

MSW Mission statement

At MBU, our MSW program is on-line, our teaching is hands-on, and our commitment is all-in, supporting each learner to accomplish their unique social work career goals through flexible, supportive, and individualized professional education. Our mission is to develop resilient, self-aware, advanced generalist social workers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to tackle challenging problems.

We take a relational approach to all that we do, investing in meaningful connections among faculty, students, and our practice community, and preparing students to build collaborative, strengths-based relationships with those they serve. From our small program community, to the beautiful geographic communities of the Shenandoah Valley, to the many places and spaces where our students live, identify, and work, we believe that change happens through relationships of authenticity, respect, trust, and shared commitments to bringing about positive change.

Because social workers are called to practice in a world of endless variation in how people live, the challenges they face, and the goals that inspire them, a hallmark of our program is our emphasis on developing empathy, critical thinking, and a broad toolkit of knowledge, skills, and approaches. Our students explore different ways of thinking about social problems and the person-in-environment, and develop individualized orientations to practice that reflect social work values, ethics, and research knowledge; the students' own well-reasoned perspectives; and abiding humility about how much we always have to learn from and with each other.

There are many ways that social workers make a difference, and the MSW program at MBU prepares each learner to help move the profession forward, contributing to what we know, what we do, and who we are as a helping profession.