WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE
We are devoted to the success of each and every student and, ultimately, to the value of repairing the world. Students of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds are drawn here for our distinctive, world-class education based on the fundamental values of social work, always with an eye to meeting the needs of our ever-changing world. Our program is individualized, intense and experiential; students graduate with a profound understanding of themselves and the ways in which, through their passion, training and commitment, they can succeed and make a difference.

A leader in social work education since 1957—and one of New York City’s five original social work schools—Yeshiva University’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work has been consistently rated among the top MSW programs in the nation. Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and boasting an extensive alumni network, it’s the school’s reputation that attracts students from across the globe.

A UNIQUE APPROACH

It’s never business as usual at Wurzweiler. Faculty respond to feedback from community social workers and students to develop a meaningful, relevant curriculum that includes ground-breaking classes and programs to address a range of contemporary issues—from trauma and substance abuse to military care and eating disorders. We host renowned speakers, join forces with community agencies, and involve students in the legislative process. Both research and practice faculty members are more than experts in their fields; they are also master clinicians, with on-the-job experience in every subject they teach.

WHERE PASSION MEETS INNOVATION

Our alumni are clinicians, managers, researchers, professors of social work, administrators, college deans and legislators. They are employed in every sector of social services, from neighborhood agencies to the federal government, and are committed to improving the lives of vulnerable populations throughout the world.
WHERE PASSION MEETS RELEVANCE

WALKING THE WALK: A MODEL OF SOCIAL WORK

Our faculty are role models both inside and outside the classrooms, giving students respect, support and a voice in the educational process. With usually no more than 15 students in a class, courses are intimate and interactive. Our students come from across the nation and from many countries and regions—including Canada, Israel, Japan, China, France, South America and Africa—enriching the classroom experience, enhancing students’ ability to understand differences and, ultimately, making them better social workers.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

From the beginning of graduate school, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who guides him or her through both the academic and professional rigors of social work. These highly involved and accessible faculty advisors create strong bonds that often last well beyond graduation. Because classes are small, students’ strengths, challenges and interests can be individually assessed and nurtured. Students graduate with the confidence, knowledge and experience necessary to succeed in their chosen social work path.

The Certificate in Social Work Practice with the Military, developed by our Military Chair—a world-renowned expert in the military social work field—is unique among social work schools. It includes coursework geared specifically towards helping students understand veterans’ distinct treatment needs, and provides future social workers with the tools to help ease soldiers’ transition back to civilian life.

A HANDS-ON APPROACH

A Wurzweiler education means students have opportunities to be part of the wider world.

• After Hurricane Katrina, Wurzweiler students participated in a community construction and support program in New Orleans.

• When Hurricane Sandy destroyed part of coastal New York State, Wurzweiler partnered with the St. Bernard Project to help in recovery efforts. Wurzweiler faculty accompanied a busload of students to visit this hard-hit region, where students put their social work training into action, and their passion into purpose. This program continues, as students help residents to rebuild.

• Wurzweiler conducts an annual trip to Northern State Prison, where students have a rare opportunity to go inside the walls of a maximum-security prison. Students come away with a personal understanding of the ways in which individuals and their families are affected by our criminal justice system.

• Wurzweiler and Tel Hai University developed a joint program in Israel for Wurzweiler students to learn about trauma, emergency response and recovery—a model for first-responders across the world. Students returned to Wurzweiler to present their experiences to faculty and their peers.

Wurzweiler hosts regular Lunch & Learn panels, featuring a range of speakers from across the world. A recent panel included students and faculty from Rajagiri School of Social Work in Cochin, India, who spoke about mental-health services in that country.
VALUES, ETHICS AND SPIRITUALITY

One of Wurzweiler's most distinctive features is its in-depth focus on ethics and its profound respect for individual belief. All students are required to take “Values and Ethics,” a course that teaches them to navigate the complex ethical components of social work. Another required course based on Jewish social philosophy serves as an underpinning for tolerance, and focuses on the emotional and spiritual needs of clients regardless of belief.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Set in New York City—one of the most vibrant, creative, and diverse cities in the world—Wurzweiler is deeply intertwined with the surrounding community. Students draw inspiration from the city’s vitality, enjoying limitless opportunities for exploration and discovery.

FIELD PLACEMENTS

New York City is an ideal environment for students to hone their skills and study ways to address emerging social problems. Wurzweiler selects field placement agencies based on their diversity, quality of service to the community, opportunities for learning, expertise of supervisors, and eagerness to collaborate with the school.

