WHAT IS CHILD WELFARE?

Child welfare works to ensure safe, permanent and nurturing families for children. Services focus on protecting children and strengthening families. When this is not possible, placements for children through foster care or adoption are found.

CHILD WELFARE IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHILDREN, FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS TO ENSURE THAT DECISIONS MADE ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD.

OUR STORY

The NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative is a program designed to provide educational support to BSW and MSW students who are interested in working in public child welfare in North Carolina upon graduation. Funded by a combination of state and federal funds, the Collaborative program is active in social work education programs across the state.

The North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative works in conjunction with its participating universities, North Carolina Division of Social Services, and North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services.

GET STARTED ON YOUR WAY TO A CAREER IN NC PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE!

If you enjoy the opportunity to work with families and professionals to ensure child safety, a career in child welfare may be for you. Please visit our website or contact your University Collaborative Liaison for more information.

CONTACT US

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NORTH CAROLINA CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED ON YOUR CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK?
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS
Since the inception of the Collaborative, we have prepared over 1500 social work students who are both highly qualified and committed to employment at local Departments of Social Services. These graduates have longer tenure than typical newly hired social workers and many have advanced to leadership positions. Additionally, our graduates enjoy the increased likelihood of securing employment within months of graduation, thanks to the relationship and opportunities that exist between the Collaborative and local departments of social services.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS
Participants attend class, field placements, training and seminars that provides a comprehensive approach to child welfare. Students are expected to provide a year of service in public child welfare for each year or partial year they received support. Current DSS employees are encouraged to participate and should coordinate with their employer to explore possible scheduling options.

CURRICULUM AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
The comprehensive curriculum for Collaborative participants is designed to thoroughly prepare students for careers in North Carolina public child welfare. A combination of classroom instruction and field education fine-tunes the correlation between curriculum and child welfare core competencies. Students are provided with the knowledge and skills needed to better serve children and families statewide.

PREPARING FOR FIELD PLACEMENTS
You will have the opportunity to engage in discussions and participate in activities that will broaden your knowledge of child welfare and enable you to confidently begin your field placement in a local DSS agency.

YOUR CURRICULUM
Each Collaborative Partner University offers specific coursework that focuses on child welfare. Collaborative students are required to enroll in child welfare courses as part of their plan of study.

A concerted effort is made to encourage students and faculty to integrate child welfare content into curriculum from other social work classes. This enriches learning experiences, and helps students understand how child welfare can be applicable to many other areas of social work.

TRAINING FOR COLLABORATIVE STUDENTS
The Collaborative offers continuous training opportunities for students. These opportunities provide safe, nurturing learning environments that reinforce skills learned in the field setting. Training activities also provide the opportunity for educational networking and support.

In addition to lectures, seminars and workshops, Collaborative students are given the opportunity to participate in statewide conferences. Students can also take trainings offered by the North Carolina Division of Social Services.

CAREER PATHS IN CHILD WELFARE
Collaborative graduates reap invaluable professional benefits from their experience in child welfare. Many graduates are promoted to supervision and managerial positions in local departments of social services.

Graduates choosing more clinical paths may be able to use their child welfare client contact to help satisfy select requirements for clinical licensing. Others may chose to continue their interest in child welfare in other private or public service roles. No matter where your career path takes you, child welfare provides you with transferable professional experiences that contribute positively to your career goals.