At the UW School of Social Work, we are dedicated to cutting-edge research, teaching excellence, and strengthening our commitment to the communities we serve. We champion the role of science in accelerating social good and the importance of trust in sustaining partnerships that create real and lasting change.

Today, we are redefining student engagement, elevating public service, demonstrating socially responsible research, and building authentic relationships with our community partners. Our foundational tenets of economic, social and racial justice drive everything we do and advance our greater goal of equity for all.

At a Glance

Michael Spencer, Dean

A Focus on Equity and Social Justice

Our social work students are smart, dedicated and passionate about social change. Almost half are students of color, making us one of the most diverse professional schools at the University of Washington. Top-ranked academic programs plus real-world field education opportunities prepare our students to become skilled social innovators with an unwavering focus on social justice.

$5.8 million in student support awarded annually

#2 in the nation

Best Graduate Schools

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2023

$35.4 million

Research and training funding (FY2023)
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Our teaching model of integrating practice courses with field-education experiences provides the skills and knowledge for specialized social work practice with a focus on leadership, evidence-based interventions and a deep commitment to diversity. Graduates go on to professional social work positions in a variety of fields, including health and mental health, child and family services, public social service organizations, public schools, and the criminal justice system. Many of our graduates are now leaders in social service agencies across the region and the nation.

A DIVERSE AND DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Our world-class faculty create an exciting and empowered space for learning, research and service. Highly diverse and widely recognized, they bring insight and perspective to some of the most critical social issues of our day, along with a deep commitment to nurturing culturally competent and passionate social work professionals.

RESEARCH THAT ACCELERATES CHANGE

We rank among the top schools of social work in the nation in research funding and faculty publications. Our more than a dozen research and innovation centers are widely recognized for their contributions to social work scholarship and the rich opportunities they provide to students at all degree levels to learn and apply the science that drives social change.