


October 30, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.   
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Location Modification: Master of Social Work (Stamford)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the additional location of the Stamford Campus for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program in the School of Social Work.

BACKGROUND:

The UConn School of Social Work is proposing to extend the delivery of our Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program to the Stamford campus. We currently offer our MSW degree in Hartford and online. We intend to launch the program in Fall 2025. This new program can help meet state and national labor force demands for social workers. We believe the program will add to our recent enrollment gains as only eleven percent of our applicants (and 8% of our incoming students) reside in Fairfield county. The Stamford MSW constitutes a new program location. There will be no curricular or degree changes and no new classes.

The Stamford MSW program combines in-person and online classes. The majority of classes will be offered in person, with less than 50% offered online. This means that the program will be reported as an in-person program. Like the current UConn MSW program, the MSW program in Stamford will fulfill the degree requirement towards a social work license in CT and other states. The MSW is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CWSE). A substantive change proposal, which follows approval of the program by the University, will be submitted to the CSWE and accreditation for the Stamford location is anticipated to be in place for fall 2025.

A Stamford launch team has been assembled to manage program design and launch. This includes the Dean, the Director of Strategic Programming, the MSW Director and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. We anticipate serving a small initial cohort (25 student) to ensure a successful program launch. In the 2nd and 3rd years, we anticipate expanding as additional cohorts join. Overall enrollment is projected to reach around 75 students per year across all cohorts by the third year. Only relatively minimal startup costs are required to offer the program at Stamford, as detailed in the full proposal document.

Masters of Social Work (MSW), School of Social Work  
 Additional Location: Stamford Campus

Planned effective term: Fall 2025

**Introduction**

The UConn School of Social Work is proposing to extend the delivery of our MSW degree program to the Stamford campus. We currently offer our MSW degree in Hartford and online. We intend to launch the program in Fall 2025. This new program can help meet state and national labor force demands for social workers. We believe the program will add to our recent enrollment gains (detailed below) as only eleven percent of our applicants (and 8% of our incoming students) reside in Fairfield county. The Stamford MSW constitutes *a new program location*. There will be no curricular or degree changes and no new classes.

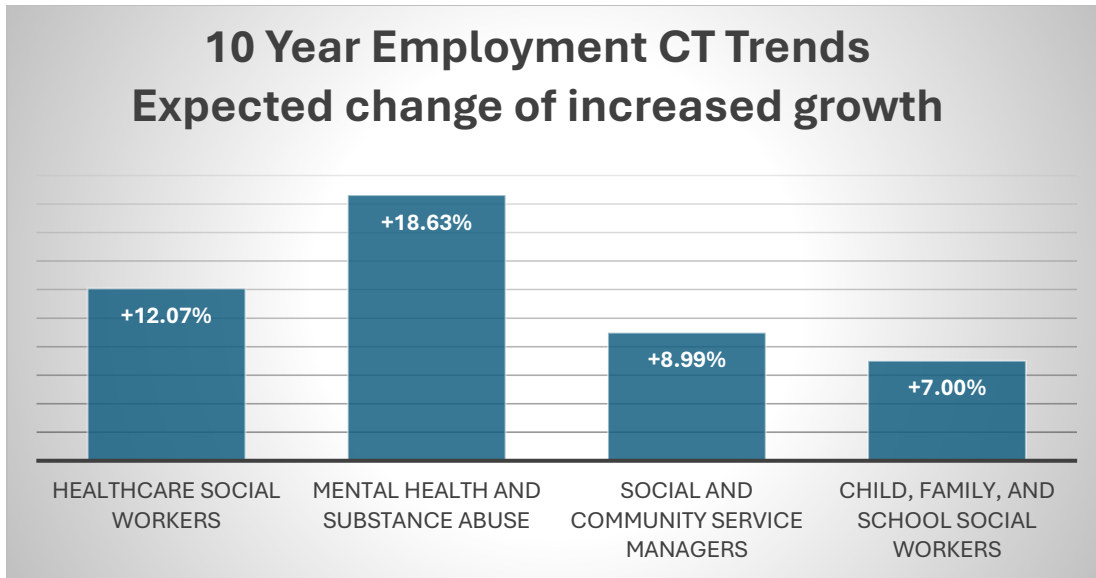
**National and State of Connecticut Social Work Landscape and Graduate Outcomes**

Given the UConn School of Social Work’s history of providing a Master of Social Work education for more than 75 years, we remain integral in equipping the workforce with professionally trained social workers who work in various sectors across Connecticut. Social workers continue to make a profound impact in working to improve the quality of life for individuals, groups, families, and communities. While there is a long history of social work professionals dealing with complex social problems, the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid crisis exasperated the enormity of these problems and increased the need for behavioral health services in the United States. Social workers are the primary providers of mental health services in the United States (National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, 2022).

