



The School of Social Welfare utilizes a variety of means to assess the work of the school. These efforts have resulted in changes to our curriculum, scheduling of courses and in creating new programs and activities.

*1. Alumni Survey:* During the 2007-08 academic year, the school initiated a survey of alumni. The results of the survey were compiled and made available to the faculty during the Spring 2009 semester. The Curriculum Committee of the school was responsible for reviewing the results of the survey as part of the ongoing evaluation of the BSW and MSW programs.

The administration and faculty of the school recognize that feedback about our programs from the alumni is a vital component of the school's assessment process. The alumni are able to provide the unique perspective that comes from time and experiences in social work practice after having left the program. As such, the school is committed to continuing a regular outreach to alumni in order to receive this kind of feedback. In addition, alumni surveys have been conducted of cohorts of students; for example, those who have completed specializations within the MSW program. This additional focus has provided useful information for these unique components of our program.

*2. Yearly exit surveys of BSW and MSW students who are graduating from the program:*

As a means of improving the evaluation of program objectives in the BSW and MSW programs, the School of Social Welfare committed itself to a process of designing and implementing a system of exit surveys to be given to BSW and MSW students who are near the end of their two year program. The design phase of this process began in the 2004-05 school year and was first implemented at the end of the 2005-06 school year. The surveys use a Likert scoring system to ask for student feedback in each of the program objectives for the two degree programs. A separate survey was designed for the BSW program and the MSW program since the objectives in the two programs are not identical. Both the quantitative results (in the form of frequency tables for each of the program objectives) and qualitative results are shared with the faculty during Faculty Senate meetings and have been reviewed by the Curriculum Committee of the school.

This effort has resulted in a yearly survey conducted six months following graduation to obtain information regarding employment trends. This effort has produced the added benefit of maintaining ongoing communication and email links with our alumni. In addition, the School is currently collaborating with other New York State Schools of Social Work and the New York State Office of the National Association of Social Work

(NASW) to compile information on all recent graduates regarding their employment status. This information will provide useful aggregated workforce data and it will provide our ability to compare our outcomes with other New York State Schools of Social Work.

3. *Current student surveys are conducted regarding topical issues.* The School of Social Welfare conducted a survey of its students in the Spring 2012 semester to learn about students' scheduling needs and preferences. Results from our BSW and MSW students revealed information regarding factors affecting students' choice of class schedule, as well as students' preferences regarding scheduling times. The survey enables the school to incorporate this student feedback into future class planning.

4. *Agency directors and field instructor surveys:* Agency directors and field instructors who receive our students for clinical placements were surveyed to ascertain the fit between our students' preparedness for social work practice and to identify whether there are areas in current practice that require additional attention. The fit between the changing demands of clinical practice and how the curriculum responds to these demands is an ongoing issue. The results of this survey enabled a change in our curriculum offerings. Respondents were also asked to comment on ways the School can respond to their programmatic needs.