Unique opportunity for social work students interested in careers in:

- social welfare research, evaluation of clinical and macro social work practice, national and international program development and administration and/or policy analysis

- The increased emphasis on accountability and evaluation is profoundly shaping social work practice. Social workers with research skills will be increasingly sought after for leadership roles.

- Fordham is unique in having a research concentration at the MSW level. Graduates in this program have a wide range of career opportunities.

- The concentration also provides excellent preparation for students considering a future PhD program.

- For students focusing on program administration/development, opportunities exist to combine field and educational experiences in both Research and Leadership, providing the skills needed to be effective in the development and management of programs. These students may also consider a dual MSW/MPH degree in collaboration with Mt. Sinai School of Public Health.

- Both currently enrolled and Advanced Standing students are strongly encouraged to consider choosing the Research Major.

From our Graduates

“Through the advanced training in research methods and opportunity to gain experience in conducting research, I developed skills that enabled me to get a great job at the Vera Institute of Justice, where I applied the skills I learned at Fordham to create system and policy change in the justice system. When I later continued on for my Ph.D., I found that my experiences at Fordham provided me with an excellent foundation to pursue doctoral studies.”

Kathryne Brewer, Class of 2008

“I’m having a great time (studying in the doctoral program and working as a graduate research assistant), because this is exactly what I want to be doing and I feel very well prepared for the doctoral program.”

Kerrie Ocasio, Class of 2008

“My experience in the research concentration was superb because I received a lot of attention from my professors due to the small class size and I was able to take a lot of electives, which enabled me to add to my research skill set. My thesis project gave me the opportunity to experience all phases of a research study from beginning to end and to apply my coursework to real world situations.”

Saadiq Bey, Class of 2013

“The Research Concentration gave me the knowledge, skills, and experience in research methods, statistics and program evaluation that translated into a career in research. I had an excellent field placements that provided real world experience in developing and implementing a program evaluation. As the trend of social work agencies having to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs to funders, these skills are increasingly valued by employers.”

Liz Seidel, Class of 2009
Plan of Study for the Social Work Research Concentration

Required courses include:
- Advanced Research I & II
- Introduction to Statistics

Research Electives at GSSS may include:
- Program Evaluation
- Program and Proposal Development
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Intermediate Statistics

Additional choice of electives available at:
- Fordham University
  o Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
  o Graduate School of Education
  o Graduate School of Business Administration
- Mt. Sinai School of Public Health

Field Placements in the Social Work Research Concentration

Students are placed in research settings for their field placements. They may choose to spend up to 1/3 of their time engaged in clinical or administrative work. Field placements in the last five years have included:
- ACRIA, Behavioral Research in HIV/AIDS
- Brooklyn AIDS Task Force
- Fontana Center for Child Protection
- Institute for Family Health
- Jewish Home Lifecare, Research Institute
- Mt. Sinai Hospital
- NYC Department for the Aging
- NYS Dept. of Mental Health
- Safe Horizons
- Samaritan Village
- Vera Institute of Justice

Careers in Social Work Research

Positions held by Fordham MSW graduates with a Research Concentration within the last five years include:
- Manager for Research and Evaluation and Research Scientist, ACRIA Behavioral Research
- Project Director, Depression, Disability, and Rehabilitation Study, Arlene R. Gordon Research Institute, Lighthouse International
- Study Coordinator – Senior Center Evaluation Study, Fordham University
- Program Analyst, Fortune Society, Inc.
- Research Associate, Vera Institute
- Doctoral Candidates: Columbia University, Rutgers University, Fordham University, University of Maryland