There remains a high demand for social workers, both nationally and in Connecticut. According to national employment projection data, there is a demonstrated increased need (5% ~ 11%) from 2022 to 2032 for child, family, and school social workers, healthcare social workers, and mental health and substance abuse social workers (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023). Moreover, there is an increasing employment demand for social workers over the next ten years in Connecticut (see chart below). According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(2023\)](#), the average salary of a mental health and substance abuse social worker in CT is \$ 77,930. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note SOC code for reporting purposes is 21-1020 Social Workers (21-1021 [Child, Family, and School Social Workers](#); 21-1022 [Healthcare Social Workers](#); 21-1023 [Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers](#); 21-1029 [Social Workers, All Other](#)). NAICS code is Social Assistance 624 (Individual and Family Services: NAICS 624; Community Food and Housing, and Emergency and Other Relief Services: NAICS 6242).



U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2023)

**Location(s)/Modalities**

The Stamford MSW program combines in-person and online classes. The majority of classes will be offered in person (>50%). Please see the curriculum plan of study below.

**Professional Licensure/Certification**

MSWs are licensed in all 50 states. Many states have an entry level licensure as well as an advanced clinical license. In all states, a MSW from an accredited educational institution is required (among other criteria) for licensure. Like the current UConn MSW program, the MSW program in Stamford will fulfill the degree requirement towards a social work license in CT and other states.

**Accreditation**

Our MSW program is currently accredited by the Council of Social Work Education through 2029. For the addition of the Stamford campus program. CSWE requires a [substantive change proposal](#) to be reviewed and approved for the addition of a program site. To be clear, this is a modification process and does not constitute an accreditation process. The anticipated timeline for review by CSWE is three to six months. As there are few substantive modifications and none impact our compliance with accreditation standards, we do not anticipate any concerns. *Please note that CSWE permits programs to market and recruit students while the modification proposal is under review.* We will submit our application to CSWE once the BOT approval has been completed.

**Plan of Study**

As noted, we are requesting to deliver our MSW degree program (currently delivered in Hartford) on the Stamford campus. We are not proposing any changes to our degree, curriculum, or courses. The MSW is a 60 credit program. The program will launch in Fall 2025.

To start, we will only offer our most popular MSW concentration in Individuals, Groups, and Families Practice (IGFP) in Stamford. Our present enrollment is comprised of 85% of IGFP students. This is typical of social work programs nationally. As the program develops, we may offer other concentrations as well.

Initially, the program will be offered in part time model format (2.5 years) to attract working students, a large component of the general MSW population nationally. In person classes will be offered on Saturdays with some online classes as well. Weekend classes reduce burden on Stamford infrastructure, attract working students, and minimize traffic concerns. Additional pacing models may be added as the program evolves. Less than 50 percent of the classes will be offered online.

**Year 1 Fall**

**Year 1 Spring**

BASC 5362 – HBSE: Macro and Micro Theories (online)	BASC 5350 – Analysis of Social Welfare Policy (online)
BASC 5390 - Macro Foundation Practice	BASC 5300 - Human Oppression
BASC 5391 – Micro Foundation Practice	IGFP 5301 Practice with IGP
FED 5351 – Field education Foundation 1	FED 5352 – Field Education Foundation II
FED 5301 Field Education Seminar I	FED 5302 – Field Education Seminar I

**Summer 1**

BASC 5333 – Research (online)
4 <sup>th</sup> IGFP course (5342, 5343, 5345 or 5346, pre-req 5351 and 5301) (online)

**Year 2 Fall**

**Year 2 Spring**

IGFB 5302 Advanced Practice	IGFP 5303 – Advanced Practice with IGF Across Settings & Populations
Elective	Advanced Research - 5341 or 5342 (pre-req 5333)
Elective (online)	Elective (online)
IGFP 5353 Advanced Field Education 111	IGFP 5354 Advanced Field Education IV
FED 5310 Field Seminar III	FED 5311 Field Seminar IV

