

**HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL JUSTICE  
PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COLUMBIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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***Preparing for a Career in  
Human Services  
& Social Justice***

***2017-18 Academic Year***

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*v. 9.5.17*

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# THE HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

In Fall 2014, the Human Services (HMSR) Program at the George Washington University became the ***Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ) Program***. The name change, new curriculum, and program revisions reflect the results of a three-year comprehensive study to bring the program to the next level by building on prior strengths, addressing areas for improvement, and revitalizing goals and objectives.

## What is Human Services and Social Justice?

“The field of Human Services is broadly defined, uniquely approaching the objective of meeting human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention as well as remediation of problems, and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations. The Human Services profession is one which promotes improved service delivery systems by addressing not only the quality of direct services, but also by seeking to improve accessibility, accountability, and coordination among professionals and agencies in service delivery.” (National Organization for Human Services, Accessed November 3, 2012, <http://www.nationalhumanservices.org>)

The profession of Human Services emerged in the 1960’s and initially focused on mental health, working with marginalized communities that included people of color, women, and people living with mental illness (Neukrug, 2008). The intellectual roots of Human Services drew from Social Work and Psychology, but over time expanded to include theories, research, and best practices from Education, Sociology, and Non-profit Management to better address the systems and contexts in which individuals and communities live, learn, and grow. By adapting and broadening its knowledge base, the field became more resilient and effective in fostering individual, organizational, and systemic well-being. Social justice is the ultimate aim and vision of Human Services work; we define it as the “full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs” (Bell, 2007, p. 1).

## The GW Human Services & Social Justice Program

With a revised curriculum and name, we make the implicit value and aim of Human Services for Social Justice explicit. We ground student learning in a vision of Social Justice that stresses the importance of human agency, social responsibility, democratic participation in the life and well-being of a society, and the capacity to critically reflect, understand, and intervene in changing oppressive patterns and behaviors in students themselves and the organizations to which they belong. Together, Human Services and Social Justice complement and enhance one another by offering a strong theoretical lens through which to critically analyze the interplay of individuals, organizations, societies, and global systems

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Human Services & Social Justice Program at The George Washington University prepares students to be scholar-practitioners ready to assume a spectrum of roles in Human Services and related fields, providing the knowledge and experience needed to meet the complex, urgent demands in today's world. We achieve this by offering students a rigorous curriculum that cultivates the following:

- **Strong knowledge base** to innovate and successfully solve complex, unscripted problems while working with and in diverse communities to promote social justice, self-sufficiency, inclusivity, and well-being;
- Skills to **reflect** and **integrate** theoretical and empirical knowledge with authentic real world issues through **socially just practices** that recognize the interplay between individual, group, organizational, societal, and global dynamics;
- Ability to engage in **critical inquiry, research, and assessment**, to create and appropriately apply new knowledge, as well as act in ethical, informed, and effective ways that demonstrate awareness, respect, creativity, and wisdom; and, an
- **Attitude of lifelong learning** and **collaboration**, embodying **curiosity, compassion**, and a **service** ethos.

Building upon the foundation of empathy, concern for others and a commitment to social justice that our students bring to the program, we provide the skills and experience necessary to maximize these qualities. Through emphasis on continuous high standards of academic and scholarly excellence, we ensure that these efforts will endure beyond matriculation, as students continue on as knowledgeable and experienced scholar-practitioners who approach their work with creativity, sensitivity, awareness, and respect.

## VISION STATEMENT

Located in the heart of the nation's capital, the Human Services & Social Justice Program at The George Washington University fulfills its mission by synthesizing and advancing knowledge and experience in the fields of human services and sociology. Students in the HSSJ program undertake a fully contextualized study of human services, paying close attention to the roles of race, ethnicity, and class in the systems and practices that perpetuate inequities in our communities.

We develop our students through a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum grounded in service-learning that places emphasis on scholarly research, reflective learning, and active partnerships with faculty, staff, and community leaders. Students progress through a carefully designed and sequenced curriculum that equips them with the empirical foundations and theoretical bases for thinking critically about social issues and communities, then provides the skills needed to tackle these issues in complex, unscripted real world settings.

