

Accreditation of Social Work Program Reaffirmed until 2026

In February, the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation completed its formal review of the Kansas State University social work program in the College of Arts and Sciences, voting to reaffirm the accreditation of the program for eight years, until February 2026.

The self-study is a multiple-year process that includes a detailed report and site visit that examines the program's compliance with social work educational standards, including assessments of student outcomes.

The Commission on Accreditation found K-State's social work program in compliance with all accreditation standards and educational policies.

The K-State social work program is one of 523 fully accredited baccalaureate social work programs and offers bachelor's degrees in social work at both the Manhattan and Polytechnic campuses. The K-State programs conferred 82 bachelor's degrees in 2018 and 93 bachelor's degrees in 2017. Social work remains one of the most diverse groups of students at K-State, and according to 2017 data, 27 percent of social work students are minorities. K-State established the social work program in 1972 and has maintained Council on Social Work Education accreditation since 1974.

Students Explored Civic Engagement, Resurgence of Racism at *Art of Democracy Symposium*

On March 21, Kansas State social work students attended the *Art of Democracy Symposium*, a day-long collection of workshops, discussions, and living history performances. Throughout the day, our students learned the art of empathy, engaged in discussion surrounding national immigration policies, and explored the history of voter registration and how to become engaged in their local governments. The day ended with a screening of *BlackKkKlansman*, the story of Ron Stallworth—the first African-American detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department and his daring mission to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan. The keynote address followed the screening, in which Oscar-award winning co-writer of the movie and University of Kansas Professor Kevin Willmott discussed today's resurgence of overt racism in America.



Kevin Willmott presents during the symposium's keynote address.

Student Perspective: Social work senior, Bri Hughey, discusses her experience at the screening and discussion of *BlackKkKlansman*

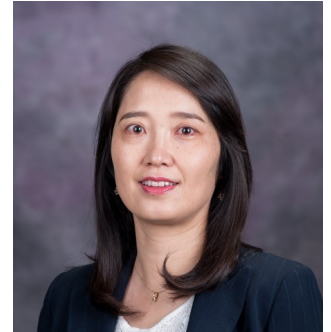
I was so blown away by Kevin's insight, experiences, and approaches to talking about racism in society today...Even just from the nearly two hours in Kevin's presence, my knowledge and perspectives were broadened greatly. What is so beautiful and powerful about America is that it is made up of different countries of origin, different classes, different colors and backgrounds. The more that we begin to understand race and the importance of it, as well as live with all of the diversity of America, the better we will live and work; thus the more harmonious democracy we will achieve. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be exposed to these topics and how Kevin aided his audience with the knowledge and fuel to speak up and act on it; I felt as if he was speaking right to me and my fears/hesitancies! I am now prepared to read more historical content of racism and the social injustices that have brought America to the place it is today. As Kevin explained, "we must KNOW history in order to have the courage to speak out!"

Congratulations to the Recipients of Social Work's Student Awards for 2018-2019 Year

Outstanding Graduating Senior - Spring Cohort	Taylor Stull
Outstanding Graduating Senior - Summer/Fall Cohort	Kayla Stone & Maddie Rues
Dorla Jane (Dodie) Abbott Social Work Scholarship	Christina Tran-Nguyen
Elizabeth Bliss Garzio Endowment Scholarship in Social Science	Mazie Kolterman
Grace and Glenn W. Long Scholarship	Taylor Gabel
Jacque Gibbons Social Work Field Placement Scholarship	Alicia Hernandez

Meet the Faculty: Jung Sim Jun, PhD, MSW

Jung Sim Jun was born and raised in South Korea. In 2000, Sim and her husband, Kyoung moved to the United States to follow academic dreams and raise their family. Sim's passion to help people in need was profoundly shaped by her life-altering immigrant journey where she received great help and support from the community. While she was raising her three children, she volunteered at elementary schools and worked as a volunteer teacher at Korean schools. These life experiences and volunteer work greatly deepened her understanding of the importance of respecting diversity, as well as the empowerment values and processes that help people to discover and build upon their own strengths.



