

Welcome!
Social Work

A dark, textured cross is centered on a light blue background. The cross appears to be made of a rough, granular material, possibly sand or a mineral, with a dark brown or black hue. It has a simple, hand-made style with visible vertical and horizontal lines and some irregular edges. The background is a light blue color with a subtle, fine-grained texture, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric.

**To act justly
and to love
mercy and to
walk humbly
with your
God.**

Micah 6:8



Dr. Ling Dinse, MSW, LSW
Department Chair
Associate Professor of Social
Work

Professional Experience

- PA licensed social worker for over 25 years
- Enjoys academic research
- Over a decade of experience in undergraduate and graduate education

Education

- B.A. & M.S.W - State University of New York at Buffalo
- D.S.W - Millersville University

Research Interests

- Intentional dialogues
- Racial reconciliation
- Caring for human trafficking survivors
- Integration of social work and faith
- Relational healing
- Church trauma



Michelle Dixon George, M.S.W., LCSW, BCD
Field Director
Associate Professor of Social Work

Professional Experience

- 30+ years in clinical practice with children, adolescents, adults, families, and couples
- Outpatient counselor in a private practice
- 18 years of experience as a field director, equipping students for direct practice

Education

- M.S.W. (1994) Temple University School of Social Administration (clinical concentration)

Interests:

- Interprofessional Education (IPE)
- Clinical social work from a faith perspective
- Spiritual Formation
- Diversity and issues of reconciliation
- Treatment of clinical mental health disorders

