



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

Achievements

2018



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

RECENT RANKINGS

View our video about the rankings [here](#)

1. U.S. News & World Report in 2018 ranks our Social Work Graduate Program No. 34 out of more than 251 graduate programs. We moved up four slots from the previous ranking. We are in the top 14% of Social Work Graduate Programs.
[Click Here for More](#)
2. UTA School of Social Work is ranked No. 1 by BestMSWPrograms.com in 2018 for the Best Online Masters of Social Work Degree Program.
[Click Here for More](#)
3. UTA Social Work is ranked No. 2 by Best College Reviews on their 20 Best Master's in Social Work Online for 2019 list.
[Click Here for More](#)
4. SR Education Group ranked UTA No. 2 for Best Schools for Master's in Social Work and No. 11 for Best Online Master's in Social Work in 2018 on its graduateprograms.com listings.
[Click Here for More](#)
5. The UTA School of Social Work is ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 5 in the nation out of 368 colleges and universities for veteran friendliness by College Factual. We moved up 10 slots from last year's rankings.
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6. UTA Bachelor of Social Work program is ranked No. 1 by Zippia.com for Best Colleges for Social Work Majors in Texas for 2018.
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7. College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources, ranked UTA No. 5 on its current list of the Most Affordable Online Master's in Social Work programs.
[Click Here for More](#)
8. College factual ranked UTA School of Social Work No. 4 in Texas for 2019.
[Click Here for More](#)
9. UTA is ranked No. 25 in the nation for the best Ph.D. in Social Work Program by BestMSWPrograms.com – Making us the highest ranked Ph.D. in Social Work program in Texas.
[Click Here for More](#)
10. UTA is ranked No. 6 by affordablecolleges.com on their current Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Social Work list.
[Click Here for More](#)
11. Best Colleges ranked UTA Social Work No. 10 on its Top 30 Most Affordable Master's in Social Work Online Programs 2018 list.
[Click Here for More](#)
12. MSWguide.org ranked UTA School of Social Work No. 16 on its current list.
[Click Here for More](#)
13. UTA is ranked No. 22 in 2018 for Most Affordable MSW Program by socialworkdegreeguide.com.
[Click Here for More](#)
14. UTA School of Social Work is ranked No. 28 in SocialWorkGuide.org 2018 Best Online Master's in Social Work Program.
[Click Here for More](#)
15. UTA School of Social Work is ranked No. 29, among the best MSW programs, by College Choice in 2018.
[Click Here for More](#)
16. TFE Best Social Work Programs ranked UTA No. 40 on its current list.
[Click Here for More](#)