**Practicum Education/Clinical Placements**

Of the total 60 credits required for graduation for the MSW degree, 18 are completed through an in-person field education practicum experience. Students will be placed in their geographical area. The MSW program will use a similar clinical placement and practicum education model as it employs in its Hartford program and develop additional placement in Fairfield county as necessary. Notably several of our current practicum partners have sites in Fairfield county and would welcome our interns. We will also have the opportunity to collaborate with internship offices at UConn Stamford.

**Program Learning Objectives/Assessment**

We do not anticipate any changes to our learning goals or assessment processes in any courses. Our assessment processes are currently standard across our classes and are guided by our accreditation body, the Council on Social Work Education. We will notify our accreditation body of the additional program site, as noted.

**Projected Enrollment**

We anticipate serving a small initial cohort (25 student) to ensure a successful program launch. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years, we anticipate expanding as additional cohorts join.

Year 1 Enrollment	Year 2 Enrollment	Year 3 Enrollment
25	~50	~75

**Staffing**

A Stamford launch team has been assembled to manage program design and launch. This includes the Dean, the Director of Strategic Programming, the MSW Director and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The larger faculty body as well as key staff in practicum education will be involved in discussions and decisions as appropriate. Our current MSW Director will oversee the implementation of the program in year 1 along with current staff in our student services office. Assuming the program launches successfully, we may consider the placement of an APIR faculty member in Stanford in Year 2. Campus Dean Jennifer Orlikoff has expressed strong support for the program and believes the Stamford campus has the capacity to host the program.

**Students**

***Current UConn SSW Enrollment Context***

The UConn SSW currently runs an in-person MSW program on the Harford campus (incoming class ~ 150) and will welcome its first class of fully online students in Fall 2024 (incoming class~100). Notably, the addition of the online program has not undermined enrollment in the on- campus program which has actually witnessed an increase over recent years (see below). It is likely that the marketing and recruitment associated with the program contributed to growth

across the board with the numbers of entering students poised to double. Importantly, we recently witnessed a reversal in the decline of applications and enrollments with our recruitment efforts and the addition of the online program.

	Submitted	Offered Admission	Enrolled	Yield
2019	356	273	146	53%
2020	318	281	193	68%
2021	272	249	144	58%
2022	263	230	141	61%
2023	265	220	136	62%
2024	436	379	273*	72%**

Despite the addition of the online program that serves the entire state, *only 8 percent of our incoming students (6% in person; 13% online) reside in **Fairfield County***. Approximately eleven percent of our 2024 applicant pool reside in Fairfield County. This is despite the fact that Fairfield County is the most populous county in the state. To meet workforce demands for more social workers and serve the entire state of CT in keeping with our land grant mission, we are proposing offering our MSW program on the Stamford Campus.

***Regional MSW Landscape: Connecticut and Fairfield Country***

Six other universities are offering MSW programs in Connecticut with a potential seventh program offering in the near future (see *Appendix A*). Currently, there are two competitor MSW program in the Fairfield area: 1) Fairfield University (~54k tuition): This is a low residency program with primary online classes; 2) Fordham University Westchester (~64k tuition): This private university in nearby Westchester country offering a variety of program options. Information about applicants admitted to the School of Social Work, but who chose another MSW program, is illustrative. A clearinghouse data report (October 2023, See *Appendix B*), reflecting the past five years of applicants, finds that top three universities our admitted students chose over UConn includes Fordham University. We believe a Stamford program can successfully compete with these institutions given our tuition and rankings.

***Marketing and Admissions***

In the past AY, the SSW launched a digital recruitment campaign as well as a new website and search engine marketing for its online program. We also expanded our recruitment efforts with regular online open houses and the appointment of a staff member to lead admissions and recruitment. We can build on these current effective efforts to recruit for the Stanford program with little additional cost. The undergraduate population at the UConn Stamford campus will obviously provide a strong pool of potential applicants. Our admissions standards and review processes will remain the same as this proposal only represents a change in program location.