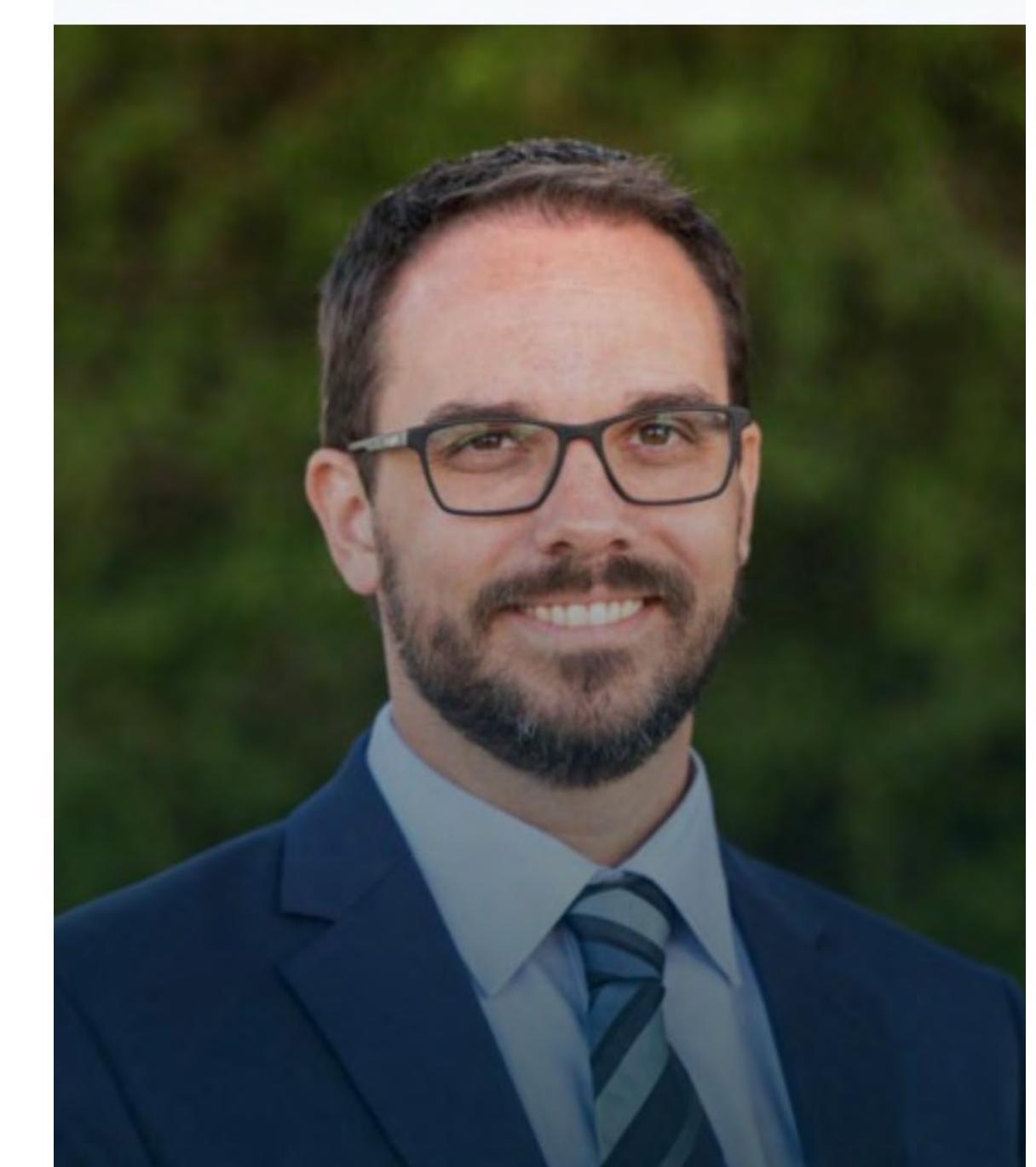
Our Contributing Department Adjuncts



Morgan Adams, MSW
Forensic Interviewer at a Child
Advocacy Center (CAC) in
Lancaster, PA.



