

## **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SUBDIVISION OF A DEGREE**

- 1. Institution:** Illinois State University
- 2. Responsible Department/School or Administrative Unit:**  
School of Social Work
- 3. Proposed Program Title:** School Social Work
- 4. Previous Program Title:** n/a
- 5. CIPS Classification (if applicable):**
- 6. Proposed Date of Initiation:** Fall 2008
- 7. Description of Proposed Program**

The Illinois State University School of Social Work is requesting approval for the addition of a sequence intended to prepare masters level (MSW) students for social work practice in elementary and secondary schools in the state of Illinois. By law, school social workers in Illinois must be certified (Type 73 Certificate). In order for graduates to be eligible for certification, our School must develop a sequence containing coursework and practica that meet specific standards established by the Illinois State Board of Education, and be approved by the Council for Teacher Education.

Catalog copy for the sequence would read as follows:

The School offers a sequence designed to prepare students for advanced social work practice in school settings and making them eligible for the Type 73 certificate required for practice as a school social worker in Illinois. Within the 60-hour, two year program, full-time students must take 23 hours of course work specifically focused on preparation for school social work practice. Students must enroll in SWK 410, SED 411, (if not waived), SWK 415, SWK 420, SWK 421, SWK 425, SWK 430, SWK 427, SWK 436, , SWK 440, SWK 460. In the second year students must enroll in SWK 428, SWK 445, SWK 448, SWK 450, SWK 490.03, SWK 490.04, SWK 498.03 and SWK 498.04.

Students who enter the program with a BSW degree from an accredited social work program may be eligible for advanced standing. First year advanced standing students must enroll in SED 411 (if not waived), SWK 415, SWK 425, SWK 427, SWK 436, and SWK 460. Second year advanced standing students must enroll in SWK 428, SWK 445, SWK 448, SWK 450, SWK 490.03, SWK 490.04, SWK 498.03, and SWK 498.04.

Please see attached plans of study for advanced standing and non advanced standing students who elect the school sequence.

### **8. Rationale for Proposal**

Illinois State University is renowned for the excellence of its College of Education efforts in the preparation of teachers and administrators. The addition

of a school social work sequence within the School of Social Work would complement and further enhance the University's commitment to children and families in the state. Since its initial accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education in 2003, the School of Social Work has carefully considered the addition of a school social work sequence both in terms of need for such a program in the state and in terms of our ability to effectively deliver the required curriculum. The School has concluded that the addition of this sequence is a logical addition to our current child and family concentration.

There are five universities in the state of Illinois that offer school social work programs. Three of the universities are in the Chicago area and produce 80-100 graduates per year. Graduates of these programs typically complete internships in Chicago and collar county schools. This is also where they tend to seek and obtain employment. Southern Illinois University also offers a school social work program that graduates 20-30 students per year who complete internships in the southern portion of the state and tend to accept employment in that area following graduation. Within central Illinois, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers a school social work program that produces about 45 graduates per year who accept school internships throughout the state. At the completion of their internships, approximately 50% stay in the Chicago area for employment. The school social work program we are proposing would be small in comparison, (7-10 admissions per year), to those offered by other schools within the state and would primarily serve the western portion of Illinois.

According to the April 2005 edition of the *Illinois Association of School Social Workers* newsletter, downstate schools, which included every district outside of the city of Chicago, gained school social work positions. This is especially important to note when most of the school social work programs that exist in the state are in the Chicago and collar county area. The proposed ISU program would address a clear need which is further supported by the fact that over the past four years we have received more than 50 inquiries from potential applicants regarding the availability of a school social work sequence. We have also received 25 applications over the past four years from individuals who identified school social work as their major interest area. This year alone, we received over 15 applications from individuals who identified school social work as their primary area of interest. Because we are not yet offering a school program, applicants identifying an interest in becoming school social workers are contacted and provided with information about the certification requirements related to this area of specialization and consultation regarding schools of social work within our state that have approved programs. We also provide them with information about nearby out-of-state schools that have school of social work programs including St. Ambrose University in Iowa, St. Louis University and Washington University in Missouri.

As it relates to the School's capacity to deliver a sound program, we have determined that the School has both the leadership and the faculty expertise to do

so. One of faculty members, Dr. Jim Raines, is currently serving as the President of the Illinois Association of School Social Workers, one of the largest organizations of its kind in the United States. Dr. Raines has practiced as a school social worker and is widely published in the specialization.

### **9. Expected Impact of Proposal On Existing Campus Programs**

The school social work sequence will have an impact on enrollment in the SED 411 (Survey of Special Education) course taught in the College of Education. MSW students in the school social work sequence will be required to take this course unless it is waived based on their having taken equivalent course work. Since we are not expecting to admit more than 7-10 students to the sequence per year, we do not anticipate that this will create a negative impact. Dr. Thompson, Chairperson of the Department of Special Education is supportive of our goal to develop the school social work program and indicates in an attached email that 7-10 students and more could be accommodated. Please note that Dr. Thompson describes SED 411 as an important service course that is regularly offered during the summer semester.

### **10. Curricular Change Including New Courses**

Curricular changes that would be needed in order for the School of Social Work to offer the school social work sequence include the following:

- a) Approval of a school policy course, (included with this request for approval).
- b) Decimalization of our concentration seminar syllabi to designate them as being for school social work students.
- c) Decimalization of our concentration practica syllabi to cover placements carried out over two semesters in school settings by school social work students.