**Budget Projections**

We anticipate relatively minimal startup costs for the Stamford option. These include adjunct costs; a portion of our MSW Director time (APIR faculty member); a portion of FT faculty time to teach in the program; and special payroll field practicum advisors. We do not anticipate additional marketing costs as they can be rolled into current efforts and there are no new course developments necessary.

**Program Evaluation**

The School will conduct an ongoing review and evaluation of the program, examining key performance indicators including 1) enrollment; 2) completion/graduation rates; 3) financial investments and outcomes; 4) student experience data.

School Name	Location	Private/ Public	Program	Modality	Website	Tuition	Completions 2021
UConn SSW						Online 880 credit ~\$52,800K total FT/PT In person FT ~\$41,272 In person PT ~\$63,000k	
Southern Connecticut State University	501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515	Public	Clinical Practice, Community Practice	F2F, hybrid	<a href="http://www.southernct.edu/department-of-social-work-programs">Department of Social Work Programs   Southern Connecticut State University (southernct.edu)</a>	~\$29,920 total FT  PT penalty unclear*	68
Sacred Heart University	5151 Park Avenue Fairfield, CT 06825	Private	Direct Clinical Practice, Direct Community Practice	Fully online, on campus or hybrid	<a href="https://www.sacredheart.edu/offices--departments-directory/student-accounts/tuition--fees/graduate-tuition--fees-2023-2024/">https://www.sacredheart.edu/offices--departments-directory/student-accounts/tuition--fees/graduate-tuition--fees-2023-2024/</a>	\$840 credit (plus fees) ~\$54,000 total FT/PT	88
University of Saint Joseph	1678 Asylum Avenue West Hartford, CT 06117	Private	MSW	F2F, hybrid	<a href="http://www.usj.edu/program-social-work-m.s.w.-university-of-saint-joseph-acalog-acms">Program: Social Work, M.S.W. - University of Saint Joseph - Acalog ACMS™ (usj.edu)</a>	\$1,076/credit hour ~\$64,650 total PT/FT	66



<b>Fairfield University</b>	1073 North Benson Road Fairfield, Connecticut 06824	Private	MSW	Low residency model online courses & two required on campus residencies  FT/PT 9-48 mths.  Start: Sept., Jan. or May	<a href="#">Social Work   Fairfield University</a>	\$910 credit hour  <b>~\$54,600 FT/PT</b>	56 (24" data)
<b>Quinnipiac University</b>	275 Mount Carmel Avenue Hamden, CT 06518	Private	MSW	F2F	<a href="#">MSW - Master of Social Work (qu.edu)</a>	\$755 per credit FT/PT plus fees  <b>~\$49,860 FT</b>  <b>~\$52,140 PT</b>	25
<b>Central CT State University</b>	1615 Stanley Street New Britain, CT 06050	Public	specialize in mental health and addiction treatment	F2	<a href="#">Social Work, MSW   Central Connecticut State University (ccsu.edu)</a>	<b>~\$29,000 total</b>  <i>PT penalty unclear*</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> year of pre-candidacy
<b>Fordham University Westchester</b>	400 Westchester Ave, West Harrison NY 10604	Private				1076 per credit  <b>~64,560 FT/PT plus fees</b>	

Date: 10/03/2023		NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE								
		STUDENTTRACKER AGGREGATE REPORT: ANALYSIS OF INITIAL TRANSFERS								
		FOR UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (001417-00)								
		SUBMISSION ID #551180								
FILE NAME:		00141700_clearinghouse_socwrk_admitted_not_enrolled_revised								
FILE CREATION DATE:		10/3/23								
QUERY/SEARCH TYPE:		Subsequent Enrollment (SE)								
SCHOOL CODE	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL TYPE	PUBLIC/PRIVATE	STATE	% OF STUDENTS	# OF STUDENT ID'D AT INITIAL SCHOOL	# OF STUDENT BLOCKED	# OF STUDENT ON DETAIL R	# OF STUDENT AWARDED BY THIS SCH	# OF STUDENT AWARDED DEGREE BY LATER SCHOOL(S)
001406-00	SOUTHERN C	4	Public	CT	9.01%	43	0	43	32	1
002722-00	FORDHAM U	4	Private	NY	7.76%	37	0	37	32	0
001409-00	UNIVERSITY	4	Private	CT	6.71%	32	0	32	26	0