Tara Piechowicz, MSW
Vice President at GSL
Government Consulting

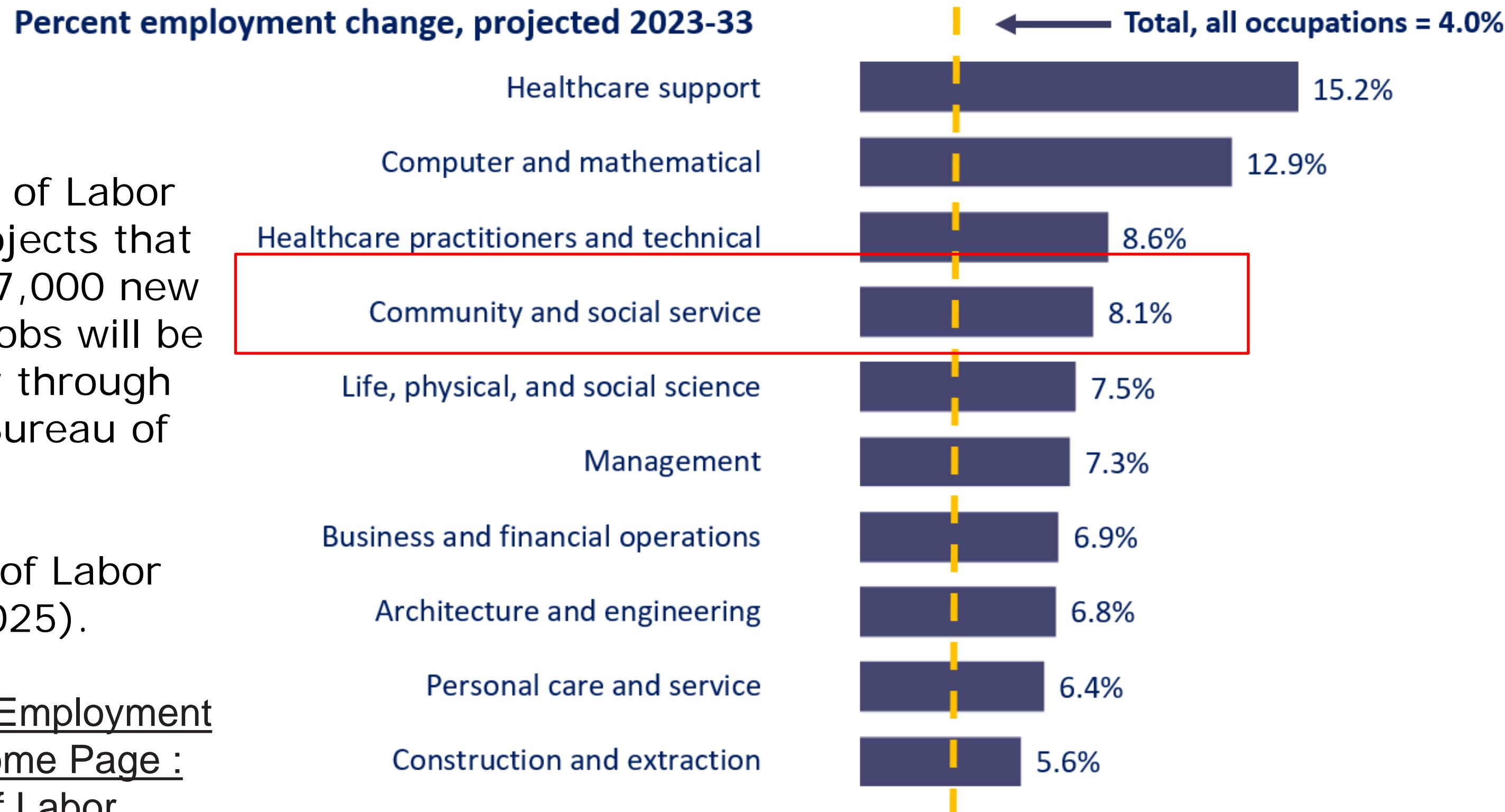


David Zilka, MSW, PCHA
CEO at Paxton Ministries

Top 10 Occupational Groups Projected to Grow the Fastest

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 67,000 new social work jobs will be added yearly through 2033 (U.S. Bureau of Labor, 2025)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025). Employment projections. [Employment Projections Home Page](#) : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics





Messiah social work program distinctive #1

Classroom learning is balanced with
practical experience



Service learning *and* social work

- Seven Required Courses: SOWK120, SOWK 221, SOWK251, SOWK361, SOWK476, SOWK372 & SOWK 490
- Developmental model
- Over 600 hours of community engagement
- Each component is tied directly to curriculum

Messiah has been nationally recognized by the **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** and the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for its commitment to service learning, community service and civic engagement.



First-year experience *in the community*

Volunteering in collaboration with the Agapé Center for Local & Global Engagement

- Paxton Ministries
- Salvation Army
- New Hope Ministries
- Messiah Lifeways
- Bethesda Men's Mission
- Center for Champions



Preliminary Practice

- Halifax School District
- New Hope Ministries
- Catholic Charities
- Bethany Village
- Logos Academy
- Grane Hospice

Second-year experience *in the community*



- Capitol Area Pregnancy Center
- Bethesda Women's Shelter
- Jewish Family Services
- Bair Foundation
- Families United Network



Third-and fourth-year experience *social work practice*

Groups

- Observing multiple sessions of community educational and treatment groups
- Developing and implementing groups serving the Messiah campus and surrounding communities



Third-and fourth-year experience *social work practice*

Communities and Organizations

Developing and implementing community projects

- Grant writing
- Program development and implementation
- Community assessment
- Community education programs



Fourth-year experience *social work practice*

Engaged in 450 hours of practice

- Dauphin and Cumberland County District Attorney's offices
- Children and Youth Services
- GSL Public Affairs
- Homeland Hospice
- Neighboring Communities
- Milton Hershey School - *Hershey, PA*
- Living and Learning East Coast (BUS)
- Pennsylvania Counseling Services of Central Pennsylvania



Messiah social work
program distinctive #2

integrating faith and practice throughout
the curriculum

RICHARD J. FOSTER

CELEBRATION
OF
DISCIPLINE

The Path to Spiritual Growth

MORE THAN 1 MILLION COPIES SOLD

Faith integration classroom:
each class incorporates a
spiritual development
assignment that allows
students to engage
with Richard Foster's book,
“*Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth.*”

