



Florida State University College of Social Work

DOCTORAL PROGRAM GUIDE

CSW.FSU.EDU





WHY FSU? WHY THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK?

Florida State University (FSU) is a nationally recognized, student-centric institution that takes pride in offering challenging, yet invigorating academic programs, open communication with students, and opportunities to assume leadership roles that help them develop leadership skills. On FSU's main campus, there are 18 colleges offering more than 300 undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctorate programs.



College of Social Work
University Center, Building C

Student-Centric

- More than 42,000 students are enrolled at FSU each year.
- The FSU College of Social Work is ranked as one of the top graduate programs in social work (*No. 33, U.S. News & World Report*). FSU offers students a prestigious program with a history of success.
- Enjoy working and collaborating closely with faculty and staff in a supportive environment.

Legacy of Excellence

- FSU has offered classes on social welfare/social work for more than 100 years.
- The FSU College of Social Work established its social work doctoral program in 1974.
- An emphasis on classroom theory applied to real-world scenarios makes the FSU College of Social Work one of the top programs accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as well as the Council on Social Work Education.
- The FSU College of Social Work is a Top 20 Social Work Program at a Public University (*U.S. News & World Report*).



The College of Social Work is committed to preparing the next generation of social work professionals through our BSW, MSW, and PhD programs. We share the moral idea best expressed by one of the profession's founders, Nobel Laureate Jane Addams: 'The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.'



Jim Clark, PhD, LCSW
Dean and Professor



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Program

Since 1974 the Doctoral Program at Florida State University has built its national reputation by guiding scholars toward excellence. Students are challenged with excellent research and teaching opportunities that prepare them for careers as leaders in education and research. The doctoral program emphasizes training in research methods and adult pedagogy. Students participate in experiential learning in systematic methods of inquiry that foster independence in research and scholarship, particularly in quantitative research, qualitative research, statistics, and measurement.

Students are guided by our outstanding faculty members who have expertise in a wide variety of substantive and methodological areas. Faculty have rigorous expectations of students and are dedicated to the ethical principles of social work research and practice. Faculty are committed to fostering a transformative experience for our students, guiding them to a future where they enjoy successful careers in academia as accomplished researchers and educators.

Funding Opportunities

FSU College of Social Work is proud to offer a competitive funding package for all students who receive admission to the doctoral program. The funding package is guaranteed for *four years* of enrollment and includes the following for Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters:

- Tuition waiver
- Graduate employment appointments in research and teaching assistantships
- Competitive annual stipend

Students have opportunities to work on grant-funded projects and to teach throughout their program. Experienced faculty members invite students to work on their funded research projects as Research Assistants, providing invaluable research experience. Students frequently find dissertation topics in these research experiences.

Please reach out to Doctoral Program Director Stephen Tripodi (stripodi@fsu.edu) for additional details.





FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Michael Killian, Assistant Professor



Dr. Michael Killian

Dr. Michael Killian is an assistant professor at the FSU College of Social Work and has a courtesy appointment as a professor at the FSU College of Medicine. Dr. Killian is a three-time graduate of FSU, including an MSW and PhD in social work from the FSU CSW.

Since returning to the college as a faculty member in 2018, Dr. Killian has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and has published research in the areas of social work, nursing, psychology, and medicine. His projects address pediatric organ transplant recipients' adherence to medication regimens and statistical prediction of their post-transplant health-related quality of life and health outcomes. Recently, he piloted mobile health technologies with adolescent heart transplant recipients in order to promote their medication adherence and overall clinical care.

His research also involves advanced statistical methods and research on psychometrics and measurement in health research. He served as a statistical consultant on several federally/nationally funded grants including those from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the United Kingdom. Additionally, he provides statistical consultation to the University of Texas – Southwestern Medical Center.

His work is informed by a commitment to applying advanced quantitative methods to the study of vulnerable and underserved populations and a passion for research impacting the quality of life and health outcomes for children and their families. The FSU CSW is a rich environment for engaging in innovative and interdisciplinary health social work research, pursuing the advancement of social work research methods, and serving social work students and the broader community.



GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Annelise Mennicke

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina - Charlotte PhD, 2015; MSW 2011



Dr. Annelise Mennicke

The faculty worked with me to hone my topic area, connected me with national leaders in this field, and provided me with research projects that grew my repertoire of skills that led me to be competitive on the job market and when applying for future funding. As a result, I am currently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

"As a 2015 graduate of the FSU College of Social Work PhD program, I was prepared with a range of experiences that launched me into a successful career. I am currently an associate professor at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I research ways to prevent interpersonal violence among marginalized youth and young adults. My passion for working toward a world free from violence was nurtured within the College of Social Work by fantastic mentors.

