



## **Child Welfare Certificate Information**

The GVSU School of Social Work has been endorsed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to offer its undergraduate students the option of receiving a Child Welfare Certificate (CWC) upon graduation. The purpose of the CWC program is to prepare social work students to provide effective child welfare services as degreed case workers in the field. As a recipient of the CWC, social work students will be given preference of potential employment with DHHS. CWC recipients will have received a foundation of experience and knowledge that will enable them to enter training at a later phase than new hires that do not possess a CWC. The CWC is good for one year from the social work student's graduation date.

In order to be eligible for the CWC, social work students must achieve a 3.0 GPA average for the last 60 credits of their studies and complete:

- SW 341 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
- SW 320 Child Welfare Policy and Practice
- SW 439 The Family and Social Work Practice

Additionally, social work students must complete a supervised, structured 400-hour Field Education Placement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, a private agency contracted with DHHS or a tribal child welfare program. During the internship, the student will be expected to complete online and classroom trainings pertinent to child welfare as well as complete learning activities that meet the practice behaviors and objectives that DHHS has established. These learning activities will be infused with the School of Social Work's learning contract. Students will be evaluated on their performance at the conclusion of each semester.

Interested students must complete the School of Social Work's CWC Application and submit it with their Field Education Application by the specified due date. Students are not guaranteed admission for the CWC program, as there may be a limited number of spots. The number of students admitted is based on the number of eligible field education placements available as well as the student's demonstration of commitment and personal and professional readiness to complete a child welfare field placement. The BSW Field Education Coordinator will notify students via email of their acceptance or denial to this program.



## Child Welfare Certificate Application

### I. Identifying Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Academic Information

Please indicate your Candidacy status:

Provisional Candidacy \_\_\_\_\_  
(I have **not** met all required pre- and co-requisites)

Full Candidacy \_\_\_\_\_  
(I have met all required pre- and co-requisites)

Please indicate the semester/year you plan to take: (these courses are required for the Child Welfare Certificate)

SW 341, Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (only offered winter semester) \_\_\_\_\_

SW 320, Child Welfare Policy and Practice (offered fall and winter semester) \_\_\_\_\_

SW 439, The Family and Social Work Practice (only offered winter semester) \_\_\_\_\_

In order to receive the Child Welfare Certificate upon graduation, students must have a 3.0 G.P.A. or better in their last 60 credits of studies. What is your current G.P.A.? \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. Short Answer**

a. Please describe any relevant child welfare experience you have (including volunteer work).

b. Why would receiving the Child Welfare Certificate be beneficial for you? Please describe your goals after graduation.

c. Please describe your understanding of child welfare with regards to child protective services and foster care. (i.e. What does a worker do in this field? What are the benefits of working in this field? What are the challenges?)

d. Why would you be an asset to the child welfare field? What are your strengths? What are your limitations?

#### **IV. Informed Consent**

I have completed this form as accurately as possible and understand that this application will be used to determine my participation in the Child Welfare Certificate program. I understand there may be a limited number of students that can participate in the Certificate program and am not guaranteed a spot in the Certificate program. I also understand that this information will be shared with potential Field Supervisors and I agree to the release of this information to them.

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(Signature of Applicant)

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(Date)

\*Applicants may be asked for an interview by School of Social Work Faculty\*