Messiah's Spiritual development model

- Study
- Guidance
- Simplicity
- Celebration
- Meditation
- Confession
- Solitude
- Submission
- Worship
- Prayer

University foundational values

- *Importance of the person*
- *Unity of faith, learning and life*
- *Significance of community*
- *Disciplined and creative living*
- *Reconciliation*
- *Cultural intelligence*

Service

*the heart and
connection
of it all*

Social Work core values

- *Integrity*
- *Dignity and worth of person*
- *Importance of human relationships*
- *Competence*
- *Social justice*



Messiah social work program distinctive #3

- Inner city or international experiences
- Students may spend their senior field placement in an international social work agency

Social work specific programs:

- **Baltimore Urban Studies Program(BUS) Program**
<https://landli.org/locations/baltimore-urban-studies>
- **Chicago Semester** www.chicagosemester.org
- **Uganda Studies Program**
[https://www.ugandastudiesprogram.org](http://www.ugandastudiesprogram.org)
- **Living and Learning Ecuador**
<https://landli.org/locations/ecuador>



Messiah social work program distinctive #4



- Nationally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Eligible to take the BSW licensure test
- Earn an MSW in one year with advanced standing status (min. 3.0 GPA requirement)
- *Non-BSW grads enrolled in an accredited MSW program require two years, full-time to receive MSW.*



Social Work
program
goals

1

Develop competent social workers who critically evaluate, self-reflect and are self-aware of how their Christian faith informs their practice, while performing the duties of their vocation in a professional and ethical manner.

Program Goal

2

Develop social workers who engage the world to facilitate change through enhancing community and through actively engaging in issues to address social and economic justice in rural, urban and international settings.

Program Goal

3

Develop effective Christian social work leaders in the provision of micro, mezzo and macro programming who value integrity, service and the importance of human relationships in addressing human needs and the issues of the disenfranchised.

Program Goal

4

Develop Christian social workers who value empowerment and the strengths perspective in the application of skills and knowledge of generalist social work with systems of all sizes, while ensuring respect for clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.

Program Goal



Social work courses and curriculum

- Professionalism in Social Work
- Intro to Social Work
- Human Behavior
- Social Work Practice with Individuals
- Social Work Practice with Families
- Social Work Practice with Groups
- Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations
- Field Experience and Practice
- Engaging Diversity and Inequality
- Topics in Social Work
- Social Welfare Policies
- Intro to Social Work Research
- Seminar in Social Work Practice
- Introduction to Child Welfare (Elective)