I also had the opportunity to teach a variety of courses while a doctoral student, and greatly benefited from FSU's emphasis on teaching preparation (including an entire course on how to teach and a mentoring program). Many people enter academia feeling unprepared to step into the classroom, and instead I feel confident in my knowledge and skills in preparing future social workers. I am grateful for the experiences I had at FSU and would not be the well-rounded academic I am today without them."



FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Melissa Radey, Professor



Dr. Melissa Radey

Melissa Radey is a professor in the College of Social Work with a research interest revolving around low-income families and understanding barriers to economic, social, and physical well-being. She examines disparities for those involved in public service delivery. Dr. Radey's research examines the role of informal and formal support systems in families' survival and well-being as well as the demands and well-being of frontline workers who serve them. Identifying how demographic and economic disparities shape the public service delivery system is fundamental to improving service delivery and promoting family well-being through cost-effective interventions. She relies heavily on secondary data analysis, including complex multilevel modeling; collects and analyzes qualitative data; and conducts mixed methods analyses.

Her passion for research to improve the lives of the economically vulnerable has resulted in funding from various sources, most recently from the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW). Her NICHD project, included a secondary analysis of data from low-income mothers to determine how the give and take of their informal networks contributed to their children's development. Dr. Radey leads a FICW-funded project collecting data to provide a descriptive picture of maternity homes and homes for young mothers in foster care in Florida to inform service delivery and promote family well-being. She also received FICW funding to analyze the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families, a cohort study of recently-hired child welfare workers, with data she helped to collect. Analyses from this project aim to guide legislation to better train, support, and retain child welfare workers in Florida.

As an educator, Dr. Radey enjoys sharing her passion for research methods, statistics, and policy with students in the classroom. She finds the opportunity and responsibility to learn with her students a highlight of her position. Born and raised here in Tallahassee, Melissa also enjoys hobbies beyond academia including biking (as a mode of transportation), running, travel and spending time with her partner, two daughters, and Labrador retriever.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Savarra Tadeo

Doctoral Student, FSU Legacy Fellowship Recipient

"While pursuing my doctorate, I have worked on projects that have grown my research experience and driven my passion for giving back to the field at a much larger level. The faculty have supported my development and given me the challenges I needed to grow as a researcher. I have been able to present at conferences and publish while working on grant-funded research teams.

My research at FSU is focused on child welfare and improving health and quality of life for youth. Current NIH projects I am working on include research surrounding trajectories of medication adherence among pediatric organ transplant recipients and psychosocial factors related to post-transplant outcomes. State-funded projects I am currently working on include the design and implementation of quality standards for youth in residential care as well as an examination of



Savarra Tadeo

factors that impact youth in residential care and their families. My research experiences with the faculty have given me hope and motivation to pursue dreams I would not have known existed without seeing them revealed in the work I do every day. I am extremely passionate about everything the program provides and would strongly recommend anyone with a desire to achieve greatness to further their research agenda within this program."



ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

For the application and complete details on the Ph.D. admissions requirements, please visit csw.fsu.edu.

1. A master's degree from a graduate school of social work (MSW) with a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale); The school must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
 - a. International applicants must have a CSWE accredited MSW or equivalent degree. If the degree is earned outside of CSWE jurisdiction, the applicant must have their degree evaluated and validated by CSWE. The cost of CSWE validation is the responsibility of the applicant. Exceptions may be considered by the Doctoral Program Director on a case by case basis.
2. Transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate academic work; "Good standing" status at the last school attended
3. An official Graduate Record Examination (GRE General Test) taken within the previous 5 years. Request for consideration of a GRE waiver by exception available due to the impact of COVID-19 on an applicant's ability to test.
4. For International Applicants evidence of English language proficiency is required as demonstrated by acceptable scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet Based Test or Paper Based Test, or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
5. Resume/Curriculum Vitae
6. Statement of Purpose
7. Writing Sample
8. Letters of Recommendation (minimum: 3)



CONNECT WITH US!

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The FSU College of Social Work doctoral program offers rigorous training in translational research that makes an important impact in the real world. Over 75% of our recent graduates have earned tenure-track positions at universities across the country, where they make impressive contributions to their communities and the field of social work.

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Dr. Stephen Tripodi

Doctoral Program Director, Associate Professor | stripodi@fsu.edu



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