To further demonstrate this commitment to helping others, Sim entered the Wichita State University's Master of Social Work (MSW) program and completed internships at an assisted living and nursing home. This practicum experience and the comprehensive learning from the MSW courses expanded her understanding of older adults and their multifaceted needs. Sim pursued a Ph.D. in Social Work at University of Missouri-Columbia to strengthen her skills in research and macro-practice experience; there she worked as a Research and Teaching Assistant. While she was completing her dissertation, she worked at Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute (CEI) as a Research Associate. At CEI, she worked on various applied research and evaluation projects that help communities and organizations to provide better services for their diverse clients and their various needs.

Sim joined the K-State Social Work faculty as an assistant professor in Fall 2018. This position complements both of her passions: to educate future social workers and to conduct useful research to improve lives of minority elders. She has taught Macro Practice & Theory and Research Methods & Analysis I & II courses. Sim is interested in developing International/Global Social Work and Community Organizational Development courses in the future. Her research interests include Health disparities & health literacy among minority older adults; Cancer health literacy & technology supported prevention programs for older immigrants; Technology use & psychological well-being among minority older adults; Stress, coping resources, & psychological health of older adults. Sim is also a member of Gerontology Faculty, Center on Aging and Community Advisory Committee member in Social Work Program.



Fulbright Scholar Gordon Duff Discusses Disability Rights with Students

Gordon Duff, General Manager of Development and Research for Australia's National Disability Services, presented to social work students and faculty on "Australian Disability Reform: The Story So Far and Key Challenges with Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)." With Mr. Duff's assistance, social work students explored disability reform in Australia, its current challenges with policy implementation, and how lessons from Australia can be applied to America's system of disability policy.

Australia's model of providing disability services emphasizes individual choice in selecting care options and service providers; however, Mr. Duff cautioned that the system is not without challenges as he discussed the unintended consequences of consumer choice and control.

Mr. Duff has more than 20 years experience in human services and advocacy. He holds honors degrees in economics and business administration and a master's in social policy and health economics.

Alumni Perspective: Emma Unsderfer shares her experience in the Peace Corps

In July of 2018, I took off for the volunteer opportunity of a lifetime. I graduated from the Kansas State University social work program the previous May and was ready to take a break from school and gain some valuable experience. I was scheduled to leave for Lesotho, a small country in South Africa the following September but was soon rerouted to do my service in Botswana leaving in July. It was a last minute scramble to get me on that plane as I found out June 21st that I would be departing July 20th for my 2-year term with the Peace Corps. July approached and I was able to reach every deadline and was soon embarking on my journey to Gaborone, Botswana. After 3 months of training and staying with a host family, I was officially moved to my site where my work as a volunteer started. I live in a small village by the name of Nshakashogwe in the Central District of Botswana. I am placed at the Social and Community Development office and I work closely with the social worker for the village.



My service has been interesting so far because my role in the village is not to be a social worker. Peace Corps focuses on a capacity building approach which means I am hands-off when it comes to direct work. That isn't to say I am not using my social work skills everyday in some capacity. My role so far in my service has been to focus on integration and to assess the needs of my community. During this time, I have also focused on building relationships with community members and listening to what their vision is for their village to seek out opportunities for capacity building and implementing programs run by community members rather than run by me. In my role as a volunteer, I find myself taking a Macro approach and working within systems that are already there in my village and trying to improve programs or implement programs that the village might benefit from. I have used my social work skills to integrate into my community and it has been a very rewarding experience so far and I am excited to see what the rest of my service brings and the skills I use in the future.

I think so far my biggest takeaway and something that will determine how I practice is the concept of self-determination and the right for people to have an active role in the change they want to see. It is ineffective for me to implement programs on the basis that I know what's best for the village I have lived in for only 5 months. The community members know their village and their community and therefore are very equipped to affect change. This experience is more about walking together with my community to improve the community in a collaborative way. Being cooperative and having a teamwork mindset is so important. I think this will impact my future practice because whatever I do, I need buy in from the client/community. Improvement is a collaborative effort where people bring their strengths to the table to solve or work on an issue whether that's within a community for a systemic approach or directly between a social worker and client.

Meet the Faculty: Kristen P. Kremer, PhD, MSW

Kristen joined the Social Work faculty at Kansas State in Fall 2018. She teaches Social Work Practice 2, Macro Practice and Theory, Social Policy, and Social Welfare.