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Assistant Professors Drs. Noelle Fields and Ling Xu, received a three-year R15 award in the total (Direct + Full IDC) amount of \$459,994 for their research on aging entitled, "The Senior Companion Program Plus (SCP Plus): A Psychoeducational Intervention for African American Dementia Caregivers."
2. Dr. Noelle Fields was awarded a new grant totaling \$96,074 from the National Institutes of Health awarded through the University of Minnesota. She is a collaborator on a project titled Utilizing Senior Companions to Enhance Dementia Care Services and Supports and will be working with Principal Investigator Dr. Joseph Gaugler at the University of Minnesota. The project will feature a collaboration between Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSS-MN) and the University of Minnesota to evaluate a novel adaption of the Senior Companion Program to: a) assist families better manage Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD); b) identify and facilitate use of community-based long-term services and supports (LTSS); and c) improve engagement with healthcare providers (i.e., the SCP-Dementia/SCP-D).
3. Assistant Professor Rachel Voth Schrag is leading a proposed study evaluating confidential advocacy services provided by universities for collegiate survivors of interpersonal violence. She aims to determine what works and how to evaluate survivors. Because of her research, she was awarded \$68,560 from the governor's Criminal Justice Division to study programs across the state. She is partnering with UT Austin and UT Rio Grande Valley to evaluate programs aimed at helping students, faculty and staff.
4. Last year, the National Institute of Transportation and Communities awarded six social work students (five Ph.D. and one MSW) with \$4,000 fellowship funds to support their dissertation and thesis work. This year eight PhD social work students received the fellowships.
5. Dr. Debra Woody, Senior Associate Dean and Director of the SSW Center for Addiction and Recovery Studies received a \$6,996 grant from the University of North Texas Health Science Center for the project entitled, "Community Assessment - Opioid Crisis, High Risk Pregnancies and Access to Information". The team also received a \$9,949 Technology Enhancement Award to update a website listing resources for at-risk pregnant women in Dallas county, in addition to a \$25,000 award titled "Prevention through Gaming – Evaluating the Effectiveness of Alcohol and Drug Prevention Messages through a Gaming App" that involves Professor Joshua Wilson from the Department of Art and Art History.
6. Dr. Regina Praetorius, SSW Director of Undergraduate Program received a gift of \$205,930 from the Kalman and Ida Wolen's Foundation to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a Therapist Assisted Online (TAO) program, an e-counseling tool, for UTA students.
7. SSW faculty, PhD and MSW students presented their research at the annual Council for Social Work Education, Society for Social Work Research and the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter (NASW-TX) conferences in 2018. BSW students also presented research at NASW-TX.
8. Assistant Professor Anne Nordberg and her multidisciplinary research team were awarded a grant from NITC that will link transportation essentials to services like employment centers, educational opportunities, and medical access for successful re-entry for former criminal offenders. Dr. Nordberg is leading the project. Jaya Davis, associate professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Steve Mattingly, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, are co-principal investigators on the NITC grant, which operates out of Portland State University.
9. The work of Associate Professor Courtney Cronley and Assistant Professor Anne Nordberg with the Dallas Street Choir (DSC) - comprised entirely of homeless individuals - is an example of a strong community partnership that is leading in new directions. Their work to assess the impact of the choir on the homeless community who are involved with the DSC has resulted in multiple publications, the dissertation project of Social Work doctoral student Erin Murphy, and a subsequent collaboration with Fine Arts to move the project into the next phase.
10. Associate Professor Courtney Cronley and her team from Kinesiology (Dr. Larry Nelson) and Landscape Architecture (Dr. David Hopman) were one of three proposals selected to receive the UTA Interdisciplinary Research Program grant/award in 2018.
11. Professor Rick Hoefler was named Founding Editor of The Journal of Policy Practice and Research by Springer Journal. The Journal of Policy Practice and Research brings together research and practice insights that can inform, develop, and affect social policy. The Journal is an outlet for research and scholarship on policy practice, macro-social work practice, community practice, social policy, social policy analysis, the creation and administration of social policy and programs and related topics.
12. School of Social Work Faculty, PhD Students and recent PhD graduates attended the Council on Social Work Education annual conference in November in Orlando and gave 23 research presentations and participated in three panel and group discussions.