### **11. Anticipated Staffing Arrangements**

The program will be offered using existing faculty.

### **12. Anticipated Funding Needs and Source of Funds**

No additional funding needs are anticipated at this time, see attached *Program Proposal Financial Implications Form for Request for New Program Approval*.

**Two Year 43 Hour Plan for School Social Work Sequence (Advanced standing)  
Plan of Study**

YEAR 1		
FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
	SWK 415 Family Systems in Environmental Context 3 hrs.	SED 411 Survey of Special Education (if not waived) 3 hrs
	SWK 460 Developing Cultural Competence in a Pluralist Society 3 hrs.	
	SWK 425 Family Centered Practice 3 hrs.	
	SWK 436 School Policy 3 hrs.	
	SWK 427 Social Work With Groups 3 hrs.	
<i>Semester Totals</i>	15 hrs.	3 hrs

YEAR 2		
FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
SWK 498.03 Concentration Practicum for School Students 3 hrs.	SWK 498.04 Concentration Practicum for School Students 4 hrs.	
SWK 490.01 Concentration Practicum Seminar for School Students 2 hrs.	SWK 490.02 Concentration Practicum in Schools Seminar 2 hrs.	
SWK 445 Evaluation in Child and Family Practice 3 hrs.	SWK 450 Psychopathology 3 hrs.	
SWK 428 Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents 3 hrs.	SWK 448 Integration of Research and Practice 2 hrs.	
<i>Semester Totals</i>	11 hrs.	11 hrs.

**Two Year 60 Hour Plan for School Social Work Concentration (Non-Advanced Standing)  
Plan of Study**

YEAR 1		
FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
SWK 410 Foundations of Human Behavior in the Social Environment 3 hrs.	SWK 415 Family Systems in Environmental Context 3 hrs.	SWK 498.01 Foundation Practicum 4 hrs.
SWK 420 Foundations of Social Work Practice 3 hrs.	SWK 460 Developing Cultural Competence in a Pluralist Society 3 hrs.	SWK 488 Foundation Practicum Seminar 1 hr.
SWK 421 Foundation Practice Skills Lab 3 hr.	SWK 425 Family Centered Practice 3 hrs.	SED 411 Survey of Special Education (if not waived) 3 hrs.
SWK 430 Foundations of Social Welfare Policy and Programs 3 hrs.	SWK 436 School Policy 3 hrs.	
SWK 440 Foundations of Social Work Research 3 hrs.	SWK 427 Social Work With Groups 3 hrs.	
<b>Semester Totals</b> 15 hrs.	15 hrs.	8 hrs.

YEAR 2		
FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
SWK 498.03 Concentration Practicum for School Stu- dents 3 hrs.	SWK 498.04 Concentration Practicum for School Stu- dents 4 hrs.	
SWK 490.03 Concentration Practicum Seminar for School Students 2 hrs.	SWK 490.04 Concentration Practicum in Schools Seminar 2 hrs.	
SWK 445 Evaluation in Child and Family Practice 3 hrs.	SWK 450 Psychopathology 3 hrs.	
SWK 428 Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents 3 hrs.	SWK 448 Integration of Research and Practice 2 hrs.	
<b>Semester Totals</b> 11 hrs.	11 hrs.	

This message has been scanned for known viruses.

**From:** Thompson James Richard  
**To:** wehrmann909@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: revised note for the school social work program  
**Date:** Thu, 6 Apr 2006 20:48:13 -0500

The Special Education Department regularly offers SED 411 in the summer each year and regards it as an important service course. It is taken by many Curriculum and Instruction graduate students who are working on alternative routes to initial teacher certification. SED will definitely be able to accommodate 7-10 school social work students and more if needed. SED is supportive of ISU's decision to develop the school social work program, and would make every effort to continue to offer SED 411 as a means of supporting the program.

James R. Thompson, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairperson, Department of Special Education  
Illinois State University  
MC 5910, Normal, IL 61790-5910  
(T) 309-438-8982  
(F) 309-438-8699

This message has been scanned for known viruses.

**From:** James C. Raines  
**To:** Kathy Wehrmann  
**Subject:** Fwd: note of support  
**Date:** Mon, 14 Nov 2005 12:23:39 -0600

Date: Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:34:01 -0500  
From: Thompson James Richard <jrthomp@ilstu.edu>  
Subject: note of support  
To: "James C. Raines" <jcraine@ilstu.edu>  
Thread-topic: note of support  
Thread-index: AcXYxfXRCXNlbYQ+ShKv5blsUqC7eQACvABQ  
X-MS-Has-Attach:  
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:  
Original-recipient: rfc822;jcraine@ilstu.edu  
X-OriginalArrivalTime: 24 Oct 2005 19:34:01.0717 (UTC)  
FILETIME=[E2F18250:01C5D8D1]

Dr. Raines,

Please know that the Department of Special Education is prepared to offer a summer section of SED 411 to 10-25 students enrolled in the school social work program each year. Please let me know if the Department of Special Education can support your students in any other way.

Jim

James R. Thompson, Ph.D.

Professor and Chairperson, Department of Special Education

Illinois State University

MC 5910, Normal, IL 61790-5910

(T) 309-438-8982

(F) 309-438-8699

James C. Raines, Ph.D., LCSW  
Ass't Professor  
School of Social Work  
Rachel Cooper, Rm. 207  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61790-4650  
Ph: (309) 438-5924  
Fax: (309) 438-5880