

2011 Survey of Social Work Programs: Study Brief

In fall 2011, survey invitations were sent electronically to program directors at all accredited social work programs (685) and doctoral programs that were members of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (71). Response rates for 2011 were 96.0% (453) of baccalaureate, 97.7% (208) of master's, and 95.8% (68) of doctoral programs. Further information about methodology and findings is available at the CSWE website (www.cswe.org).

FACULTY

In 2011, 426 institutions (80.2%), reported a total of 9,825 faculty members— 4,730 full-time and 5,095 part-time.

- 69.0% of full-time and 72.0% of part-time faculty were female
- 28.6% of full-time and 22.5% of part-time faculty were from historically under-represented groups

Tenure and Highest Earned Degree

- 46.2% of full-time faculty were tenured
- An additional 23.2% were on tenure track
- Most faculty had an MSW—87.9% of full-time and 89.8% of part-time
- 69.1% of full-time faculty held a doctorate as highest earned degree

Full-time Faculty by Highest Earned Degree

Highest Earned Degree	#	%
Doctorate in Social Work	2,592	54.8
Other Doctoral Degree	677	14.3
Master of Social Work	1,221	25.8
Other Master's Degree	53	1.1
Law	32	0.7
Medicine	2	<0.1
Other	3	0.1
Unknown	150	3.2

STUDENTS

As of Fall 2011, there were 85,290 full-time and 26,129 part-time social work students.

Student Enrollment Fall 2011 by Level

	Full-time	Part-time	Total	% change from 2010
Baccalaureate	52,720	6,888	59,608	+11.5
Master's	30,755	18,481	49,236	+1.8
Doctoral	1,815	760	2,575	-0.1

Student Demographics

- Most students were female—87.8% baccalaureate, 85.8% master's, and 77.9% of doctoral students
- Part-time students tended to be older than full-time students at each level
- A higher proportion of part-time students were from historically under-represented groups at baccalaureate and master's levels, but the reverse was true at the doctoral level

Percent of Students from Historically Under-represented Groups

	Full-time	Part-time
Baccalaureate	36.2	40.1
Master's	31.9	34.9
Doctoral	41.4	35.4

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Student Field Placements

Baccalaureate and master's programs were asked to provide information about the settings of students' field placements. The field settings with the most students are listed below.

Baccalaureate

- Child welfare 17.2% (2,570)
- Family services 11.1% (1,667)
- Mental health 10.1% (1,509)
- Aging/Gero 9.1% (1,363)

Master's

- Mental health 23.0% (7,196)
- Child welfare 12.3% (3,840)
- School social work 12.0% (3,744)
- Health 11.3% (3,521)

Concentrations

Master's programs were asked to report their concentration offerings and number of students enrolled.

Top Concentrations by Percent of Programs Offering

	% Programs Offering	Enrollment
Direct Practice/ Clinical	54.8	21,700
Children, youth, and families	44.6	4,776
Mental health	34.3	3,302
Aging/Gerontology	34.3	1,008

GRADUATES

A total of 35,556 social work degrees were awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Graduates by Program Level

	Grads	% Female	% from Historically Underrepresented
Baccalaureate	14,662	87.1	33.0
Master's	20,573	85.8	29.8
Doctoral	321	76.7	36.4

Debt Load

Programs were asked to report the percent of students with loan debt and the average debt load.

Loan Debt Acquired While Working Toward Degree

	% with Debt	Mean Debt
Baccalaureate	79.2	\$26,939
Master's	77.8	\$35,563
Doctoral	60.2	\$42,159

Employment—Doctoral Graduates

The Annual Survey also requested information about employment status of the doctoral graduates.

- 31.8% (102) were employed in tenure-line faculty positions
- An additional 12.8% (41) were employed in non-tenure-line faculty positions
- 1.6% (5) were unemployed
- The employment status was unknown for 61 graduates (19.0%)



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

For more information on the Annual Survey findings and methodology visit www.cswe.org or contact research@cswe.org