

Sharon Holmes Thomas

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work
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Education

M.S.W., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 1998
Concentration: Direct Practice, Families and Children

B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 1996
Sociology & African and African American Studies

Professional Experience

Assistant Dean (September 2012 to present), Director (August 2007 to August 2012), Recruitment, Admissions & Financial Aid, Clinical Assistant Professor – University of North Carolina School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC

- Set objectives and develop/implement student recruitment plans and strategies to achieve enrollment goals for the MSW and PhD programs
- Extensive regional travel for recruitment efforts (career fairs, recruitment visits, conference information sessions)
- Spearhead development of marketing and recruiting materials
- Plan, implement, supervise, and coordinate the MSW admissions processes
- Develop a financial aid system that allows for the strategic planning and implementation of awarding financial aid to MSW students (scholarships, fellowships assistantships, and student loans)
- Work as team member of the Office of Academic & Student Affairs under the auspices of the Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education, supervising one staff member and three student program assistants.
- Work in collaboration with the University Office of Scholarships and Student Aid and the UNC Graduate School

Director, Triangle Distance Education MSW Program, Clinical Instructor – University of North Carolina School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC

August 2003 - August 2007

- Developed marketing and recruitment strategies, targeting working professionals in the human services field
- Served as faculty advisor to ~50 Triangle Distance Education students each year
- Administration of UNC distance education site on the campus of North Carolina Central University
- Instructor of two required foundation social work courses

Field Education Advisor, Clinical Instructor – University of North Carolina School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC

August 2001 - July 2003

- Served as field advisor and liaison for masters-level Distance Education and Full-time social work students at their field placements
- Worked with Director of Field Education to place over 100 MSW students in appropriate field practicum settings each year
- Facilitated field seminar course for foundation students

**Human Services Coordinator, Adolescent Parenting Program – Orange County
Department of Social Services, Hillsborough, NC**

September 1998 - August 2001

- Provided intensive family-centered services to adolescent parents and their families
- Coordinated and facilitated monthly peer support group meetings and social activities for program participants
- Developed and administered monthly program newsletter
- Served as liaison to the APP Community Advisory Committee
- Served as field supervisor for bachelors-level social work students and volunteer mentors

**Teaching
Experience**

**Clinical Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina School of Social Work,
Chapel Hill, NC**

- **SOWO 380B – Summer School Abroad: An Inside Look at the New South Africa** (2004, 2005). **Summer School Abroad: Transformations within the New South Africa** (2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013). Examined social issues, development strategies, and health/mental health programs in the new South Africa.
- **SOWO 500 – Family and Individual Development** (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007). This course provides an overview of child and adolescent development in an environmental context, surveying major theoretical frameworks and highlighting the impact of different factors on individual development, functioning, and health.
- **SOWO 501 – Discrimination and Inequality** (2007). This course examines discrimination and its implications for social work practice. Particular attention is paid to issues of gender, race, etc., and the consequences of social inequality on individuals and families.
- **Foundation Field Education Seminar** (2001/2002, 2002/2003). Foundation Field Seminar is designed to assist students in integrating and applying classroom learning with the direct experience of the foundation field practicum. Opportunities are provided for inquiry based learning, discussion and peer support.
- **Field Instructor for BSW Students, Department of Social Work, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC** (1999/2000, 2000/2001)

**Presentations
& Articles**

Zerden, L.D., Naylor, S., **Thomas, S.**, Brigham, R., & Bailey, T.* (in press). Defining the Minimum Expectation of MSW Students: Implementation and Application of Technical Standards. *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Brigham, R., Zerden, L.D., Naylor, S., & **Thomas, S.** (2019, October). *Utilizing technical standards as a new tool for gatekeeping in field education*. Workshop accepted for the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO.

Thomas, S., Moore, D., Nsonwu, M., & Byrd, Y. (2018, November). *Strategies for increasing MSW program diversity: Partnering with a Historically Black College/University*. Workshop presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Thomas, S., Carlton-LaNey, I., Albritton, T., Williams, T., & Murray-Lichtman, A. (2018, April). *Matter out of place*. Workshop presented at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Black Social Workers, San Diego, CA.

**Community
& Agency
Education
and
Training**

Academy for African-Centered Social Work, National Association of Black Social Workers, Washington, DC, current

Preparing Graduate Students for Study Abroad: Mutual Responsibilities of Home and Host Institutions, International Association of Schools of Social Work, Durban, South Africa, July 2008

Developing Culturally Competent Treatment with Racially and Ethnically Diverse Clients, Eastern Area Health Education Center, Greenville, NC, February 2007

Strategies to Increase Provider Effectiveness with African American Clients, Eastern Area Health Education Center, Greenville, NC, February 2006

**Volunteer
Experience**

University:

Health Affairs Pipeline Partnership Initiative, 2011 to present

Public Health Videoconference on Minority Health Committee, 2008 to present

Diversity Education Team, 2007 to 2013

Faculty Mentor, Carolina Covenant, 2005 to 2010

Committee member, Carolina Women's Center Awards Committee, 2006 – 2009

Facilitator, Health Sciences Interdisciplinary Case Conference Event, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009

School of Social Work:

Recruitment and Admissions Committee, 2001 to present; **Chair,** 2007 to present

Scholarship Committee, 2002 – 2004; **Chair,** 2007 to present

Global Engagement Committee, 2018 to present

Search Committees, annually served since 2010 on various SSW search committees

Curriculum Committee, 2007 to present

NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative Selection Committee, 2003 to 2013

Faculty Diversity & Recruitment Committee, 2009 to present

Diversity Committee, 2008 to present

Personnel & Promotion Committee, 2008 to 2010

Generalist Curriculum Committee, 2000 - 2007

Human Behavior Social Environment Investment Team, 2006 – 2007

Management & Advisory Committee, 2004 - 2007

Community:

Search Committee for the Executive Director of NASW-NC, 2017-2018
Triangle Association of Black Social Workers, 2004 to present; President, 2004-2008;
Secretary, 2010 to 2012
Corresponding Secretary, National Association of Black Social Workers, 2006 to 2010
Board Member, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University BSW
program African American Outreach Committee member, 2005 to 2008
Board Member, Orange County Rape Crisis Center, 2009 to 2010
North Carolina Part-time MSW Program Directors Consortium, 2003 - 2007
Orange County Basic Needs Committee, Triangle United Way, 2003 - 2006
Advocates for Adolescents Committee, Orange County Healthy Carolinians, 2001 –
2006

**Professional
Affiliations**

National Association of Black Social Workers
National Association of Social Work – North Carolina chapter
National Association of Deans & Directors of Social Work Admissions, CSWE