



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SIMMONS

The Urban Leadership Program:
Educating New Leaders
for Healthy Communities

practical advocates, activists, and leaders

The Urban Leadership Program attracts pragmatic people and prepares them for meaningful jobs — as mental health workers and family mediators, community organizers, policymakers, and corporate executives. Our students recognize that a strong clinical foundation provides knowledge, practical skills, and career flexibility that will help them achieve their goals. In the ULP, they gain the skills and experience they need to pursue successful careers as community advocates, activists, and leaders.

PROVIDING URBAN LEADERSHIP

Michelle Sloan '00 is a therapist for the Washington, D.C. Superior Court House. **Maria Evora-Rosa '01** is the Brockton/Boston community liaison for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. **Linda Plazonja '01** directs the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, advocating for families touched by the September 11, 2001 tragedy. **Lila Reid '01** directs Project Hope, a family shelter program. **Eugene Jones '02** works as a Boston Public Health Commission clinician. **Anne Vinick '01** is executive director of the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Association. **Kiersten Beigel '03** has a three-year fellowship as a policy analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Malkia Kendricks '03** is a clinical specialist at the Women of Color AIDS Council. **Benedicta Gomes '04** is a social worker III at the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. **Jim Hiatt '03** is an intensive care medical social worker at New England Medical Center.



SIMMONS

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Boston, MA 02115-5898

www.simmons.edu/ssw

Office of Admission
Simmons School of Social Work
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115-5898

FIRST-CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED





M.S.W./URBAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

leadership and community action

The Urban Leadership Program is dedicated to helping social work professionals become effective community leaders, activists, and advocates.

In 1904, Simmons was the nation's first institution of higher learning to offer training for clinical social workers. Today we address contemporary issues through innovations like our Urban Leadership Program (ULP) that provides students with a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), along with a certificate in urban leadership. ULP students gain exceptional preparation in clinical social work, plus the leadership skills for working with urban organizations and the cultural realities of their clients. They work closely with faculty who are actively engaged in their fields as distinguished clinicians, consultants, educators, researchers, and community leaders.

In addition to traditional clinical social work skills, ULP courses address topics such as coalition building, managing diverse cultural constituencies, ethical dilemmas in delivery of services, and the challenges of mission-driven organizations. Students take leadership classes concurrently with their field internships, allowing them to tie theory to practice—and gain experience in areas such as finance and strategic planning. Each student does an internship project that relates to larger agency efforts, such as program development, interagency collaboration, quality assurance, or needs assessment. Students also take four mini-courses: oral presentation skills, grant writing, community politics, and one elective.

The ULP attracts students with diverse personal and professional experience, including ministers, Department of Social Services employees, human service workers, and educators. Some ULP students are recent undergraduates; many are seasoned professionals who understand that an individual's issues usually reflect, at least in part, societal problems. All of them share a commitment to helping others and to developing a skill set in community organizing, advocacy, and political leadership.

Full-time ULP students typically complete their degree in two years. Most part-time students finish in three years. To provide maximum flexibility, Simmons offers all required courses during evening and daytime blocks, as well as some summer and Saturday classes.

“Before, I wouldn't think beyond my local community: now, I think of myself as a community leader. I have the effective skills and administrative training to move things.”

AYANNA KILPATRICK '01

In addition to the regular clinical social work curriculum, Urban Leadership students also take two leadership courses and four mini-courses.



FIELD EDUCATION

putting theory to work

ULP students apply social work theory through direct-practice internships with individuals, groups, agencies, and larger systems. Prior to entering the program, students meet with field education faculty to assess interests, discuss learning goals, and arrange an internship plan. Internships are three days a week for both years of the program, which is more field experience than most programs offer. Simmons also offers part-time options, an opportunity for students to use current human service agency employment as a field placement, and advanced standing for recent B.S.W. graduates. Approximately 30 percent of Simmons social work students are offered jobs by at least one of their internship sites.