A native of St. Louis, Kristen recently completed her PhD at Saint Louis University. Her dissertation explored the process by which youth develop educational aspirations and enroll in college. Kristen's research continues to examine mental health and academic outcomes for at-risk populations, such as juvenile offenders, immigrants, and victims of violence.

Kristen's research and teaching is guided by her social work practice experience, in which she served for nine years as the Program Manager at KEEN St. Louis, a non-profit dedicated to empowering youth with disabilities through non-competitive one-to-one recreational activities. Kristen also worked with families involved with the child welfare system at Family Resource Center of Missouri.

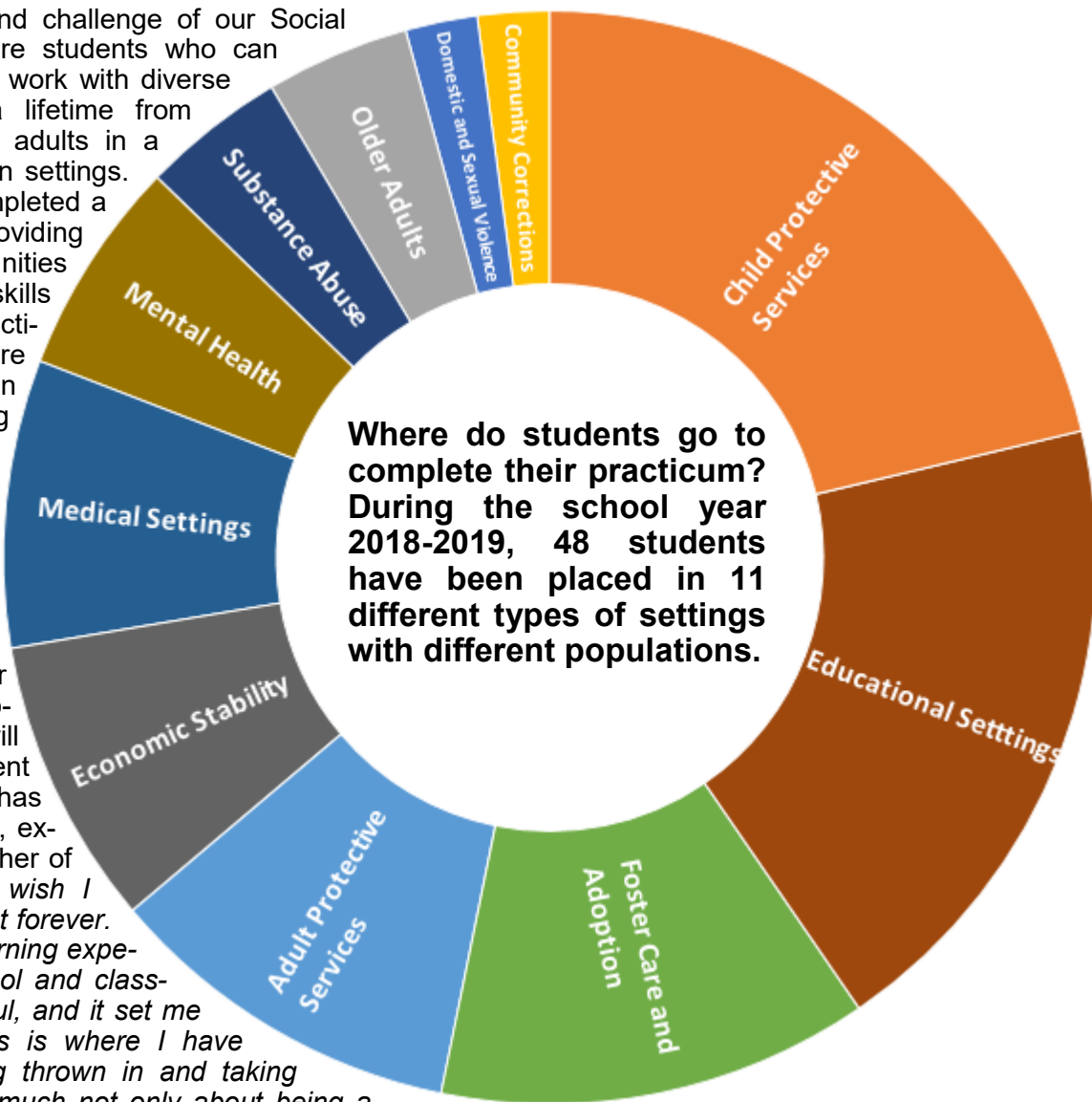


Spotlight on Field Education

Social workers are employed in almost any setting you can imagine. When you hear someone thinking about their future and they say, "I don't know exactly what I want to do, but I want to work with children...older adults...in the medical field...in probation or parole...with women...with men...with people with special needs," and the list goes on, social work could be a great fit for them. Social work is a profession that provides endless opportunities to serve vulnerable populations.

It is the responsibility and challenge of our Social Work program to prepare students who can effectively, and ethically, work with diverse populations spanning a lifetime from newborns through older adults in a myriad of rural and urban settings. Once students have completed a sequence of classes providing them with many opportunities to practice social work skills and prepare for a practicum, they spend an entire semester as a student in the field with a practicing social worker.

A full-time practicum is a unique, hands on, experience and one we are proud to have as an opportunity for our social work students. Lindsay, a student completing her practicum with Adult Protective Services who will begin full time employment in the agency once she has completed her practicum, explains the importance to her of the field experience: *"I wish I could stay in this moment forever. Practicum is the best learning experience I have had. School and classroom learning was helpful, and it set me up for success, but this is where I have learned the most. Being thrown in and taking risks has taught me so much not only about being a social worker but about myself."*



The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

(NASW, 2019)

K-State Polytechnic's Camp GROW Helps High School Students Develop Leadership Skills

The K-State Social Work Program embarked upon a new adventure in November – a youth leadership camp. Camp GROW (Girls Revolutionizing Our World) offered 85 women representing various Kansas high schools the opportunity to strengthen their teamwork, creative problem solving, and similar skills that tomorrow's future leaders will need to possess. The one-day camp, which took place on K-State's Polytechnic campus, centered around the 6 Social Work Core Values of Integrity, Human Relationships, Competency, Service, Social Justice and Dignity and Worth of the Individual. The camp – which had a