13. Associate Professor Courtney Cronley and new Assistant Professor Jandel Crutchfield were awarded new Small Starts grants totaling \$20,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation through Portland State's National Institute for Transportation and Communities. They will work in collaboration with the UTA Department of Civil Engineering on a project titled Helping Environmental Justice Populations Maintain Access to Opportunities in a Boomtown: An Interdisciplinary, Mixed-Methods Approach to Addressing Infrastructure Needs.
14. New Assistant Professors Rebecca Mauldin and Kathy Lee received the Best Human Services App Idea Award 2018 in June for their app Sage-Serve. The award is designed to support an individual, group, or organization in the idea stage of developing an app that supports the mission of huslTa, which is to promote the ethical and effective use of information technology to better serve humanity. The app will provide older adults with opportunities to strengthen existing social roles and develop new ones by connecting them to community organizations where they can volunteer. SageServe will also provide these organizations with a platform for reaching older adults who wish to support their mission.
15. Maria Scannapieco, Professor and Director of the SSW Center for Child Welfare was selected as a recipient of the 2018 Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Child Welfare Track Career Achievement Award. She was presented with the award at the CSWE annual conference meeting in November in Orlando, Florida.
16. In October, SSW was featured in the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) newsletter for our creative efforts in raising awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
17. In August, new Assistant Professor Ryon Cobb participated in a discussion panel for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. The panel discussion kicked off a six-part series titled "gOD-Talk: A Black Millennials and Faith Conversation Series" and was held at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles. The series is in partnership with the Pew Research Center.
18. SSW co-sponsored an event and guest speaker on campus for Suicide Prevention in October 2018. Becky Fein from the National Active Minds organization. She shared her story as a survivor of sexual assault and provided a large scale QPR training session. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.
19. SSW co-sponsored with Hope Cottage Pregnancy and Adoption Center the screening of the documentary film, Paper Tigers in the SSW auditorium April 2018. The documentary film follows a year in the life of an alternative high school that has radically changed its approach to disciplining its students, becoming a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence and disease that affect families. After the screening, SSW Associate Professor in Practice Jan Finch shared An Adverse Childhood Experiences Study questionnaire and led a discussion/answer forum to discuss the themes displayed in the film. Social Workers, educators and community leaders attended the event with Continuing Education Units (CEU) provided.
20. Lubia Banda Gwak, Spring 2018 MSW graduate was named the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter/Fort Worth Branch 2018 Student of the Year.
21. Doctoral Candidate Vivian J. Miller was awarded the \$1,500 Frances Fowler Wallace Dissertation Award and the \$15,000 National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) graduate Dissertation Fellowship for her research. The NITC executive committee unanimously voted to award Miller the fellowship.
22. UTA School of Social Work's Center for Addiction and Recovery Studies is working with a non-profit organization called The Elisa Project to study the prevalence of eating disorders in North Texas
23. The School of Social Work partnered with faculty from CoLA and researchers from UTARI to show how robotics can be integrated to every aspect of most people's daily lives. The community partner, Brookdale Pecan Park Senior Living of Arlington worked with the interdisciplinary team to facilitate data for this impactful research study. Collaborators are using a multi-talented Shakespeare-reciting robot named, NAO, to develop a platform to promote social connectivity and decrease loneliness. Research scientist Kristen Doelling, principal research scientist Mike McNair and senior research scientist Jeongsik Shin of the UT Arlington Research Institute, Dr. Julienne Greer of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dr. Noelle Fields and Dr. Ling Xu of the School of Social Work.
24. The School of Social Work received a \$10,000 grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase the number of social workers with specialized training in mental health and substance abuse. Specifically, the grant is to increase specialized knowledge and skills around providing mental health services to children, adolescents, and transitional age youth in integrated care settings.
25. Paralympic gold medalist and new Assistant Professor in Practice Darlene Hunter runs the Lady Mavericks wheelchair basketball team and hosts an annual women's wheelchair development camp at UTA. After being named a Toyota Everyday Hero at the 2017 espnW: Women + Sports Summit, which was accompanied by a \$10,000 grant, Hunter expanded the reach of the camp. Her goal is to give more adaptive women and girls, typically between the ages of 12 and 26, the opportunity to improve their athletic skills while learning and developing better life coping skills -- all free of charge. espnW interviewed Hunter and featured her on their website in October 2018.

26. Our field office is now affiliated with more than 800 agencies and organizations for the mandatory field placements/internships for our social work students.
27. We held two Interdisciplinary Research Mixers in 2018 (January and October) in the UTA Library. Faculty from UTA departments and colleges presented and shared their research interests to facilitate cooperation between the numerous disciplines at UTA.
28. Assistant Professor, Philip Baiden received \$9,360 for his project titled "Understanding the mechanisms and pathways linking adverse childhood experiences to nonsuicidal self-injury among adolescents in mental health settings in Ontario, Canada" from the University of Texas at Arlington's Research Enhancement Program (REP) in June 2018.
29. Zhen Cong, new Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, joined UT Arlington in July 2018. She continues to work on her previously funded project (\$502,270) sponsored by the National Science Foundation titled "A Multi-level Dynamically Coupled Model for Evaluating Older Adults' Vulnerability and Resiliency to Disasters."
30. Drs. Courtney Cronley and Noelle Fields have partnered with Dr. Kate Hyun from the Department of Civil Engineering for a project benefitting the City of Arlington. Their project was selected by the City as a targeted effort to address the needs of the community. They will use the \$20,000 to complete their project titled "Characterizing Handitrans and Via Users: A Comparative Analysis of the Riders and their Travel Patterns."
31. Dr. Maria Scannapieco continues to oversee the Center for Child Welfare and the Child Welfare Stipend Program sponsored by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The program aims to deliver social work education to graduate and undergraduate students that will prepare them for careers in child welfare by delivering professional education to current CPS employees and recruiting BSW and MSSW students to work in public child welfare. The program is currently funded with a \$1,972,262 grant from the state.
32. Assistant professor Dr. Rachel Voth Schrag received a \$32,775 grant from the Texas Council on Family Violence. The aim of this project is to assess why Texan survivors of intimate partner violence not accessing services and what can be done to improve access.
33. In 2018, School of Social Work faculty published 68 journal articles, three book chapters and three books. In addition to this, there are 35 journal articles currently in press, as well as two book chapters, and two books.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

