

About the Health Concentration

Health social workers play a vital role in promoting the holistic wellbeing of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The *bio-psycho-social-spiritual* orientation to health is common to contemporary health social work practice across diverse practice settings. This orientation to holistic health contrasts with the profession's historic beginnings in hospitals where the Western biomedical paradigm of health as the absence of disease predominated and where care focused on physical ailments, with little or no emphasis on underlying socioeconomic, psychological, relational, cultural, or spiritual issues.

In contemporary times, new and diverse opportunities have opened up in health social work due to factors such as federal, state, and local policy changes, shifting epidemiological trends of health and disease, and evolving roles of other healthcare professionals. In the 21st century, health social workers practice in community-based, state, and federal health agencies, as well as in hospitals, acute, primary, long-term, hospice, and other care facilities. In such diverse settings, health social workers provide *services across the health continuum* aimed at wellness promotion, prevention of disease risk, support for the treatment and control of disease conditions, treatment adherence counseling and education, as well as the design, oversight, and evaluation of organizational systems tasked with improving health and healthcare. In the health concentration, graduate students are prepared for entry into this critical and increasingly, diverse arena of social work.

Students interested in the Health Concentration may contact Dr. Lana Ka'opua, health concentration chair at: lkaopua@hawaii.edu

APPROVED HEALTH CONCENTRATION ELECTIVES

(revised 11/10)

Social Work

SW 663: Treatment of Chemical Dependency

SW 680: Social Work and Rural Health, HI Quetin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program

SW 680: Social Determinants of Health

SW 680: Ho'oponopono as Peacemaking

SW 706: Family Therapy

SW 707: Methods of Group Psychotherapy

SW 717 and/or 718: : Social Work Practice with Children and Families

SW 724 and/or 725: Social Work Practice in Mental Health

SW 726 and/or SW 727: Social Work Practice with the Aged

SW 731: Social Policy Analysis

SW 737: Social Work and the Law

SW 774: Cultural Factors in Social Work Practice with Hawaiians

SW 776: Seminar on Women and Health [cross-listed as NURS 744]

SW 790: Practicum (tba: additional credit hours)

Disability and Diversity Studies

DIS 693: Introduction to Disability and Diversity Studies

LAW

LAW 532 Health Law

LAW 520O Health Law and Poverty

(this is an alphanumeric; the last O is a letter)

Nursing

NURS 605: Healthy Promotion and Disease Prevention

NURS 609: Introduction to Health Policy

NURS 623: Psychopharmacology

NURS 744: Seminar on Women and Health [cross-listed as SW 776]

Psychology

PSY 625 Knowledge and Wisdom, "Lessons from the Dying"

Public Health

PH 602: Introduction to Health Services

PH 623: Social Sciences and Public Health

PH 630: Cultural Competency in Health Care

PH 637: Death and Dying

PH 639: Social and Cultural Aspects of Aging

PH 640: Health and Aging

PH 671: Community and Public Health Practice

PH 681: Environmental Determinants of Health

PH 792S : Native Hawaiian Concepts of Health and Healing

Sociology

SOC 615: Sociology of Health and Health Services

SOC 616: Seminar in Stress and Health

Soc 716: Seminar in Medical Sociology

Urban and Regional Planning

PLAN 616: Community Planning

PLAN 618: Community Economic Development