Fall

- SOWK 099: Professionalism
- SOWK 120: Introduction to Social Work

Plan of study

— *Year 1* —————→



Spring

- SOWK 221: Human Behavior

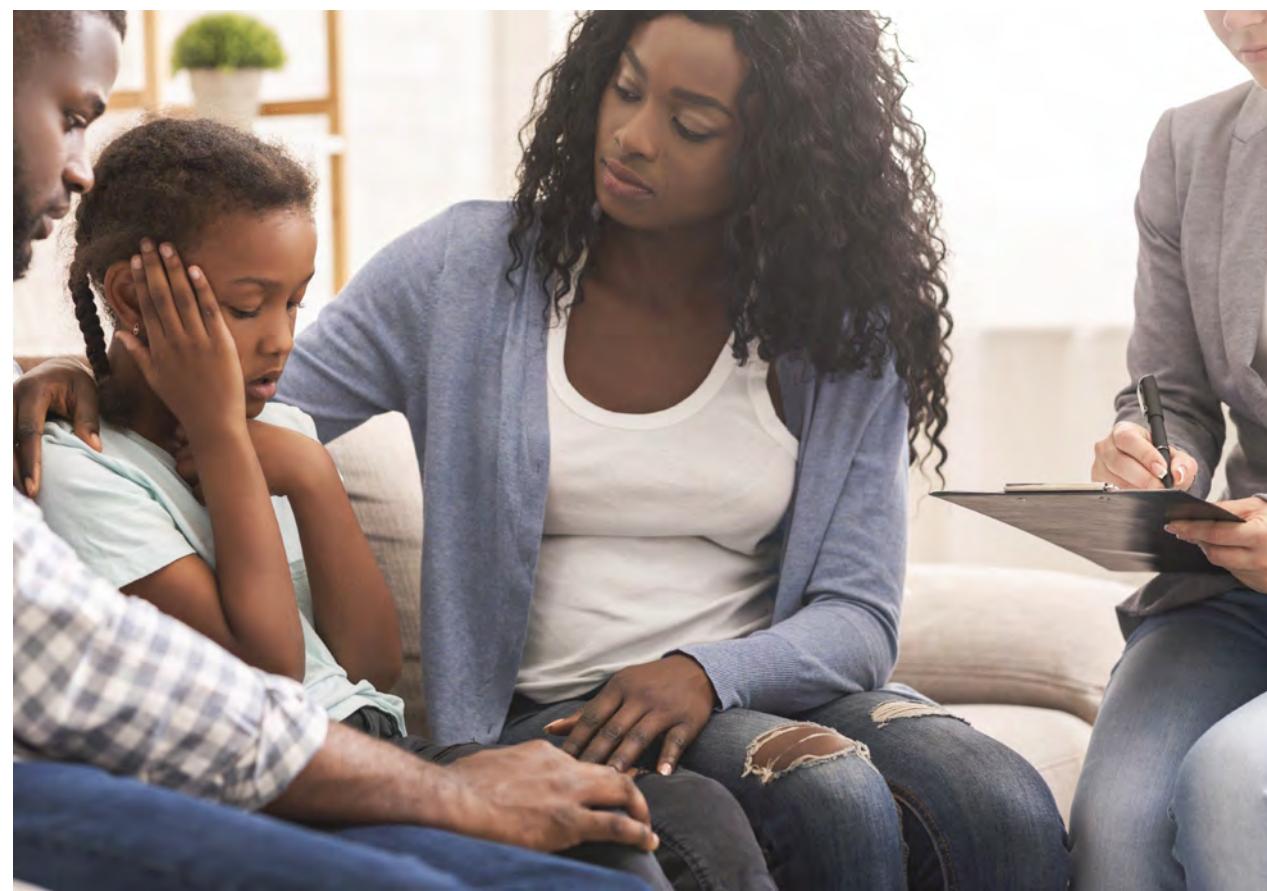


Fall

- SOWK 250: Social Work Practice with Individuals
- SOWK 251: Field Experience
- SOAN 356: Social Inequality

Plan of study

— *Year 2* —



Spring

- SOWK 360: Social Work Practice with Families
- SOWK 361: Field Experience



Fall

- SOWK 372: Practice with Groups
- SOWK 385: Intro to Social Work Research

Plan of study

— *Year 3* — 



Spring

- SOWK 382: Topics in Social Work
- SOWK 420: Social Welfare Policies



Fall

- SOWK 475: Social Work Practice with Communities
- SOWK 476: Field Experience with Communities and Organizations
- SOWK 484: Prep for Field Practice

Plan of study

— *Year 4* —



Spring

- SOWK 485: Seminar in Social Work Practice
- SOWK 490: Field Practice in Social Work



