

## About the Child Welfare Certification Pathway

BSW students interested in a career in child welfare have an innovative opportunity through a partnership with Eckerd Connects, the community-based care organization for Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The USF School of Social Work and Eckerd have teamed to create a pre-service program for those interested in becoming a Certified Child Welfare Case Manager.

In their final semester as a BSW, students may apply to the project, where they will take an elective Child Maltreatment course and do a paid practicum inside the Eckerd Connects System of Care. Upon completion of both the courses, applicable students will take the Florida Certification Board Examination that upon passing will certify the student as a Child Welfare Case Manager. Once the student has passed both courses and the examination, they may obtain employment within the Florida Eckerd Connects system. Students must maintain adequate grades, pass the examination and be in good standing with both the School and Eckerd to receive a final employment offer.

## Study Pathway

### **Classroom Based Course (Tampa campus)**

#### **Child Maltreatment SOW 4930/6930**

#### **3 credit hour elective course**

This course is designed to provide students with pragmatic knowledge, skills and values in the area of child welfare. During this course students will learn about the historical, theoretical and political environments that affect our child welfare system. Areas that will be explored include child development, child maltreatment, family dynamics and system responses all framed through a trauma focused lens.

### **Field Experience SOW 4510**

#### **9 credit hours**

The field education experience will be within the Eckerd System of Care in one of their Case Management Organizations. The primary focus will be learning the day to day hands-on activities in Florida's Child Welfare System. Your USF Field Instructors in the agency will all be trained to ensure your experience will be consistent with future employment expectations as well as USF Field Instruction Policy.



## Pathway to Employment

This partnership is designed to end for the BSW upon graduation with job placement in the Eckerd Connects System of Care. Candidates who successfully complete all phases of this pathway will be offered a full time case management job at one of the participating case management organizations. Students will enter the workforce trained and ready to begin upon their hiring date. Students will have the opportunity to interview at locales where job openings are available and where students have an interest. Participating agencies include: Devereux (Hillsborough), Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services (Hillsborough), Directions for Living (Hillsborough and Pinellas), Youth and Family Alternatives (Pasco), and Lutheran Services Florida (Pinellas).

## Pathway to a Stipend

The 460-hour field experience will be paid at \$10 per hour for a total of \$4600 for the semester.

## Pathway to Case Management Certification

All participating students will take the Case Management Certification exam from the Florida Certification Board at the end of the semester, allowing them to graduate with provisional Child Welfare Case Management Certification upon passing.



For additional information, contact:

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