

## MSSA PROGRAM GOALS

The Program's goals are to prepare graduates who have the core abilities they need:

- to work effectively with diverse populations and with client systems of various sizes and types;
- to bring to their work a community-based orientation;
- to understand the social and organizational context of their practice and the dynamics of social and organizational change;
- to develop and manage their careers as life-long learners;
- to consider and apply the values and ethics of the profession in every aspect of their practice.

## MSSA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Mandel School seeks to realize its mission and achieve its goals through preparing students to achieve the knowledge, skills, and values needed for effective professional social work practice. The eight abilities---comprising knowledge, skills, and values---that students are expected to achieve at foundation and advanced levels constitute the objectives of the MSASS masters program.

### 1. Valuing a Diverse World

Students will integrate into their practice the knowledge, skills, and values needed for understanding and appreciation of a diverse world, and for ongoing development of competence in working with diverse populations.

### 2. Integrating Social Work Values and Ethics

Students will integrate social work values and ethics into every aspect of their learning and preparation for advanced professional practice.

### 3. Advocating for Social Justice

Students will value Advocating for Social Justice as one of their primary responsibilities and will possess the knowledge, skills, and values needed to be effective advocates for social justice.

### 4. Succeeding in the World of Work

The masters program at MSASS aims to produce graduates with the ability to be life-long learners committed to their ongoing professional development and able to succeed in the world of work. Students develop knowledge, skills, and values at foundation and advanced levels in the areas of professional development, work habits, and leadership development.

### 5. Critical Thinking

Graduating students will be able to think critically about their practice and its knowledge base, and about the social problems and situations they encounter.

### 6. Communication

Graduating students will have the oral, written, and attending skills that will enable them to communicate effectively and appropriately in relation to their setting and audience. They will make appropriate use of audiovisual and information technology.

#### 7. Professional Use of Self

Students will demonstrate awareness of self, ability to use self professionally in achieving social work goals, and capacity to gauge the impact of self on practice.

#### 8. Social Work Practice

Graduates of the MSASS master's program are prepared to function as advanced practitioners in a changing area of social work and social welfare. They demonstrate abilities in the areas of valuing a diverse world, integrating values and ethics, advocating for social justice, succeeding in the world of work, critical thinking, communications, and professional use of self. They are able to assess problems, weigh intervention alternatives, implement change strategies, and evaluate results. Mandel School graduates are able to draw upon the knowledge of theory, research, policy, and practice in order to be effective change agents in community-based efforts with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities of various kinds.