“no PowerPoint lecture” standard – also offered a number of interactive, thought provoking activities covering issues such as self-esteem, political advocacy, and peer pressure. In one such activity, participants found themselves in a position where they were asked to devise a plan to get needed food, clothing, and medical supplies to a community that had experienced a natural disaster. The creativity behind the activities was the result of the hard work put in by current social work students, graduates, and representatives from various Kansas helping professions. Another unique feature of the camp was that it was not only marketed to high schools, but also social service agencies that work with youth and families. One of the lucky participants also received a \$500 K-State Polytechnic scholarship.



Next year's camp is already in the works and promises to be just as successful. Camp WILD (Wildcats Invested in Leadership Development) will be open to 120 male and female high school students. The students will also be able to choose which type of leadership skills they want to enhance for the day: Leadership and Social Justice, Leadership and Service, or Leadership and Personal Wellness. All 3 tracks will be offered on the same day, which also means we'll be looking for community volunteers to join us in the planning process. If you're interested in learning more about the camp or more about our planning team, contact Cheryl Calhoun at cherylcalhoun@ksu.edu.

Faculty awarded grant to study health protective/risk factors among Korean Immigrant Elders

Jung Sim Jun, Assistant Professor of Social Work, was recently awarded a Faculty Enhancement Grant from the College of Arts and Sciences to explore risk and protective factors for gastric cancer among Korean immigrant elders. For the project, Sim will travel to California over the summer to conduct interviews with older adults in the Korean immigrant population. The findings of this research will provide critical information to develop a culturally/linguistically appropriate mobile health application for the population with the highest GC risk and incidence rates.

The study, entitled *Acculturative Stress, Protective/Risk Factors, and Gastric Cancer (GC) Health Literacy among Korean Immigrant Elders*, aims to understand 1) the relationship between acculturative stress and GC health literacy; 2) the roles of possible protective/risk factors (social support, experiences of health care, use of technology for health information, and cultural belief/barriers) on GC health literacy; 3) the roles, perceptions and experiences of using mobile health technology to promote GC health literacy among Korean immigrant elders.