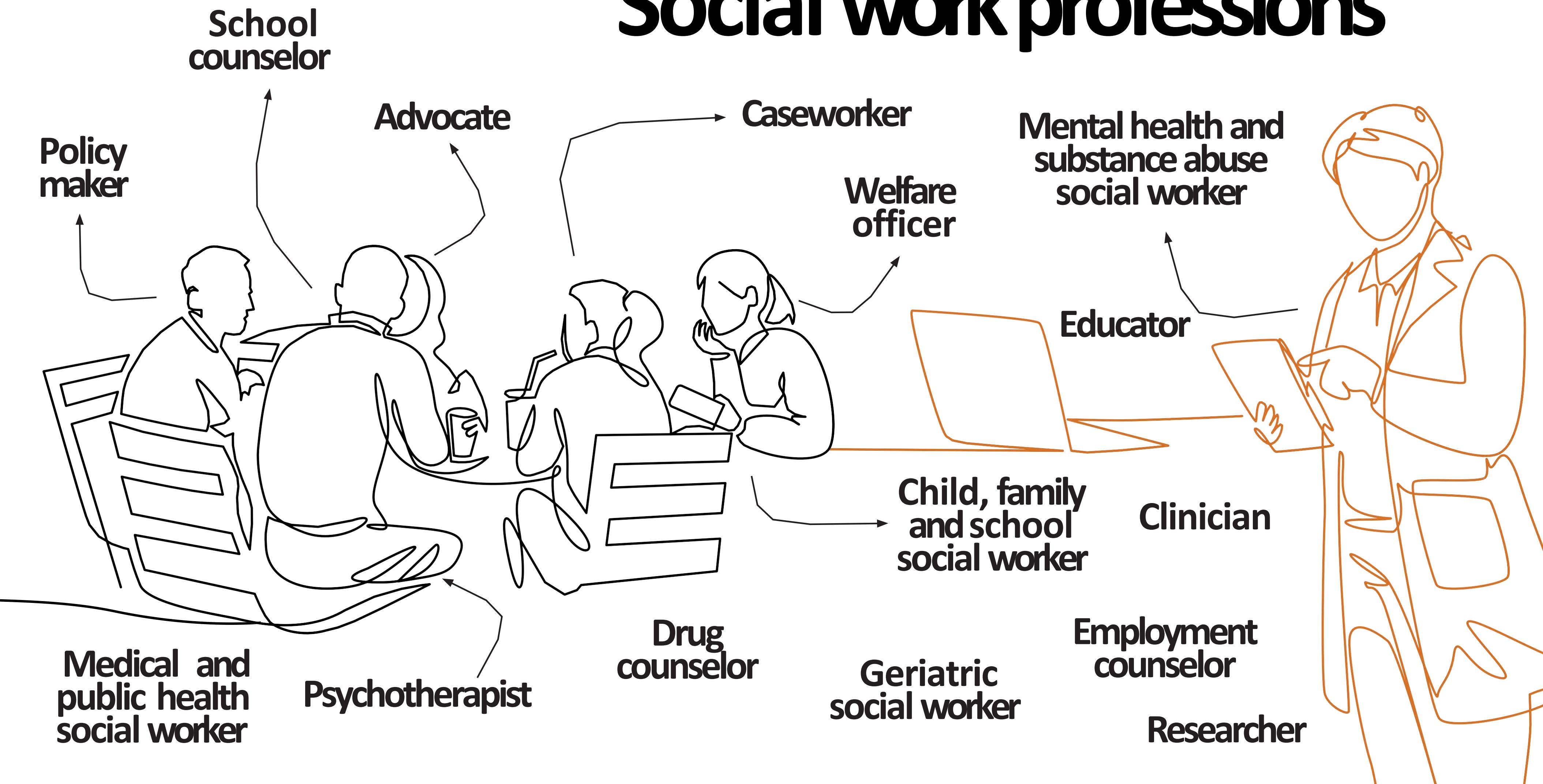
Our social work program *delivers excellent career outcomes*



“...I am forever grateful for how the department prepared me to always present myself as a confident professional.”

