

To APPLY

To apply for the Child Welfare Certificate, please complete the application available on our School's website at <http://socialworkcwi.fau.edu/child-welfare-certificate.asp> and email it to Tod Marshall at tmarsh5@fau.edu. The Child Welfare Certificate application must be submitted at least 4 weeks before graduation to ensure your transcript is updated. You should expect to receive your certificate 4-6 weeks after graduation. Dr. Heather Thompson is the faculty advisor for the Child Welfare Certificate and Director of the Child Welfare Institute. If you have any questions about the Child Welfare Certificate, please email Dr. Thompson at hthompson@fau.edu.

Please note that the Child Welfare Certificate through FAU is separate from the state certification in child welfare obtained during employment at the Department of Children and Families or a Community-Based Care agency and the Florida Certification Board.

PHYLLIS AND HARVEY SANDLER
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



Child Welfare Certificate

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PURPOSE

Child welfare training needs today have their roots in the growth of demand for services at the state level. Demand is reflected in the enormous rise in the number of reports of child abuse and neglect received by the state agency and the increasing complexity of cases. Additionally, the specialized training of social workers has been recognized by the State and social workers are sought for their skill set to work within the child welfare system. Recent legislation established a preference for social workers to be hired as child protective investigators and supervisors. This certificate was developed in response to this need and is a component of a partnership between the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work and the Florida Department of Children and Families. We are both committed to working together to make the lives of vulnerable children and their families better.



MISSION

The Child Welfare Certificate Program prepares Bachelor and Master-level Social Work students for a career in working with abused and neglected

children and their families. The certificate program provides a foundation of knowledge in clinical practice, policy, and programs that impact vulnerable children's lives. Students develop practice skills in areas relevant to:

- Child and Family Assessment
- Child Development
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Trauma-informed Care
- Family Violence
- Child and Family Mental Health
- Dependency Court Systems
- Interviewing Techniques for Children
- Intervention Strategies for Children and Families
- Child Welfare Policy
- Child Maltreatment Prevention

Students develop these skills through in-class instruction and the completion of a required field placement in a child welfare agency. Internships are structured to provide students with direct child welfare experience along with the knowledge base provided by University curriculum. As social workers with a Child Welfare Certificate become a greater percentage of the workforce, it is expected that the quality of services to children and families will improve.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

This certificate program is open only to social work students at both the Bachelors and Masters levels. Students who desire an experiential learning opportunity along with the acquisition of child welfare-specific knowledge are encouraged to apply for the certificate. Students are encouraged to identify the goal of obtaining a Child Welfare Certificate early in the course of study in order to have time to fulfill the course and internship requirements.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE

Upon completion of the following requirements, the student will be awarded the Child Welfare Certificate:

1. Completion of all requirements for a Bachelor's or Masters in Social Work
2. Completion of course Child Welfare (SOW 4650/6656) with a grade of B or higher
3. Completion of course Vulnerable Children (SOW 4654/6653) with a grade of B or higher
4. Completion of internship placement with the Department of Children and Families or an agency approved by the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work that has contracted with DCF to provide services to a child welfare population

ONLINE CERTIFICATE OPTION

In addition to in-person class options for this certificate, the Child Welfare Certificate is also available fully online to our graduate students. Please see <https://fauelearning.com/faonline/portfolio-items/child-welfare-certificate-online/>

Professor Joy McClellan is the contact for the online certificate: jmcclel2@fau.edu

