerontology, and Dual-title Ph.D. in Social Work and Infant Mental Health.

In addition to degree programs, the school offers the following graduate certificate programs: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies (CADAS), Developmental Disabilities Studies, Gerontology, Social Welfare Research and Evaluation (credits may apply toward a Ph.D. Program) and Social Work Practice with Families and Couples. In addition, a dual-title degree option is also available in social work (M.S.W.) and infant mental health.

The total student enrollment in the school is estimated at 880 students (fall of 2013), with M.S.W. students comprising the largest group. In May 2013, 77 B.S.W. and 254 M.S.W. degrees were conferred.

As of the fall 2013 semester, there are 25 full-time faculty, as well as approximately 50 part-time faculty. In the 2012-13 academic year, approximately 65% of faculty proposals submitted received
funding. Work continues on the previous year’s grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to explore factors associated with intimate partner violence among teens. We are also in the second year of a contract from the Michigan Department of Human Services to give youth transitioning out of foster care support to thrive in their studies at Wayne State. Faculty members are engaged in a variety of research topics and also provide consulting and professional services in the following areas:

- Interpersonal violence prevention & interventions
- Neighborhood and community development, change, and practice
- Capacity-building with individuals, neighborhoods, and community-based organizations
- Post-traumatic stress disorder in children, adolescents, families and veterans
- Women’s health
- The process of change and barriers to rehabilitation for adult sex offenders
- Healthy aging, health promotion, health disparities and intergenerational relationships
- Interventions and policies related to aging, chronic diseases and end-of-life issues
- Infant mental health
- Parenting and developmental psychopathology
- Cognitive-behavioral approaches to the areas of mental health, anger management, and addictions treatment
- Psychoanalytic approaches to the treatment of children, adolescents and adults
- Theory and practice in clinical social work, clinical process in psychotherapy
- Culturally competent and gender-sensitive treatment of anger
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention programs and evaluation (among adolescents and adult women)
- The role of stress and anger for African American women
- Foster care youth and youth aging out of foster care
- Gambling and older adults
- At-risk youth risk-reduction strategies
- American Indian families and the Indian Child Welfare Act
- Child welfare policy
- Web 2.0 and social work advocacy
- Evaluation of Sexual Assault Forensic/Nurse Examiner (SAFE/SANE) programs
- The LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community
- The role of technology in abusive relationship behavior
- Immigration and economic and community development
- University and community partnerships
- Transitions, built environment and aging
- Bullying/peer victimization
- Adolescent mental health
- International social work
- Systems change and collaborative approaches
- Intersectionality and social work
- The role of the Internet in help-seeking by sexual assault survivors
- Social work education, including distance and online education
- Feminist social welfare history
- Research Methods
  - Qualitative (interviews, focus groups, typological narrative coding and analysis)
  - Quantitative (generalized linear models, hierarchical linear/multilevel models, structural equation modeling, latent variable and latent structure models, Bayesian inference, demographic methods, spatial statistics and Geographic Information Science)
  - Program evaluation
  - Survey methodology
  - Secondary data analysis
  - Mixed methods
  - Longitudinal developmental research
  - Clinical trials
  - Policy analysis
  - Community-based participatory research

Supporting faculty in their research is the Center for Social Work Research, a state-of-the-art hub linking practice and research to address the most challenging urban problems, build knowledge and capacity with agency and community partners, and conduct research that sustains communities.

The Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development has been a premier provider of affordable continuing education in the Detroit Metropolitan Area and also offers customized, on-site programming for local agencies that need consultation and employee education on topics specific to their mission.