FIELD (MSW): SOCIAL WORK IN GERONTOLOGY 2019-20

FIELD (MSW) Coordinator: Esme Fuller-Thomson esme.fuller.thomson@utoronto.ca
Core Faculty List: David Burnes, Esme Fuller-Thomson

Two-Year MSW Full-Time Program

AGE 2000H Principles of Aging  
SWK 4612Y Social Work and Aging: Integrated Policy and Practice (full-course)  
SWK 4513H Knowledge Building in Social Work  
SWK 4618H Special Issues in Gerontological Social Work  
Two half-credit graduate level electives (of which one must be from the Collaborative Program in Aging and the Life Course listing) www.aging.utoronto.ca (Program >> Core Courses & Electives)  
SWK 4702Y Social Work Practicum II

All students will complete the Collaborative Program in Aging, Palliative and Supportive Care Across the Life Course with no additional course work required.

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 this field of study. Students take this course in the first terms of the MSW Program.

Related Elective Examples*  
SWK 4634H Family Practice Across the Life Cycle: Caregiving and Older Adults  
SWK 4637H Special Topics: Social Work in Palliative Care  
SWK 4641H Special Topics: Elder Abuse  
* These are examples of electives related to gerontology – offered most years but not every year depending on instructor availability

Practicum Implications: A gerontology setting provides the student with opportunities to develop expertise in working with clients over the age of 50 and/or their adult children who are caregiving for older adults, and may also include opportunities to work with clients across the adult age span.

Practicum Examples*  
Alzheimer Society of Ontario  
Baycrest Centre  
Black Creek Community Health Centre  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Circle of Care  
Extendicare Brampton  
Family Service Toronto  
Hawthorne Place Care Centre  
LOFT Community Services  
London Health Sciences Centre
Career Prospects

Students may work in the areas of case management, senior’s mental health (i.e., dementia, addictions), caregiver support, in policy development, service outreach, program running for senior and their families, and counselling support. Alumni may work at locations such as Long-Term Care Homes, hospitals, healthcare centres, mental health service centres and hospitals, and government offices (i.e., Veterans Affairs Canada).

FAQ’s:

When do I declare my field of study?

**Year 1 or 2-year MSW Program:** Submit your form to the Registrar, normally at the beginning of February [http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/forms/](http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/forms/)

**Advanced Standing MSW Program:** Indicate field of study when applying for admission to the program.

Who do I contact for advice on my field of study 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 fields of study to count as my electives?

Students have the option of taking a course from another field of study to count as an elective if there is room in the course after students in the field have enrolled. Check with the Faculty Registrar sharon.bewell@utoronto.ca to see whether there is space in another 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 field of study?

Students in Gerontology can expect to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for assisting older individuals and their families in meeting the challenges of an aging society. Students will learn to provide a wide variety of services and programs performed in community and institutional settings that aim to improve the quality of life of older adults as well as enhance the abilities of families to provide for their aging family member’s needs. Students also learn to develop and implement policy on both the provincial and national level through performing research on aging, learning how to consult with the government, and how to engage in social advocacy.