

MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALTH SPECIALIZATION 2016-17

Specialization Coordinator: Prof. Eunjung Lee eunjung.lee@utoronto.ca

Core Faculty List: Profs. Rachele Ashcroft, David Brennan, Shelley Craig, Lin Fang, Eunjung Lee, Peter Newman, Wes Shera

Required Course Offerings for Mental Health & Health

[SWK 4412H](#) The Context of Mental Health and Health Practice

[SWK 4511H](#) Practice Based Research in Mental Health and Health

Two half-credit graduate level electives

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

Related Selective Choices (select one of the following three)

1. [SWK 4622H](#) Social Work Practice in Health **and** [SWK 4604H](#) Social Work Practice in Mental Health
2. [SWK 4622H](#) Social Work Practice in Health followed by [SWK 4632H](#) Advanced Social Work Practice in Health
3. [SWK 4604H](#) Social Work Practice in Mental Health followed by [SWK 4631H](#) Advanced Social Work Practice in Mental Health

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.

Placement Examples*

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
Black Creek Community Health Centre
Bridgepoint Hospital
Canadian Mental Health Association
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Family Service Toronto
George Hull Centre for Children & Families
Hincks-Dellcrest
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
LOFT Community Services
Mount Sinai Hospital
North York General Hospital
Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
The Salvation Army
The Hospital for Sick Children
St. Joseph's Health Centre
Toronto Catholic District School Board

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

Career Prospects:

Variable depending on the economy and market conditions. Jobs are often in areas such as: mental health settings (including community), non-profit organizations, inpatient hospital and community health units. As with many social work jobs they usually start as contract positions.

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 one of the selective courses I am not counting toward my core requirements as one of my electives?

As long as you have enough courses to complete the specialization requirements, you can take one of the "selective" options to count as an elective. For example, if you are focusing on Mental Health, you could choose to take SWK4604H and SWK4631H as your core courses and then enroll in SWK4622H (health) as an elective.

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 who specialize in Mental Health and Health can expect to gain the knowledge necessary to perform as an inter-professional health team member in helping individuals and families adapt to and overcome challenges associated with mental and physical illness. Students will leave the program with understanding of the social and community context in which illnesses occur and are exacerbated, as well as an understanding of the policies that facilitate the creation of these social environments. This

knowledge equips students with the critical thinking capacities to intervene at multiple levels (individual, family, group, community, policy) to support those with various needs and abilities.