

# 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 skills to work with aging groups.
3. A cohort of others with similar interests in working with elder clients.

## TO APPLY

An original copy of the Aging Certificate application must be submitted to Tod Marshall via email at [tmarsh5@fau.edu](mailto:tmarsh5@fau.edu) *at least four weeks before graduation* to ensure your transcript is updated.

Dr. Michael Kane is the faculty advisor for the Aging Certificate and can be contacted at [mcane@fau.edu](mailto:mcane@fau.edu) if you need consultation.

For more information, visit the [Healthy Aging Certificate webpage](#).

PHYLLIS & HARVEY SANDLER  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

# HEALTHY AGING CERTIFICATE

## BSW & MSW



PHYLLIS & HARVEY SANDLER  
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## 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-not-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 (BSW's) and Master's (MSW's) level professionals to meet the biopsychosocial-spiritual needs of South Florida's diverse elder populations.

## MISSION

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 older 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

This certificate program is open only to social work students.

**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:

1. Completion of a Bachelors Degree in Social Work
2. Completion of course Social Work With Aging Populations (SOW 4643).
3. Completion of two approved three –credit courses in the social work courses (for example, Human Behavior and Social Environment, Social Work Practice) and completion of a class paper for each course (a total of two papers) focusing on a related aspect of services to older adults. For example, a paper for the Social Welfare Policy and Provisions course (SOW 3232) should focus on a topic such as Medicare Part D, the Older Americans Act, or Advanced Directives.
4. Completion of bachelor's-level Field Education placement (SOW 4510) in an agency serving older adults, such as a senior center, an assisted-living facility, approved by School of Social Work

## 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 the course Social Work with Aging Population (SOW 6641)
3. Completion of the course Advanced Social Work Practice With Elders (SOW 6646).
4. Completion of one social work graduate level courses (for example, Human Behavior and Social Environment, Social Work Research) and completion of a class paper focusing on older adults. For example, a paper for the Social Work Research course should focus on a topic such as empirical evidence of the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy in treating depression for older adults.
5. Complete one master's-level Field Education placement (either foundation or advanced year) approved by School of Social Work, specializing in service outreach to diverse older adults.