



## Master of Social Work: Policy Practice Concentration

**Policy Practice is one of three specialized concentrations that Master of Social Work students can choose as their focus in the degree program. It prepares students to advocate in organizations and government to improve laws, regulations, and policies that affect vulnerable populations.**

This method of social work practice leads to change in public and private institutions and systems to increase equity and improve people's lives. Policy practice activities include:

- Analyzing existing policies and crafting policy proposals
- Administering social programs
- Conducting needs and community assessments
- Using research and data in policymaking
- Writing grant proposals
- Implementing political strategies
- Writing legislative policy briefs



“The Policy Practice concentration demonstrates how social work transcends common narratives about the profession. As a policy practitioner, I am able to make an impact and implement change from a larger stage to reach a range of people with a vast array of needs. I chose the UConn MSW program because of the wealth of knowledge within the faculty and staff.”

— **REBECCA WASHINGTON, MSW STUDENT**

### We're Here to Help

We look forward to talking to you about your professional interests and goals. Please contact our Office of Student and Academic Services:

swadmission@uconn.edu | 959-200-3605

LEARN MORE



APPLY NOW



# Now Is the Time for Social Work.

## Who Should Consider Policy Practice?

Undergraduates in disciplines such as political science, public policy, sociology, urban studies, women's and gender studies, human rights, human development and family sciences, or cultural studies should consider an MSW with a Policy Practice concentration for their graduate degree.

Policy Practice students receive a strong foundation in social work and preparation for a professional practice degree in addition to skills that promote change in policy and political spaces. Students are taught by faculty who are renowned in their fields and have connections to innovative internships and job opportunities. At UConn School of Social Work, students also have opportunities to engage in political social work, international social work, and to pursue dual or joint degrees in law, public health, public administration, and divinity.

## Policy Practice Career Paths

Policy Practice social workers engage in strategies that ensure the political participation of diverse and marginalized people, leading to social change in public and private institutions, organizations and systems. Our alumni work in high-profile leadership positions at:

- Public and Private Not-For-Profit Agencies
- Connecticut State Agencies
- Juvenile and Criminal Legal Settings
- Government or Legislative Offices
- School Districts
- United Nations and International NGOs
- Reproductive and Gender Rights Orgs
- Political Seats and Staff
- Higher Education
- Veterans Administration

## Field Education

### CONNECTING THEORY TO PRACTICE

By working in the field for two years with our qualified UConn field instructors, Policy Practice MSW students apply theory to real-world situations, acquire and practice new skills, and learn to navigate the changing landscape of social policy development and implementation.

Our field placements embed students in organizations working on a wide range of policy and political issues including: racial justice, voter engagement, reproductive rights, human rights, environmental justice, domestic and interpersonal violence, criminal and juvenile justice, schools and higher ed, child and family rights, mental health and addiction services, food justice, housing, healthcare, and research at local, state, national, and global levels.