

# ADVISEMENT

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## Overview

All students matriculated in Fordham University are assigned a faculty advisor. Advisors assist students in planning their academic careers, their choices of courses, and the fulfillment of the requirements. In addition, advisors help students to choose majors and to discuss future interests. While students must have some contact with their assigned advisors, they are encouraged to seek guidance from other members of the Fordham community. Most students have had contact with faculty in the social work program before they are admitted.

Students who express interest in social work but are not yet ready to apply can seek consultation with the director of the B.A.S.W. program for information, including suggested plans of study in preparing for admission to the program. University faculty advisors and students interested in social work are strongly encouraged to consult with the program director as frequently as needed. In addition to consultation with program faculty, discussion with students already enrolled in the program is encouraged.

Following admission into the program, the B.A.S.W. program director becomes the student's "official" advisor and assumes the responsibilities of advisors across the University. In addition, students are encouraged to maintain mentoring relationships with faculty in other departments, especially when they are pursuing another major in addition to social work. If a student leaves the program without finishing the required classroom courses and field education, he/she is assigned another faculty advisor from within the University.

The faculty advisement system of the program is operated independently of the Graduate School of Social Service and includes both individual and group components. The program's advisement system supports the development of a sense of community and support among undergraduate social work students and program faculty. It complements the collocated classroom sections and provides forums to address the special needs of students launching social work careers and/or new educational pursuits following graduation.

Students have already become familiar with program faculty during their pre-application advisement period and have met many of their fellow students while taking core curriculum and social work prerequisite courses, such as SOWK 2600 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare. These bonds are nurtured as students enter the program together and are introduced to program students already taking social work classes.

The program's advisement activities serve to sustain students as they engage in a rigorous course of study in classroom and field, and include the following:

1. Group advisement.
2. The integrative seminar for students in field education.
3. Frequent individual contacts with faculty advisors.
4. Encouragement of networking among program students through formal and informal mechanisms.

The B.A.S.W. program director assumes responsibility for helping students plan their course of study and work towards their post-graduation goals. The B.A.S.W. program director attends to the needs of students in both classroom and field and assists them in the integration

of their classes in social work, their field experiences, their other course work in the University, and other significant life activities.

The B.A.S.W. Program Director meets individually with students for regular consultations and special meetings called by either the faculty advisor or student. Students in field placement participate in the integrative seminar, a group facilitated by the faculty advisor that meets 15 times during the academic year. Attendance at advisement meetings and seminar sessions is mandatory.