We actively encourage and foster respect of diversity, sense of community, and attainment of global perspectives through interaction with the many academic, government, and service agencies within and beyond the Washington, D.C., area. Our students are well prepared to assume roles as knowledgeable, ethical, and engaged scholar-practitioners in a variety of human services work, as well as to continue with graduate education. Toward that end, GW offers a combined **BA (Human Services)/MPA (Public Administration)** to qualified students. See page 8 for more information.

# CAREERS IN HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Human Services and Social Justice Program at the George Washington University is an academic program designed to synthesize theoretical, empirical, and applied scholarship in order to address contemporary issues in a wide spectrum of settings. Students of the HSSJ program have gone on to:

## Work in the non-profit sector:

- Social work and counseling
- Education
- Public health
- Community building and advocacy
- Non-profit management
- Law

## Work in service programs:

- Peace Corps
- Teach for America, KIPP, DC Teaching Fellows
- AmeriCorps
- JVC, Avodah, LVC

## Pursue graduate education: MA, PhD, MD, JD degrees

## Work in government:

- Presidential Management Fellows (federal government)
- Local DC government, Capital City Fellows
- HUD, HHS, White House, Education

## Some specific career paths include:

- Care for people with disabilities
- Childcare
- Community development and advocacy
- Counseling
- Cultural institutions
- Eldercare
- Education
- Global human rights and social justice advocacy
- Government (local, state, and federal) programs
- Public health and health services
- International humanitarian aid
- International development
- Law
- Ministry
- Non-profit Management
- Public policy and administration
- Rehabilitation work
- Research
- Social work

## *Lifelong Benefits*

- Applied **learning, service,** and **leadership** opportunities.
- Development, research and entrepreneurial **experience.**
- **Team building, cross-cultural,** and **interpersonal interaction.**
- **Enhancement of skill** and **concrete experience** for work in private sector, government, and non-profit organizations.
- A supportive **alumni network.**

## *Career Spotlights*

**Michelle Brown, BA '13**, now teaches secondary science and math special education in Atlanta Public Schools as a part of the Teach For America program.

**Aizhan Kul-Mukhammed, BA '13**, has returned to Kazakhstan for two years at a Washington-based think tank. Back at home, Aizhan launched a health promotion program at underprivileged schools.

**Ariella Neckritz, BA '16**, helps run a training network for domestic violence and allied professionals.

**Maya Weinstein, BA '16**, was recognized in April 2017 by the Department of Social Justice for her efforts to support victims of sexual assault. As an undergraduate, she helped victims find resources and support they needed.

# HSSJ CURRICULUM

- **HSSJ Curriculum:** See chart A. for a list of the required courses for HSSJ majors and minors.
- **Electives:** See chart B for a list of HSSJ elective courses, such as HSSJ 2160: The Role of NGOs in International Humanitarian Aid.
- **Special Honors:** All HSSJ students who wish to graduate with Special Honors in HSSJ must have a 3.5 GPA in the major *and* must pass HSSJ 4193: Research and Independent Study (see chart B, elective courses), completing a senior honor’s thesis during their final year of academic study.
- **Grades:** All majors and minors are required to earn a grade of C- or better in any 2000-level or higher course in the Program. If a student receives a grade of D+, D, or D- in a required course, the student may either: (1) repeat the course, in which case the grade in the repeated course must be no lower than a C- and grades for both the original and repeated courses will appear on the student’s transcript; or (2) take a 2000-level course in the same department, in addition to the minimum number of courses required for the major, and earn a grade no lower than C-. Option 1 must be approved by the department chair in writing before the student may register for a course a second time. Option 2 must be approved by Prof. Morrison, Director of the Human Services & Social Justice Program ([emily\\_m@gwu.edu](mailto:emily_m@gwu.edu)).
- **HMSR Curriculum:** Students enrolled in the HMSR program (declared major or minor before April 2014), please see Professor Morrison for guidelines. Note that all courses are coded as HSSJ instead of HMSR.

