

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Masters Child Welfare Education Program (MCWEP)

Fact Sheet

The Masters Child Welfare Education Program (MCWEP) is a partnership among the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and a consortium of four New Jersey MSW programs—Monmouth University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rutgers University, and Stockton University. Expanding on the Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education Program with Stockton University as the consortium's Lead Institution, its purpose is to offer current Department of Children and Families supervisors and casework supervisors the opportunity to strengthen their skills in clinical social work practice and supervision, obtain an advanced credential in social work (MSW), and ultimately to enhance the capacity of the Division to deliver the highest quality services to the vulnerable children and families that it serves.

MCWEP Program Structure:

The program consists of three components:

1. **Enrollment in one of four New Jersey part-time MSW programs***
 - **Traditional MSW Program**, for individuals with a bachelor's degree with a major other than social work
 - Requires 60 credits of coursework, including 900-1125 hours of supervised field experience in an approved agency or institution
 - **Advanced Standing MSW Program**, for selected individuals who have completed a degree with a major in social work
 - Requires 30-39 credits of coursework, including 500-885 hours of supervised field experience in an approved agency or institution
2. **Participation in the MCWEP Learning Community**
 - Consisting of monthly online discussions and quarterly face-to-face seminars involving all enrolled MCWEP students
3. **Enrollment in MCWEP Electives**
 - **Child Welfare Leadership and Supervision** (to develop leadership skills and skills in providing clinical supervision to child welfare workers, including helping workers to develop the skills essential to planning and running successful family team meetings and working effectively with community resources)
 - **Trauma-informed Child Welfare Practice** (to develop knowledge and skills needed for working effectively with children and families that have experienced trauma as well as with child welfare workers exposed to secondary trauma)

Eligibility for the Program:

- DCPD Casework Supervisors and Supervisors are eligible to apply for the program. Non-CPP staff that are currently supervising, are supervisors with 3+ years of supervisory experience, or in a civil service title range 26 or higher, are also eligible to apply.
- Each year, 20 candidates will be accepted.
- Applicants must be in good standing and have no current disciplinary actions with the Department of Children and Families
- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- Applicants must agree to sign a legally binding agreement to continue their employment at DCF for one year for each year of support received.
- Applicants must meet admission requirements of the MSW program they choose to attend.

Application Process:

- Applicants must first apply through the Department of Children and Families by completing the internal application.
- If selected by DCF, applicants then apply to the MSW programs.

*A full description of the curricular structure at each MSW program will be provided at the information sessions. Generally students will be taking 2 courses each semester. Field arrangements vary considerably among programs. Visit www.stockton.edu/mcwep for more information.