

*The practice of social work emphasizes the importance of human relationships as the vehicle through which learning and change occurs. This emphasis on relationships pervades the work and requires that practitioners engage with others to advocate and innovate.*

#### THE PROGRAM

Our Baccalaureate Social Work (BSW) Program, which is based on a strong foundation in the liberal arts, prepares students for generalist social work practice and graduate study. The program focuses on ethical behavior and competent practice aligned with Virginia Wesleyan's Honor Code and the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics. Through community service and classroom experience, students encounter the relationships and social contexts in which they will learn and eventually practice.

#### THE MAJOR

Work in the major provides students with the opportunity to learn relevant history, information and values related to social work, study the theories which underlie practice, begin to practice interventions through project-based learning activities, research, observation and role play, and reflect on how their personal values and those of the profession intersect. Students have ample opportunity to learn in many ways about the profession through the exploration of topics such as mental and physical health, human rights, diversity, oppression, as well as economic and social justice. The outcome-based curriculum is based on an eclectic knowledge base and data-driven, and requires students to hone their critical thinking skills by reading, writing, reflecting, integrating and questioning.

#### THE COURSES

Classes at VWU are small and interactive. Some of the courses required of social work majors are Introduction to Social Work, Diversity and Social Problems in Social Work, Social Work with Individuals and Families, Social Work Methods with Groups and Communities, and Research Methods in Social Work.

#### INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH

For social work majors, the final spring semester is spent learning in agency settings. As interns, students spend a minimum of 30 hours per week under the supervision of a qualified supervisor. The Field Education Coordinator carefully selects internship opportunities to match each student's interests, knowledge, and developing skills. As an intern, students learn how to integrate the social work knowledge base and apply practice theories as they hone their professional practice skills. During their internship semester, students learn from one another in seminar sessions and further develop an understanding of the broad array of resources available to their clients.

#### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our BSW program is highly regarded within the greater Hampton Roads community. As such, we are committed to maintaining the program's integrity for our students and the University, because we believe that ultimately our students' future clients deserve nothing less.

---

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

##### **Dr. M. Annette Clayton, MSSW, ACSW**

*BSW Program Chair  
Field Education Coordinator  
Associate Professor of Social Work  
mclayton@vwu.edu*

##### **Dr. Benjamin D. Dobrin**

*Dean of the D. Henry Watts School of Professional Studies  
Professor of Social Work  
bdobrin@vwu.edu*

