School Director
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About the School of Social Work
- Originally established as an undergraduate major in the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology in the 1980s, Social Work became an independent department in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998. The first graduate cohort was admitted in 2005. In 2008, the University established the BSW program at the Onslow Extension Program in Jacksonville, NC. In 2010, the School of Social Work was established within the new College of Health and Human Services. In 2014, the School created a part-time MSW program. In 2018, the School created an Advanced Standing MSW Program.
- The School of Social Work is dedicated to a course of study and professional preparation that educates students, pursues scholarly inquiry, and performs community service in order to promote a strengths approach to social work practice. Such an approach will teach students practice skills that advance the empowerment and well-being of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities as they explore policies and programs to ensure social welfare and quality social work practice.
- Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Degrees Offered and Academic Program Coordinators
- Master of Social Work, Dr. Kristin Bolton, Ph.D, MSW, boltonk@uncw.edu
- Bachelor of Social Work, Dr. Peter Nguyen, Ph.D, LCSW, nguyenp@uncw.edu
  Assistant Coordinator, Bachelor of Social Work, (Jacksonville Extension), Ms. Debra Rhodes MSW, LCSW, rhodesdr@uncw.edu
- Field Education Coordinator, Ms. Angie Vandenberg, MSW, LCSW, VSP, vandenberga@uncw.edu
- Assistant Field Education Coordinator, Ms. Lori Dugan, MSW, LCSW, duganlf@uncw.edu

Faculty
- 20 full-time faculty members; 14 part-time faculty members.
- 100% of full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty hold the doctorate; and 100% of full and part-time faculty hold a Master of Social Work degree.

Student/Alumni and Education Information
- Total Enrollment = 336 Students (310 Majors and 26 Pre-Majors)
  BSW: 120 Wilmington campus and 55 Onslow campus
  Masters: 135 Full-time and Part-time Majors
- BSW degree offered on the main campus and at the UNCW Onslow Extension campus. MSW full-time and part-time degrees offered at the main UNCW campus.
- The only School of Social Work in the state to offer undergraduate and graduate training specifically from a strengths-based perspective, with particular attention to solution-focused interventions.
- School of Social Work Advisory Board is comprised of a dedicated and committed group of community partners, leaders, alumni, and friends of social work.
- A member of the North Carolina Child Welfare Collaborative, which offers students scholarships and specialized training about identifying and mitigating child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment.
- In fall 2015, the School of Social Work began offering a Substance Use Disorders and Addictions Certificate Program that meets the educational requirements for the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) credential administered by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board.
The LCAS credential is quickly becoming the qualification of choice for managed care and insurance companies.

**Interprofessional Collaboration**
- Students are trained on interprofessional practice skills and participate in practice simulations with students from other disciplines and trained actors playing clients.
- Special interview rooms with video capacity allow students to practice interviewing and intervention skills in a realistic environment and receive peer and instructor feedback.
- Field placements include interprofessional practice settings such as hospitals, the Veterans’ Administration, hospice agencies, schools, military services agencies, and county health departments.
- Students engage in fundraising and community engagement activities for local, national, and international causes as part of social work extra-curricular activities.

**Community Engagement and Impact**
- BSW and MSW students provide an average of 43,200 field placement hours in agencies in New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Jones, and Duplin counties. Undergraduate students also engage in 4,250 service learning hours in human service agencies.
- Faculty members provide consultation and training to human services agencies in the region on topics such as strengths-based interventions, mindfulness, program evaluation, and managing diversity.
- Faculty members serve on the advisory and governing boards of local human services, health, and mental health agencies.

**Implementation Science**
Faculty members are involved in scholarship centered on social work education and intervention, with a specific focus on strengths-based practice and vulnerable populations. Current faculty scholarship includes:

- **Social Work Direct Practice**
  - Case management
  - Narrative therapy
  - Solution-focused interventions
  - Interventions addressing Addiction, Post-Traumatic Syndrome, Trauma, and Grief and Loss
  - Neurocognitive interventions
- **Social Work Macro Practice**
  - Nonprofit program evaluation
  - Community planning and interventions
  - Organizational policy change processes
  - Volunteerism and volunteer management
- **Vulnerable Populations**
  - At-risk youth and families
  - Older adults
  - Active duty military and veterans
  - Adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system
  - Survivors of sexual and domestic violence
  - Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, couples, and families
- **Social Work Education**
  - Interprofessional training of social workers and health professionals
  - Assessing student cultural competence
  - Curriculum design and evaluation
  - Clinical reasoning in education and clinical practice