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## *Intensive Weekend MSW Program*

*For Human Services Employees*



**RUTGERS**

School of Social Work



Rutgers School of Social Work's Intensive Weekend (IW) program offers a unique opportunity for human services employees to pursue an MSW degree while working full-time. The IW program has an outstanding reputation for supporting individuals in pursuing their educational and career goals while managing family and professional responsibilities.





## Advantages of the IW program:

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### **Flexible**

Classes that meet one weekend a month, online components, and only 8-12 field internship hours per week are all conducive to balancing MSW studies and professional life.

### **Supportive**

In-person classes with students who are similarly employed, the ability to concentrate on one subject matter at a time, and the integration of field education with coursework helps students build on their knowledge and skills. Students develop a supportive network of lasting professional relationships and learn from each other's experiences.

### **Timely**

MSW classwork can be completed in just under three years, and advanced standing students finish in under two years.

## Facts about IW students:

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- Students in the IW program are employed in a variety of domains, serving individuals and families across the lifespan. Examples of professional paths include behavioral health, addictions, family and children's services, social welfare, developmental disabilities, education, and more.
- Students range in work experience from one to two years to numerous years of service.
- Over 500 students have graduated from the IW program since its inception in 2006. Many have been promoted to management roles or have moved into clinical positions.

## The Curriculum:

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The Intensive Weekend program's three-year and advanced standing options offer a clinical specialization, combined with course work in supervisory and management skills to prepare students for leadership as they advance in their careers.

IW students graduate with a strong clinical foundation, matched by supervisory and leadership skills attuned to the policies which inform their practice. Courses are taught by experienced clinicians and researchers, as well as administrators with executive level experience and expertise. In addition to learning from their instructors and course material, students also learn from the range of professional experiences their classmates bring to the program.

Students can choose to specialize in a particular interest by declaring an area of emphasis. The area of emphasis is student-driven and based on courses and field work. IW students can also gain a professional edge by participating in global programs which are available in China, India, Israel, Mexico, and Romania.

## Program structure:

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- Students attend class in-person one weekend each month, supported by online activities in the four week interim periods. In addition, students participate in one synchronous online class each month, usually held on a Saturday morning.
- Courses are sequential, permitting students to focus on one subject matter at a time.
- The program is year round, including spring, summer, and fall semesters. Attendance at each in-person class is required. Students are, however, usually able to work in personal time and vacations during the four-week periods between classes.
- Students complete a unique three-day Writing for Social Workers course prior to the start of classes, intended to prepare students for MSW level writing expectations. The course builds on individual strengths, identifies areas that need attention, and develops writing and research strategies for success.







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## Field Education

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Rutgers MSW students complete 1,125 hours of field education, and 885 hours if in the advanced standing program. Students generally complete eight to 10 hours a week in the first year and 10 to 12 hours in years two and three. Field education accompanies academic coursework throughout the program. IW students typically complete field requirements in a single placement with progressively challenging assignments.

Field requirements are usually fulfilled at the student's place of employment, in a capacity or department that differs from his or her customary work assignment. Field instruction must be provided by an MSW graduate who is not the student's work supervisor. If a workplace-based placement is not available, assistance is provided in locating an alternative. Availability during at least some day time hours is essential.

## Facts about IW Field Planning

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- Upon admission, new IW students submit a field plan, completed in consultation with their supervisor and field instructor (if the latter has been identified.)\*
- Upon completion of the field plan, students participate in an in-person field conference. The conference serves to ensure the viability and appropriateness of the students field placement, or to initiate the process of identifying a field placement.
- Field advisors meet with students monthly on class weekends to bring the campus to the students. They provide guidance and support, direct students to appropriate resources, and ensure that field placements are proceeding successfully.
- Field liaisons visit students and their field instructors at least three times a year at the field placement. They also oversee submission of field documentation and provide guidance and mentorship to both field instructor and student.

\*Agencies providing a field placement are required to have an affiliation agreement with Rutgers School of Social Work. New field instructors are required to have two years post MSW experience and take an online Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI), for which 20 continuing education credits are awarded upon completion.

## Locations

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The IW program has four locations throughout New Jersey:

- Bordentown, Rutgers Eco Complex
- Mays Landing, Rutgers at Atlantic County Community College
- Parsippany, Rutgers School of Social Work Training Classroom at the Octagon Building
- Jersey City, Culinary Conference Center of Hudson County Community College

## Applying to the IW MSW Program

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Applicants to the IW MSW program must have a minimum of one year of work experience in the human services or a related field and be currently employed full-time.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with their employer about their interest in applying to the IW program in order to explore opportunities for a field placement or schedule flexibility to meet field requirements outside the agency.

For more information about application requirements and deadlines, please visit [MSWadmissions.rutgers.edu](http://MSWadmissions.rutgers.edu).

## Questions?

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