

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

SOCIAL WORK PATHWAY

FOR SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

CERTIFICATE OVERVIEW

The Community School Certificate is designed to recognize and develop students' understanding of the vital role schools play as hubs within communities. It is awarded to individuals who engage in collaborative, community-centered learning experiences that emphasize community-based partnership, and student-centered approaches to learning and community problem solving. Through this certificate program, students gain the skills to support holistic education, build meaningful relationships with families and stakeholders, and promote sustainable, community-driven development within educational settings.

How can a Community School Certificate enhance my undergraduate experience?

- 1. Hands on Experience:** Students will collaborate with school personnel and community school stakeholders to plan, analyze and disseminate information and goals based on each site's needs and asset assessment.
- 2. Develop Leadership and Advocacy Skills:** Students will build capacity to lead community-driven programs and initiatives while strengthening communication and coalition-building skills. Students can position themselves as a change agent within educational and social systems.
- 3. Engage with YOUR Passion:** Students will create and execute a research plan to investigate specific aspects or trends within emerging topics related to community schools and their preferred area of study.

How can a Community School Certificate connect to students' career goals post-graduation?

Students with a Community School Certificate will be well-positioned to become a:

1. School Social Worker
2. Community School Coordinator
3. School-based Therapist (Master's degree is required)
4. Case Manager
5. Classroom Teacher

Course Focus Area	Course(s)
Required major courses that can count towards the certificate:	
Course 1: (3 Credit Hours)	SOWK 200 Introduction to Social Work and Social Justice
Course 2: (3 Credit Hours)	SOWK 312 - Introduction to Interpersonal Social Work Practice
Course 3: (3 Credit Hours)	SOWK 314 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment
Course 4: (3 Credit Hour minimum)	SOWK 380N - Field Practicum I and SOWK 480N/481N - Field Practicum II and III (or SOWK 483N) <i>Placement is required to have a community school focus.</i>
Additional courses for the certificate:	
Course 5: (3 Credit Hours)	TPTE 495- Community Schools Fundamentals and Research Practicum <i>Registration to course in tandem with community school practicum placement</i>