



UNIVERSITY of

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

College of Behavioral & Community Sciences

School of Social Work

# CERTIFICATION CHILD WELFARE

**NOW OFFERED AT THE SARASOTA-MANATEE CAMPUS!**

## About the Child Welfare Certification Pathway

BSW students interested in a career in child welfare have an innovative opportunity through a partnership with Children's Network and Family Support Services of Suncoast, the community-based care organization for Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Pasco, and Polk counties. The USF School of Social Work and community-based care agencies have teamed up 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 approved system of care case management organization. Upon completion of both the courses, students will take the Florida Certification Board Examination that 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 local system of care. Students must maintain adequate grades, pass the examination, and be in good standing with both the school and their placement to receive a final employment offer.

## Study Pathway

### Child Maltreatment (SOW 4650)

#### Classroom-Based Elective Course (Tampa campus)

#### 3 credit hours

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 require the field placement within the designated system of care in a case management organization. The primary focus will be learning the day-to-day hands-on activities in Florida's child welfare system. USF field instructors in the agency will all be trained to ensure students' experiences are consistent with future employment expectations as well as USF Field Instruction Policy.



## Pathway to Employment

This partnership is designed to end with job placement in the regional system of care. Candidates who successfully complete all phases of this pathway will be offered a full-time case management job at a participating case management organization. Students will enter the workforce trained and ready to begin upon their hiring date.

## Pathway to a Stipend

The 460-hour field experience will be paid at a range of \$10–\$18 per hour for a total between \$4,600–\$8,280 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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*Engage, Educate, and Empower*