Recent Field Projects

- Development of a new collaborative program between child welfare and the police to provide services to children who are witnesses to violence.
- Production of a video about the perspectives, needs, and goals of adolescent fathers.
- Published an extensive information and referral guide for Haitian-Kreyol speaking families.
- Creation and implementation of a program to train clergy as mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Learning extends beyond the classroom for Simmons students. To make sure students get the most practical experience, the ULP partners with diverse organizations that provide field placements for students, sponsor events, and offer insight on what types of courses would most benefit future social work leaders. Courses such as Marketing for Urban Agencies, Demystifying Agency Budgets, and Selected Tools for Strategic Planning were developed in response to community partner feedback. These same organizations often extend job offers.

- AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
- Black Ministerial Alliance
- Boston Public Schools
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Casey Family Services
- CORNU Management, Inc.
- Dimock Community Health Center
- The Home for Little Wanderers
- Latin American Health Institute
- Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
- Massachusetts Department of Social Services
- South End Community Health Center
- Saint Mary's Women and Infants Center
- Victory Programs
- Wediko Children's Services
- Youth Service Providers Network

SOCIAL WORK

partnership and collaboration

A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

We know our world is getting smaller—and there is no room for language barriers or cultural misunderstandings. With this awareness, current goals to further develop the ULP include expanding its diverse student and administrative population to encourage the breadth of cultural and professional perspectives. The idea is to bolster leadership not only in the classroom, but also in Boston's ethnic enclaves where students will someday work. Courses offered in line with this goal include conversational Spanish; a summer immersion Spanish class in Cuernavaca, Mexico; “Clinical Social Work with Latino Families;” and “Communicating with Diverse Cultural Constituents.”

MAKING THE POLITICAL ACTION CONNECTION

In partnership with Salem State College School of Social Work, George Washington University, and George Mason University, the ULP offers a weeklong elective course in Washington, D.C. Political Action and Strategies for Professional Social Workers provides a firsthand look at the federal policy-making process, social work leadership, and political action.

FACILITATING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In collaboration with UMass-Boston, Bunker Hill Community College, and The Home for Little Wanderers, the ULP coordinates participation in the Community Classroom Program, offering access to bachelor's degree courses to the social work/human services community. Community workers, volunteers, and retirees are among those attracted to this unique certificate program, which focuses on youth development and community leadership.

CORPORATE AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

The ULP has received support from Fleet National Bank, Trustees of the L.G. Balfour Foundation, and The Boston Foundation. The ULP works collaboratively with John Hancock Financial Services and Mellon Bank on projects that promote healthy development for youth in Boston. The ULP has developed a partnership with The Home for Little Wanderers and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services designed to enhance the leadership development of employees in these child welfare organizations.

“The Urban Leadership Program teaches our students that leadership skills can be learned and inspires them to pursue leadership opportunities in their personal and professional lives.”

CAROL BONNER '74
INTERIM DEAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

SIMMONS FACTS

- A nationally accredited and acclaimed clinical social work program
- Strong emphasis on field education, with three days a week in placement both years of a full-time program
- Small, accessible campus in Boston's Longwood Medical Area
- Faculty who are noted experts and practitioners
- Personalized, high-quality faculty advising
- Advanced standing option for B.S.W. graduates
- Small student-to-faculty ratio promotes mentoring and learning
- Full-time and part-time study options
- High rate of successful job placements for graduates
- Innovative programs that address cultural needs and clinical challenges

TO APPLY:

CALL: 617-521-3939

E-MAIL: ssw@simmons.edu

VISIT: www.simmons.edu/ssw

YES! Please send me more information about the Simmons School of Social Work Urban Leadership Program.

First (*Given*) Name _____

Last (*Family or Surname*) _____

Address _____
street

apartment _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Day Phone Number _____
area/country/city code

Evening Phone Number _____
area/country/city code

E-mail _____

Fax Number _____
area code

Which program are you interested in?

M.S.W./Urban Leadership Certificate Program

Master in Social Work

Advanced Standing

Please note: you may also visit www.simmons.edu/ssw for more information on our programs