Lindsay Terry '20
Caseworker at Dauphin County Children and Youth

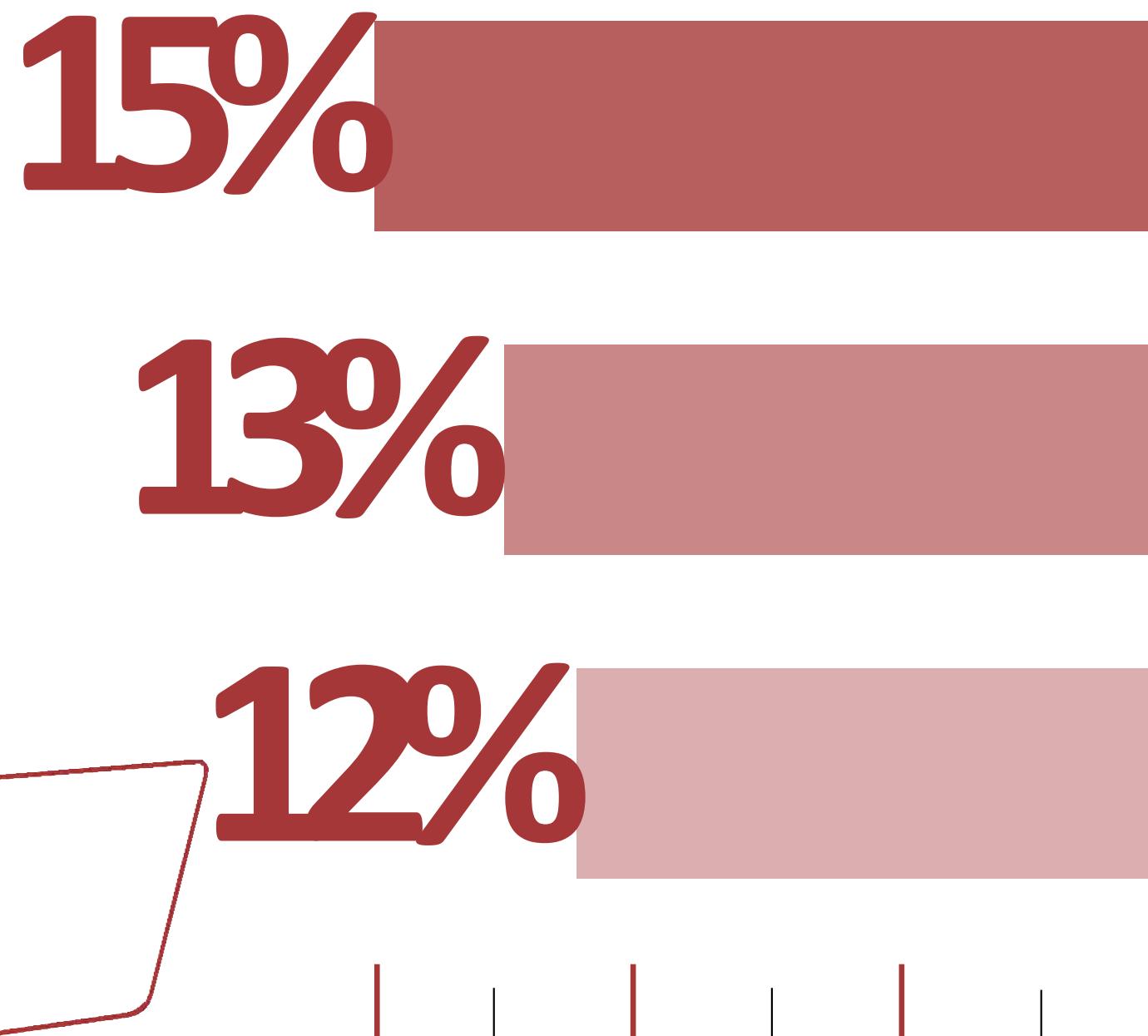
Social work professions



Job growth for social work grads



Faster than the average growth for most occupations.



