MS in Human Services

The Program
The goal of the Master of Science in Human Services (MSHS) program is to prepare outstanding human services managers, program developers, and planners. Our graduates are practitioners who understand the core values that guide practice, and who have the technical knowledge and skills needed for career advancement.

The curriculum is designed to offer practical knowledge in a variety of areas vital to the function of human services and nonprofit leadership professionals, including:

- Supervision
- Performance monitoring
- Leadership and organizational development
- Financial management
- Strategic planning
- Fundraising and grant seeking
- Research methods
- Ethical and legal issues

Student Life
Courses are offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings, with just one Saturday course, for the entire program. This convenient schedule allows students to more easily maintain both family life and full-time employment.

The program's small size and cohort model produce a unique educational environment where students benefit from personal attention to their needs and issues while enjoying access to the resources of a large university. Students and alumni of the program consistently mention how much they enjoy the camaraderie they feel in the classroom and the strong bonds they form with fellow students.

Our Students and Graduates
The majority of MSHS students are career professionals employed in various areas of human services. They provide direct care, advocacy, and administrative or planning services within social agencies. Graduates typically combine their own experience and the skills they acquire in this program to move into leadership roles within their agencies or to seek career advancement elsewhere.

A sampling of agency positions our alumni have held include social worker, therapy specialist, program specialist, director, programs monitor, and family interventionist. In addition to excelling within a state agency, an increasing number of our students use the knowledge and skills acquired in the MSHS program to create their own businesses as private providers of public services. Others pursue doctoral study in social welfare, social work, social policy, or public policy.

Degree Requirements
The MS in Human Services requires the successful completion of 12 classes and a capstone experience. Building on the intellectual and professional traditions of public administration, social planning, and social work, the curriculum includes:

- Six interdisciplinary core courses: policy, ethics, cultural competence, research, information technology, and legal issues
- Four courses in an area of concentration: Either Management, Planning, or a combination of the two
- Two elective courses: Either in Human Services or in another area of graduate study at UMass Boston
- The capstone which integrates the content of the student's learning in a final independent project focused on policy analysis and program development.

Faculty and Resources
Our faculty offer students their experience in a variety of fields, including planning, management, social policy, substance abuse, family violence, child welfare, criminal justice, research methodology, financial management, fund raising, and program evaluation.

The MS in Human Services program sponsors professional development workshops, which enable human services professionals to stay abreast of the newest technology in the field, as well as personal development events that attend to the challenging life/work/school balance of a working graduate student. Students also have opportunities to make professional contacts and to explore new areas for career advancement.

Assistantships
A number of part-time graduate assistantships are awarded based on ability and financial need. Each student awarded an assistantship may receive a partial tuition waiver and a small stipend in exchange for assisting a faculty member with his or her research.

For More Information and To Apply
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