Students translate theory into real-world practice, working with a wide range of populations, communities and social problems. These include: the elderly, adolescents, children and veterans; people with disabilities, mental health issues and substance abuse; poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, aging and palliative care.

Since our inception, more than 7,000 students have earned master's degrees and more than 165 doctorates have been awarded—making for a large and tight-knit networking community.

WHERE PASSION MEETS ETHICS

You taught us how to say the things that were uncomfortable, how to probe and not be afraid of client resistance.

More than half of New York City children are victims of trauma. In 2014, Wurzweiler was awarded a $1.4 million U.S. Federal grant to fund students in clinical field placements with vulnerable adolescents and youth in New York City. As a result of this grant, dozens of Wurzweiler graduates are now working throughout the city in schools, foster care, residential treatment facilities and substance abuse programs.

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WHERE PASSION MEETS FLEXIBILITY

A WURZWEILER DEGREE: DO IT YOUR WAY

Earn your degree in the way that works for you. Choose from a variety of programs, tailored to meet your needs and your circumstances:

- Full-Time Traditional Two-Year
- Part-Time
- Summer Block
- PEP—Plan for Employed Persons
- Advanced-Standing (Full-Time or Part-Time)
- Joint MSW-JD
- Joint MSW-MDiv
- Interdenominational Clergy Plan
  Open only to ordained or certified clergy of all faiths (and their spouses, where applicable) who are institutionally affiliated and who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent. A portion of field work can be done in their religious institution. Specialized weekly seminars provide field-work supervision.
- Doctoral Program

PEP: PLAN FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS

Over 35 years ago, Wurzweiler and several local schools agreed to adapt to the needs of working adults already employed in social welfare agencies—and it continues to be one of the top institutions catering to working professionals. Field instruction is located at the employment setting, provided that assignments meet the school’s requirements, and that the student is supervised by a qualified and approved social worker. PEP can be completed full time in two years, or part time in three years.

THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

JOINT MSW–PhD

The PhD in Social Welfare furthers the education of professionals for scholarly and career advancement in social work practice, education, social policy, planning, research and administration. The program is designed for the working professional, with classes offered evenings and online. Candidates who wish to pursue a PhD and MSW degree can complete coursework in just four years when attending full time.

THE SUMMER BLOCK PROGRAM

One of only two such programs in the country, the Block Program brings students from across the country and the world—from Wisconsin, Florida, and Los Angeles to Canada, Israel, France and China—to Wurzweiler for three consecutive summers to earn a master’s degree in social work. Students spend eight weeks in New York City, followed by field work from September through May in their local communities. Faculty advisors support students every step of the way.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Students who wish to take three of their four electives in a given area can obtain a certificate in the following:
- Child Welfare Practice
- Practice of Gerontology
- Practice of Gerontology–Specialty in Palliative Care Practice
- Social Work Practice with the Military
- Jewish Communal Service
- Jewish Philanthropy

Palliative social work—providing psychosocial care to clients and families facing life-limiting illness—is an important and growing field. Under the direction of our Palliative Care Chair, a leader in this field, Wurzweiler's Certificate in Gerontology with a focus on Palliative Care is distinct among social work programs. Graduates work in hospitals, hospices, long-term care facilities, and home or community health care.
OUR ALL-STAR FACULTY

Wurzweiler’s faculty is renowned in the social-work arena, publishing extensively and winning prestigious awards and fellowships. Many are Fulbright Scholars, have a wealth of international experience, and are recognized for their leadership in palliative care, working with the military, trauma, mental health, child welfare and social work field supervision.

We have several faculty who are lawyers as well, and are often called on by the courts as expert witnesses.

WHERE PASSION MEETS COMMITMENT

You challenged me to think deeper and broader and to look at problems from new perspectives—ultimately finding solutions that are healthy and beneficial for ourselves, our clients and society.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Yeshiva University offers both scholarships and loans to students. General scholarships are granted to those who qualify and who meet specific criteria that include academic excellence, community service and leadership potential. For student-based loans, students are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Created in 1990, the newly revitalized Jewish Communal Certificate Program—one of the few in the country—is now the only Jewish communal certificate that addresses both the communal and clinical aspect of social work with the Jewish community, focusing on issues facing the 21st-century Jewish family.