Projected Growth in Social Worker Employment
from 2020-2030

Recent employers of Messiah's social work graduates:

- AmeriCorps: National Health Corps, Philadelphia, PA
- Church World Service, Lancaster, PA Clark County Food Bank, Portland, OR COBYS Family Services, Lancaster, PA
- Dauphin County Children and Youth Services, Harrisburg, PA
- Harrisburg School District, Harrisburg, PA
- ManorCare Health South, York, PA
- Mennonite Disaster Services, Lititz, PA
- Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia, PA
- The Bair Foundation, Harrisburg, PA
- Victim Services Division, Cumberland County District, Carlisle, PA
- York County Children, Youth & Families Services, York, PA



Graduate schools recently attended by Messiah's social work graduates

- Auburn University
- Edinboro University
- Fordham University
- Kutztown University
- Millersville University
- Monmouth University
- Morgan State University
- Rutgers University
- Shippensburg University
- Simmons University
- Stony Brook University
- Temple University
- University of Louisville
- University of Michigan School of Social Work
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee

Child Welfare Education For Baccalaureates (CWEB) Scholarship

- CWEB's goal is to strengthen public child welfare services in Pennsylvania by educating undergraduate social work majors interested in a career in public child welfare.

Participant Benefits

- Fully paid tuition and fees for your senior year
- Fellowship payments of \$600 a month for 8 months.
- Upon hire in a county child welfare agency: A bonus payment of \$640 or \$2,200 if completing a Civil Service Intern position (975 internship hours)
- \$100 book allowance for your child welfare class
- Smooth transition from student to employee: Training and child welfare internships are highly valued by counties looking for caseworkers
- \$200 reimbursement for LBSW registration and exam fees • •

Social Work Education Enhancement Fund

- Field education is the signature pedagogy for the social work degree
- Up to \$200/ semester to offset cost related to field work





Social work at *Messiah University*

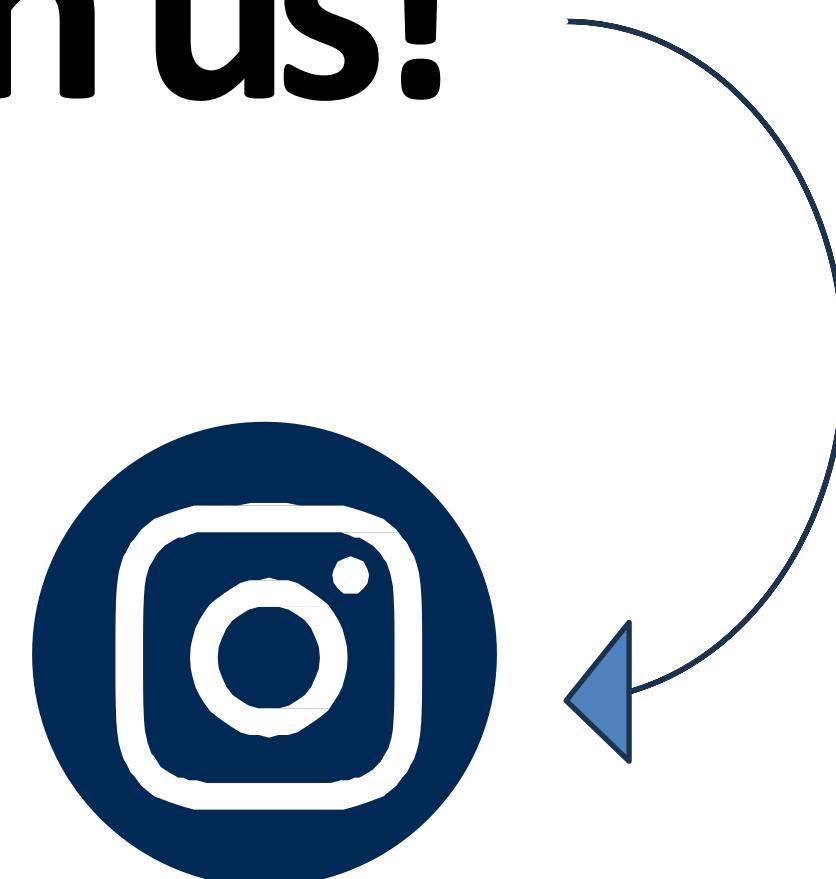
Learn more at
messiah.edu/socialwork



@SOWKrocks

Connect with us!

@messiahu_socialwork





Questions?

Contact

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