## A. Declared HSSJ majors and minors

The GW Bulletin lists the official requirements for HSSJ majors and minors. In brief, the HSSJ curriculum consists of a total of 45 credits for majors and 18 credits for minors. The courses are sequenced, beginning with foundational content and working toward mastery. HSSJ 1100 is the prerequisite for all HSSJ courses and is offered every semester. Required courses are as follows (please note whether the course is offered in fall only, spring only, or both fall and spring and take that into consideration as you plan your time at GW, including study abroad):

### For HSSJ Majors:

First or Second Year		
Fall Semester		
HSSJ 2170	Interpersonal Relationships in Human Services (3)	Sangeeta Prasad
HSSJ 2171	Human Interactions: Child and Adolescent Development (3)	Amy Parks
Spring Semester		
HSSJ 2172	Human Interactions: Adult Development (3)	Amy Parks
HSSJ 2200	Principles of Ethical Leadership (3)	Wendy Wagner
Fall or Spring Semester		
HSSJ 1100	Introduction to Human Services & Social Justice (3)	Wendy Wagner
HSSJ 1177	Organizing for Social Justice in Human Services (3)	Peter Konwerski; Michelle Kelso

<b>SOC 1001</b> <b>SOC 1002</b>	Introduction to Sociology (3) <i>or</i> The Sociological Imagination (3)	Sociology Faculty Sociology Faculty
<b>SOC 2101</b>	Social Research Methods (3)	Sociology Faculty
<b>SOC</b> (2 courses: at least one from Category A; the second course can be from Category A or B)	<b>A.</b> <b>SOC 2170:</b> Class and Inequality (3) <b>SOC 2179:</b> Race and Minority Relations (3)	Sociology Faculty
	<b>B.</b> <b>SOC 2104:</b> Contemporary Sociological Theory (3) <b>SOC 2175:</b> Sociology of Sex and Gender (3)	Sociology Faculty
<b>Third or Fourth Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
<b>HSSJ 3100W</b>	Program Planning and Evaluation (WID) (3)	Michelle Kelso
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
<b>HSSJ 3110W</b>	Non-profit and Organizational Management (WID) (3)	Michelle Kelso
<b>HSSJ 4195</b>	Capstone Seminar in Human Services (Final Spring Semester) (3)	Peter Konwerski
<b>Fall or Spring Semester</b>		
<b>HSSJ 3152</b>	Fact, Field, and Fiction: Intersections in Human Services and Social Justice (6)	Emily Morrison Jeff Marootian
<b>Total: 45 Credits</b>		

**For HSSJ MINORS:**

<b>HSSJ 1100</b>	Introduction to Human Services & Social Justice (3)	Wendy Wagner
<b>HSSJ 3152</b>	Fact, Field, and Fiction: Intersections in Human Services and Social Justice (6)	Emily Morrison Jeff Marootian
3 courses (for a total of at least 9 credits) within HSSJ with no more than one additional course at the 1000 level beyond the required HSSJ 1100.		
<b>Total: 18 Credits</b>		

## B. Human Services & Social Justice Elective Courses

<b>HSSJ 2160</b>	The Role of NGOs in International Humanitarian Assistance (3)	Michelle Kelso
<b>HSSJ 4133</b>	Supervised Experience in HSSJ (1-3)	HSSJ Faculty
<b>HSSJ 4193</b>	Research and Independent Study (3) Required Fall and Spring semesters for seniors wishing to graduate with Honors in HSSJ. Contact Prof. Morrison for more information.	Emily Morrison

### Service-Learning

The Field of Human Services requires 300 hours of fieldwork for students to develop not only the “know what” but the “know how”. Thus, one hallmark of GW’s HSSJ Program is the incorporation of service-learning and community-based research in all *required* courses (note: electives like the thesis course – HSSJ 4193- do not involve any service-learning) as a means to deepen student learning, address community-identified issues, and to weave theory, research, and practice together in relevant ways. These experiential learning experiences and their requirements vary course to course, depending on the specific learning objectives for the course. Classes will vary in the type of service provided (direct, nondirect, or indirect), the frequency of service, the location (on campus or in the community), the issues addressed, and deliverables. HSSJ service-learning courses **cannot** be counted twice; thus, we recommend no more than two HSSJ courses in a given semester to allow plenty of time and space for you to successfully complete the field requirements. Depending on when you declare, you may need to take three HSSJ courses in a given semester. Talk with your HSSJ advisor about which classes can work together. Last, please note that site supervisors do not award your grade nor that credit is given for simply working in the community. Grades are given by the HSSJ faculty and credit is earned by *critically reflecting* on the experience and *demonstrating* how key course concepts and empirical findings inform what is happening in the community and vice versa.

