The Aging Certificate Program of Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work prepares BSW and MSW students and graduates for a career in service of diverse aging populations.

**purpose**

With the continuing increase in aging populations in Florida and throughout the United States, the delivery of social work services for diverse groups of elders will become increasingly critical. Service-needs currently exist and will continue to develop along a continuum of care in public, private-non-for-profit, and private-for-profit settings. In response to these evolving needs, Florida Atlantic University’s School of Social Work has developed a clinical-community certificate program to ensure that there are competently prepared Bachelor’s (BSWs) and Master’s (MSWs) level professionals to meet the biopsychosocial-spiritual needs of South Florida’s diverse elder populations.

**introduction**

The Aging Certificate Program of Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work prepares BSW and MSW students and graduates for a career in service of diverse aging populations.

The certificate program provides a specialized knowledge and skill base in practice, practice evaluation, research and policy areas in order to ensure the delivery of quality services to diverse aging groups. Attention is directed to the clinical-community skills required to advocate for aging clients in various service environments, including those affected by managed care and privatization. Various therapeutic interventions and care/case management strategies are reviewed along the continuum of care. In addition to the classroom portion of this certificate program, students are required to complete a field placement in a health or mental health facility with specialized service outreach to older clients experiencing various needs.

The goal of the Aging Certificate Program is to ensure there are qualified social workers providing services to diverse groups of elders across the continuum of care. With specialized knowledge and skill, it is expected that these future practitioners will provide effective and efficient intervention to aging groups, and assume key leadership roles in the continually evolving service arena. As with other FAU MSW graduates, MSW graduates with the aging certificate will have fulfilled the course requirements to apply to be a licensed clinical social worker in Florida.

**who should apply**

**BSW Certificate:** BSW students who possess an interest in working with this most diverse group of people are welcome in this certificate program. Completion of this program will provide students with a specific knowledge and skill base for a range of job opportunities.

**MSW Certificate:** Those seeking admission to the 60 credit and the advanced-standing program, along with those MSW students who are completing their foundation year are welcome to apply. Applicants should possess an interest in working with this most diverse group of people. Completion of this program will provide students with a specific knowledge and skill base for a range of job opportunities.

**requirements to complete the BSW certificate program:**

Upon completion of the following requirements, the student will be awarded the Aging Certificate:

2. Completion of a three-credit course entitled Social Gerontology (SOW 4930).
3. Completion of two approved three-credit courses in the School of Social Work’s Aging Certificate Program.
4. Completion of one BSW field internship, approved by the School of Social Work, with specialized service outreach to diverse elders.

**requirements to complete the MSW certificate program:**

Upon completion of the following requirements, the student will be awarded the Aging Certificate:

1. Completion of a Masters Degree in Social Work.
2. Completion of Advanced Social Work Practice with Elders (SOW 6646)
3. Completion of two social work graduate level courses related to practice with elders, and approved by the School of Social Work’s aging certificate program.
4. Completion of one MSW field internship approved by the School of Social Work with specialized service outreach to diverse elders.
benefits of certification

Successful completion of the certificate program will provide graduates with:

1. Meaningful documentation of a concentrated area of formal study.
2. Potential employers are assured of hiring a social worker with basic knowledge and skill to work with aging groups.
3. A cohort of others with similar interests in working with elder clients.

To apply

To receive academic advisement and an application call FAU School of Social Work on the Boca Raton Campus at 561-297-3234.

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