

PHD PROGRAM: SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Living Proof.



*“When you live in a remote area,  
people are harder to reach.”*

RODNEY HARING

LIVING PROOF

Understanding how people in remote locations access a social worker can be a real challenge. As a member of the Seneca Nation, Rodney Haring knows this all too well. “In many native communities across North America, there is no qualified social worker available,” he says.

That’s why Rodney is researching emerging online social work techniques. He has been gathering data with an eye toward helping to develop policies and procedures that might be adopted by the social work profession at large.

“Using these online tools will eliminate distance barriers,” he says. “Social workers will be able to reach out to native and aboriginal communities around the world.”

Rodney Haring, PhD Student

“Applied research is at the heart of what we do. The PhD program's academic excellence stems from its flexibility, its interdisciplinary focus, and its close links to the community. Real-life opportunities coupled with courses from and contacts with scholars from other departments provide a blend of academic/community partnership that makes our PhD program unique.”

Howard Doueck, Professor



## FROM ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE TO REAL-WORLD CHANGE

The challenge: to make a difference in the world.  
The passion: to discover and share new knowledge.  
The solution: the PhD Program in Social Welfare  
from the University at Buffalo.



UB's PhD in Social Welfare is a highly flexible and individualized program that you can tailor to meet your personal interests and needs. Our intimate size offers a supportive setting with face-to-face contact and mentoring.

### Achieving research excellence

The PhD program in social welfare develops graduates who are capable of:

- Examining social problems
- Evaluating intervention strategies
- Understanding the impact of social services and social policies
- Conducting independent research

Working closely with faculty who are experts in their fields, you'll benefit from hands-on experience, collaborating with distinguished faculty as a fellow researcher on projects in the following areas:

- Trauma
- Addiction
- Child welfare
- Multiculturalism
- Group work
- Gender issues
- Mental health
- Aging
- Developmental disabilities

Many of our students are interested in preparing for careers as faculty-researchers. So we make teaching opportunities an integral part of your program through teaching-assistant positions in our professional degree program.

### Strong interdisciplinary emphasis

The PhD Program in Social Welfare is a "committee degree." The committee for each PhD student consists of:

- A chairperson from the School of Social Work
- A social work faculty member
- A faculty member from another academic department

The program offers core required seminars and a research internship in social work. You will also consult your committee about selecting electives, at least two advanced courses in statistics, and advanced research methodology courses from the following departments and schools:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Educational psychology
- Political science
- Law
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Planning
- Psychiatry
- Social and public health
- Nursing

### ADMISSIONS

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- MSW from an accredited school
- GRE scores
- Three letters of reference
- Essay on research interests

### A smart financial perspective

We fund many accepted students for the first three years of the program. As a new student, you'll have the opportunity to work on one of the school's research projects or in an agency or institution in the Buffalo area. Once you advance in the program, you'll have opportunities to further interact with graduate students and faculty through teaching courses in our MSW program.

### Great graduate housing options

The University at Buffalo offers a variety of student housing options for those who prefer to live close to where they study, conduct research, and attend class. Flickinger Court, Flint Village, and Creekside Village provide incomparable campus housing for graduate and professional students. Those who wish to experience an urban, off-campus setting can log on to the computer-generated listings from the off-campus housing division of Sub-Board I (a not-for-profit student services corporation). For more information on graduate student housing go to [www.grad.buffalo.edu/admissions/housing.shtml](http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/admissions/housing.shtml). Housing in Buffalo is remarkably inexpensive compared to other major cities.

OUR GRADUATES ARE  
LIVING PROOF THAT OUR  
PROGRAM WORKS

**Kimberley M. Zittel-Palamara, PhD '03**

Assistant Clinical Professor, CARES Program  
Coordinator, University at Buffalo, School  
of Dental Medicine



Kim studied the psychosocial contributors of runaway and homeless youth's nutritional intake from a social work perspective. She found that youth who were identified as homeless, throwaway, physically abused by a mother, or neglected by a father had the worst nutritional intake patterns of all the youth in the sample.

