

MORE ABOUT THE HCSSW – SOCIAL GROUP WORK SEQUENCE



If you are interested in clinical and community work, if you are interested in developing an expertise in work with groups, this is the program for you. Do you love the idea of empowering people to help one another as they help themselves, of blending your attention to the psychology of people within the context of their daily lives? If so, then even if you're a little nervous about groups you are interested in majoring in social group work!

[NOTE: Social group work is considered as clinical practice, and courses qualify as clinical credits for your professional exam.](#)

One of a very few schools to offer this specialization, our graduates are uniquely qualified to use this growing service modality, which reflects the essential values of the profession in its strength-centered, holistic, and anti-oppression approach to helping. Teaching people self help and mutual aid through social group work...a beautiful way to help p!

Dominique Moyse Steinberg, Chair, SGW Practice Sequence

Hunter College School of Social Work is the leading education institution in social work practice with groups, making our graduates uniquely qualified for practice in this growing service modality. As a group work major you will develop an area of **expertise** making you **highly marketable** (1) as a **practitioner in direct practice** with individuals, families, and groups of all types, formed and natural - work and play; (2) as an organizational **administrator, manager, or supervisor** in charge of group tasks and productivity; and (3) as **valued consultant** to individuals and organizations of all types that use groups or wish to pursue innovation in group services. Situated amidst the most diversified city in the world, HCSSW makes it possible to learn this growing modality with people from all walks of life, enriching your potential to work in diverse settings and with diverse populations. In addition to intellectually and socially stimulating classes you will receive individual faculty advisement, finely crafted field instruction and supervision, opportunities to take electives in other methods, peer support from [HCSSW-GW Student Mentors](#), and opportunities to represent/help shape the sequence as HCSSW-GW Student Ambassador.

SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO MAJOR IN SOCIAL GROUP WORK?

People who select this method tend to either have a background in working with people in groups (such as camp counselors or teachers/teachers' aides or artists such as dancers or actors) or who are interested in professional practice in settings that traditionally lend themselves to providing services through groups (such as schools, mental-health clinics, day-treatment centers, community centers/settlement houses, child-welfare agencies, elder-care organizations, etc). Group work majors learn how to work with groups as systems. They also learn how to work with individuals as they strive to help groups meet the needs of their members. And they learn how to "hear" the potential for social action. Still not sure? Go to the [GW Faculty Page](#) and see what group workers do or to send us an email.

THE SEQUENCE AT A GLANCE

Mutuality and [mutual aid](#) in group life ~ Historical origins of social work practice and direct work with groups ~ Professional ethics, values, and knowledge bases to inform psychosocial practice with individuals and groups in diverse community and clinical settings ~ Characteristics of group development and implications for practice with groups as systems and with individual group members ~ Nature, impact, and role of external and internal group leadership ~ Skills in environmental, organizational, and individual assessment toward planning, formation, and direct practice ~ Skills of engagement, group problem solving, individual problem solving, and conflict management ~ Skills in the differential application of theoretical models, frameworks, and practice principles for meeting culturally diverse or special needs ~ Strategies for mediating, advocating, and innovating toward ethical and effective group services ~ Skill in developing group-appropriate content and in catalyzing the purposeful use of art and other special activities with widely diversified populations ~ Skill in purposeful use of self in practice

MAJOR CONCEPTS

Ethics, Values, Mutual Aid, Context, Climate, Leadership, Authority, Planning, Group Purpose, Group Development, Norms, Dual Focus, Roles, Problem Solving, Conflict, Time Management, Skill Building, [Purposeful Use of Activity](#), Self Reflection, Self Reference, Story Sharing

SOCIAL GROUP WORK ~ HELPING PEOPLE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY TOGETHER BETTER

[PLEASE NOTE:](#) Students are welcome to transfer into the SGW Sequence from other methods. However, if you are admitted as a SGW Major, you will not receive permission to transfer out of the Sequence. Thus, if you have questions contact Dr. Steinberg, Sequence Chair, at dsteinb@hunter.cuny.edu or at (212) 452-7041 (Better safe than sorry!).