

CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SPECIALIZATION 2016-17

Specialization Coordinator: Prof. Michael Saini michael.saini@utoronto.ca

Core Faculty List: Profs Ramona Alaggia, Marion Bogo, Tara Black, Ellen Katz, Bryn King, Toula Kourgiantakis, Eunjung Lee, Andrea Litvack, Rob MacFadden, Michael Saini, Susan Stern, Tat Tsang

Required Course Offerings for Children and their Families

[SWK 4514H](#): Research for Practice with Children and their Families

[SWK 4608H](#): Social Work Practice with Families

[SWK 4620H](#): Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents

[SWK 4625H](#): Intersection of Policy and Practice with Children and their Families

Two half-credit graduate level electives

[SWK 4702Y](#): Social Work Practicum II

MSW Program with Advanced Standing complete the above courses plus, the compulsory course:

[SWK 4510H](#) Research for Evidence-Based Social Work Practice. SWK 4510H must be completed before taking any of the research courses in the specialization. Students take this course in the first terms of the MSW Program.

Related Elective Examples*

[SWK 4610H](#) Advanced Social Work Practice with Couples

[SWK 4619H](#) Family Mediation: Theory and Practice

[SWK 4623H](#) Violence in Families: Multilevel Intervention in Interdisciplinary Practice

[SWK 4633H](#) Advanced Clinical Practice with Families of Children & Adolescents

[SWK 4638H](#) Social Work Practice in Children's Mental Health

[SWK 4639H](#) Advanced Topics in Family Therapy

Placement Examples include: 1) children's mental health centres and juvenile justice systems 2) child welfare settings 3) school boards 4) hospital settings 5) child advocacy and Ministry**

Yorktown Child and Family Services

George Hull Centre for Children and Families

Child Development Institute

Hospital for Sick Children

Sunnybrook Medical Centre: Adolescent Unit

Toronto District School Board

Children's Aid Society of Toronto

Native Child and Family Services

Office of the Children's Lawyer

Covenant House

Evergreen Youth Services

Woodgreen Services

Peel Children's Centre

Centre for Addictions and Mental Health –Child and Adolescent Unit

East Metro Youth Services

Radius

Career Prospects:

Variable depending on the economy and market conditions. Jobs are in areas of children's mental health, child welfare, school settings, health units. As with many social work jobs they usually start as contract positions. We don't have statistics specific to child and youth service jobs.

* These are examples of electives related to children and families – offered most years but not every year depending on instructor availability

**These are examples of placements – offered most years but not every year depending on supervisor availability

FAQ's:**When do I declare my specialization?**

Year 1 of 2-year MSW Program: Submit your form to the Registrar, normally at the beginning of February <http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/forms/>

Advanced Standing MSW Program: Indicate area of specialization when applying for admission to the program.

Who do I contact for advice on specialization selection?

Your faculty advisor. Advisors are assigned to students by the Associate Dean, Academic's Office. Notification is by e-mail at the start of September. If you do not know who your advisor is, e-mail Natasha Valentine n.valentine@utoronto.ca

Can I take core courses offered in other specializations to count as my electives?

Students have the option of taking a course from another specialization to count as an elective if there is room in the course after students in the Specialization have enrolled. Check with the Faculty registrar to see whether there is space in another specialization course prior to the start of the term the course is offered. Typically, we will know if there is room in a course by the end of July for Fall Session courses and by the end of November for January Session courses.

What competencies can I expect to gain from this specialization?

Students in the Children and their Families Specialization can expect to learn how to engage with children on an individual and group level, and perform family assessments and interventions. Students will also leave the program with networking and advocacy skills and knowledge of program and policy development. Students will also become familiar with the ecological developmental model which views children as agents interacting with their environment, an approach that is informed by the most current empirical research.