### Study Abroad

Students interested in studying abroad should let their HSSJ advisor know when declaring their major or minor. Since HSSJ is a unique program, it can be very difficult to find appropriate course substitutions for upper-level courses that meet GW’s academic requirements and core content. However, with advanced planning, HSSJ students can do and study abroad. The key is to plan ahead, saving courses with greater equivalencies for your time abroad.

## Combined BA in Human Services & Social Justice and Masters of Public Administration (MPA)

Eligible and interested students may apply for a combined dual degree program to earn Bachelor of Arts with a major in Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ) and a Masters of Public Administration. Students should apply the Fall of their junior year and begin taking graduate classes during their senior year. For best consideration, students should have a GPA that is a 3.5 or higher.

### For BA in Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ):

For BA in Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ), see chart A on pages 6-7 for requirements.

#### Additionally:

- Complete the general requirements for the Columbian College of Arts and Science.
- Complete 12 credit hours of approved Public Administration courses taken in the last year of the BA. This can be counted towards both the BA and the MA.
- For more specific requirements, please visit the following Columbian College of Arts and Sciences webpage: <https://humanservices.columbian.gwu.edu/combined-ba-human-services-social-justice-masters-public-administration-mpa>

### For Masters of Public Administration (MPA):

- Follow the established curriculum for the Masters of Public Administration.
- Complete a 1-credit hour prerequisite course (PPPA 6000) taken the summer before or during senior year.
- Complete 12 credit hours of approved MPA coursework taken during the last year of the BA in Human Services.
- Complete a total of 40 Credits, including 13 taken in the last year of the undergraduate program.
- Students are still considered undergraduates during their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Therefore, to register for any TS-PPPA courses, students must complete a Registration Transaction Form (RTF) and contact Dr. Stephanie Cellini ([scellini@gwu.edu](mailto:scellini@gwu.edu)) or Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, Denee Bottoms ([dbottoms@gwu.edu](mailto:dbottoms@gwu.edu)).

### Financial Implications:

In the 4th year of this program, in order to maintain any undergraduate financial aid you may have, 51% of your total credit hours must be in undergraduate courses. Options include adding a 1-credit course to your 4th year or taking one 4-credit rather than a 3-credit course in the 4th year.

For information about the GW Masters of Public Administration curriculum, please visit the following Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration webpage:

<http://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-public-administration-mpa>

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Emily Morrison is the HSSJ Program Director. During Spring, 2018 she will be on sabbatical. While she is away, Dr. Michelle Kelso will oversee the program and assist all students. Student advising in the program is divided between Prof. Kelso and Morrison.

## HSSJ Program Director:

Emily Morrison, [emily\\_m@gwu.edu](mailto:emily_m@gwu.edu)

## HSSJ Advising:

Students A-K: Michelle Kelso, [mkelso@gwu.edu](mailto:mkelso@gwu.edu)

Students L-Z: Emily Morrison, [emily\\_m@gwu.edu](mailto:emily_m@gwu.edu)

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[Wendy Wagner](#)  
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## Other Resources

Office for Study Abroad:  
(P) 202.994.1649,  
[studyabr@gwu.edu](mailto:studyabr@gwu.edu)

Nashman Center for Civic  
Engagement and  
Public Service:  
837 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW,  
[www.serve.gwu.edu](http://www.serve.gwu.edu)

Columbian College Advising:  
(P) 202.994.6210, Phillips 107

Center for Career Services:  
Career Coach, Toy Draine  
(P) 202.994.8632, [ttavarez@gwu.edu](mailto:ttavarez@gwu.edu)  
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