LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM

A social work master’s degree program for individuals who have the passion to provide clinical leadership for evidence-based practice
Imagine Yourself
The Leadership Fellows Program at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is designed for exceptionally qualified candidates with high aspirations to make a positive influence in the world. The program is for individuals seeking a master’s degree in social work and a career in clinical leadership with an emphasis upon implementing evidence-based practices in human service organizations. Qualified candidates with a bachelor’s degree in any discipline will be considered.

Each fellow will earn a Master of Social Science Administration (MSSA) by studying full time for two years in one of the specializations in the Mandel School’s direct-practice course of study:

- Aging
- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Children, Youth, and Families
- Health
- Mental Health

FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS
Fellows receive full-tuition scholarships for their two-year program of study. They also work in field placements in human service organizations as part of their course of study and receive a monthly stipend for the work. In addition, fellows receive $500 per year for participation in professional-development activities, such as attending and presenting at conferences.

Why Evidence-Based Practice?
Residents of our communities deserve the best services available to meet their needs. This is especially true for individuals and families who are the most vulnerable due to poverty, physical illness, mental illness, or addiction to alcohol and other drugs.
Evidence-based practices are scientifically tested and empirically supported. They are models (or approaches to service) that research has shown improves the quality of life and other outcomes for individuals and families. There are an increasing number of evidence-based practices available in a variety of professional fields, but these practices have not been widely implemented yet. As a student in the Mandel School’s Leadership Fellows Program, you will learn how to address barriers to the use of these practices. All fellows will study with nationally-recognized faculty and be placed in fieldwork with leading human service agencies that are committed to implementing best practices for people in need.

**WHY CLINICAL LEADERSHIP?**

Service organizations need good clinical leaders to help shape the direction of their future. They need leaders who are trained to understand the relationship among service-systems change, organizational change, and clinical change, and they need leaders who are trained to work with the facilitators and barriers to implementation of evidence-based practice.

Students in the Leadership Fellows Program will learn the skills to make a direct and profound impact upon the quality of service delivery for the most vulnerable populations in their communities. Graduates of the program will become the next generation of leaders in the social work profession who are highly capable of implementing and sustaining evidence-based clinical practice.
The Details | Course of Study

The Leadership Fellows Program was developed in consultation with Mandel School faculty and alumni and numerous community leaders in social services, education, and philanthropy. Fellows will fulfill the program requirements of the Mandel School’s two-year, full-time master’s program. They will also participate in a number of other educational opportunities, which are briefly described below:

Two specialized required courses
- Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice
- Theory and Practice of Leadership

Innovative field placements
- Focused upon the planning and implementation of evidence-based practice for vulnerable populations

Integrative field seminars
- Presentations by outstanding social work leaders who have expertise with evidence-based practice

Portfolios
- Compilation of electronic materials documenting experiences and career-development activities while in the program

Capstone project
- An individual or group project addressing the implementation of an evidence-based practice that will be presented at a student-led seminar in the final semester

Mentoring
- Each fellow will be matched with an outstanding community leader who will provide individual consultation and support for leadership and career development.

Informal group activities
- Lunches, seminars, and discussions will be organized by the program director in consultation with the fellows.

Alumni network
- Leadership Fellows graduates will be invited to serve as mentors to new fellows and encouraged to participate in the program’s seminars, lectures, and informal meetings.
CANDIDATES & SELECTION
Candidates with a bachelor’s degree in any discipline will be considered if they demonstrate the following:

- Superior undergraduate educational performance, 3.2 grade-point average or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- Previous work experience or volunteer service in social work or related human services
- Evidence of leadership capabilities as demonstrated by previous positions of leadership, letters of reference, and a personal statement in the program application
- Interest and capability to pursue a rigorous academic program, including additional program requirements
- Completion of admission requirements for the Mandel School’s master’s program
Mandel School

Advantage

The Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is nationally recognized as an outstanding leader in social work education with particular expertise in the implementation of evidence-based practice. Mandel School faculty members are engaged in cutting-edge research in the community that focuses upon the needs of vulnerable populations. Faculty are actively involved with a variety of agencies and service-delivery systems in the Cleveland metropolitan area and throughout the country.

The Mandel School is nationally ranked 10th out of 182 graduate schools of social work in the United States and as the top school in the State of Ohio. Our master’s students learn with our outstanding faculty and experienced agency professionals.

The coursework of the master’s degree program directs your attention to the ongoing development of your professional self and inspires you to become more deliberate about your efforts to achieve higher levels of social work practice and leadership throughout your career. Studying at the Mandel School and practicing in the community through field placement helps you develop a habit of mind—more specifically, a habit of self-
evaluation—that encourages you to become a self-directed social work professional who is committed to lifelong learning and to integrating evidence-based knowledge and skills into practice continuously, even after you graduate.

OUR GRADUATES
Alumni of the Mandel School are employed in all 50 states and in 31 countries. Our master’s program has consistently attracted students of the highest caliber from around the world. Among our graduates are accomplished clinical leaders and administrators in a variety of leading human service agencies and organizations.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM?
Contact David E. Biegel, Ph.D., Henry L. Zucker Professor of Social Work Practice and Director, Leadership Fellows Program, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University

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CONTACT US
Applicants are encouraged to visit the website of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences or to contact the admissions office:

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