Black, Beverly M. (Professor)

Doctoral Mentoring Award

University of Texas at Arlington (2018)

Award for Educational Leadership in Doctoral Education sponsored by the Group for Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE) (2017-2018)

Bold, Lashaunn L. (Associate Professor in Practice)

Nomination: UT Regents Teaching Award

University of Texas System (October 26, 2018)

Social Work Faculty Teaching Award BSW Teaching Excellence

University of Texas Arlington (April 2018)

Cobb, Ryon (Assistant Professor)

Trainee

NYU Langone School of Medicine and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (August 2018)

Cronley, Courtney M. (Associate Professor)

CSWE Mentor

CSWE Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education (2018)

Faculty Fellow

IDEAS Center (2018)

Recipient

Center for Transportation, Equity, Decisions, and Dollars (February 1, 2018)

Fields, Noelle L. (Assistant Professor)

Cheryl Milkes Moore Faculty Fellow in Mental Health Research

The University of Texas at Arlington (June 2018)

Honorary Member

Golden Key International Honor Society (November 1, 2018)

Freeman, Ericka G. (Associate Professor in Practice)

Nominated for Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The University of Texas at Arlington (January 1, 2018)

Harper, Kiva (Assistant Professor in Practice)

Honorary Member

Golden Key International Honor Society (November 1, 2018)

Faculty Fellow

Collaborate UTA: Focus on Teamwork Professional Learning Community with an emphasis on online education (September 14, 2018)

Faculty Fellow

Center for Service Learning (January 1, 2018)

Hoefler, Richard (Professor)

Fernando Torgerson Excellence in Teaching Award

UTA School of Social Work (April 29, 2018)

Johnson, Pamela C. (Assistant Professor in Practice)

UTA Maverick of the Month - September 2018

UTA Ambassadors (October 3, 2018)

Langford, James E. (Assistant Professor in Practice)

New Horizons Award

Salvation Army Arlington (February 22, 2018)

Lee, Kathy (Assistant Professor)

Best Human Services App Idea Award

Human Services Information Technology Association (June 27, 2018)

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Poster Award

(November 2018)

Senior Service America Junior Scholar Award

(November 2018)

2018 APM Best Gero-Ed Track Abstract

Council on Social Work Education (November 10, 2018)

Malone, Pamela A. (Assistant Professor in Practice)

Social Worker of the Year, National Association of Social Workers

Capital Area Branch (April 2018)

Mauldin, Rebecca (Assistant Professor)

2018 APM Best Gero-Ed Track Abstract

Council on Social Work Education (November 10, 2018)

Best Human Services App Idea

Human Services Information Technology Association (August 2018)

McIntyre, Teresa M. (Professor)

Cheryl Milkes Moore Endowed Professorship in Mental Health Research

University of Texas at Arlington (September 1, 2018)

Editor's Choice-Journal Pain

(January 2018)

Nordberg, Anne E. (Assistant Professor)

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching- Untenured

The University of Texas at Arlington (2018)

Rotary Club UT Arlington Professor of the Year Award

Arlington Sunrise Rotary Club (2018)

Jillian Michelle Smith Faculty Fellow in Family Violence Research

The University of Texas at Arlington (June 1, 2018)

Rakos, Sabine (Assistant Professor in Practice)

Honorary Member

Golden Key International Honor Society (November 1, 2018)

Scannapieco, Maria (Professor)

Lifetime Achievement Award Child Welfare

Counsel of Social Work Education (November 8, 2018)

Xu, Ling (Assistant Professor)

Faculty Fellowship

Milkes Moore Fellowship/Professorship (August 2018)