*"Working one-on-one with faculty who were conducting their own projects provided me with the skills to complete my own analyses. The endless hours of support, encouragement, and tutelage from my committee chair not only helped me to complete the program, but also modeled to me a standard of excellence that I am now able to pass on to my students."*

**Carolyn Hilarski, PhD '01**

Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute  
of Technology



Carolyn examined the relationship between exposure to victimization and conduct disorder in youth aged eleven years. She found that victimization exposure within the previous year was a significant factor in predicting conduct disorder.

*"I was enthusiastic about my exposure to renowned clinicians and researchers who enriched my academic experience with real-life narratives. Today I am rewarded with high praise from my dean for my sense of values and ethics—planted in me by the dedicated professors at UB's School of Social Work."*

**Robin Ersing, PhD '99**

Assistant Professor,  
University of South Florida



Robin conducted a study of urban inequality and adjustment to environmental stress. She found that people who had access to fewer resources were more likely to perceive neighborhood crime to be bad enough to make them desire to move, a fact that could impact the redevelopment of vulnerable communities.

*"The program's research practicum allowed me to put my classroom learning into action and to establish a record of publication. The supportive guidance and mentoring from the faculty helped provide me with the skills necessary to launch a career as a social work researcher and educator."*

**Lisa Rapp-Paglicci, PhD '98**

Associate Professor,  
University of South Florida



Lisa conducted an investigation in the area of urban youth violence. She studied the behaviors of violently victimized youth prior to their being shot, stabbed, or otherwise assaulted.

*"The School of Social Work faculty worked diligently and made their program come alive. As a professor, I hope I can assist my students in the same supportive and dedicated way."*

**Catherine N. Dulmus, PhD '98**

Associate Professor, University of Tennessee



Catherine investigated the subtle effects of community violence on youth. In comparing symptoms of distress in a group of African American children whose parents had been victims of community violence with the symptoms of distress in a group of children whose parents were not victimized, she discovered that the trauma-related symptomatology in the former group was higher.

*"The true test of my doctoral education came upon graduation when I hit the academic job market. I recognized immediately that I had been well prepared to compete for social work faculty and research positions nationally. My publishing and conference presentations, along with research practicum and teaching experiences, set me apart from many entering the job market."*

**Peter Lyons, PhD '99**

Associate Professor,  
Georgia State University



Peter studied the treatment of potentially victimized children. He investigated how a certain type of risk-assessment diagnostic instrument could improve the ability of child-protection workers to judge whether children were at risk for abuse and in need of protection.

*"One of the major strengths of the program is the multidisciplinary approach to doctoral education. My committee consisted of internationally renowned scholars not just from social work but also law, sociology, and psychology. I graduated with nine publications, had nineteen interviews at the CSWE APM, and received numerous job offers."*

**UB** SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
University at Buffalo The State University of New York

685 Baldy Hall

Buffalo, NY 14260-1050

Phone: (716) 645-3381 (Local) 1-800-386-6129 (Toll-free)

Fax: (716) 645-3456

E-mail: [sw-info@buffalo.edu](mailto:sw-info@buffalo.edu)

<http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/admit>

## **The University at Buffalo: excellence on every level**

The University at Buffalo is New York's premier public center for graduate and professional education, and the state's largest and most comprehensive public university. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, UB stands in the first rank among the nation's research-intensive public universities. Its public mission of outreach to community, state, and nation ties a significant portion of its research and education efforts to the needs of society.

The faculty in UB's twelve professional schools, including the School of Social Work, and their counterparts in the university's College of Arts and Sciences, have established an outstanding record of research, scholarship, and creative activity. Interaction among the university's professional schools and arts and sciences faculty gives graduate education at UB a particular richness, which is further enhanced by an annual enrollment of nearly 2,000 international students—80 percent of whom are graduate students.

## **Buffalo: alive and thriving**

With a population of more than a million, the greater Buffalo area offers a wealth of scenic, recreational, and cultural opportunities. Buffalo has a first-rate symphony orchestra, a renowned collection of twentieth-century art in its Albright-Knox Art Gallery, a vibrant theater district, a beautiful waterfront, the NHL Sabres, and NFL Buffalo Bills.

We're also proud to be a part of another North American culture—Canada—just across the Niagara River. Nearby Niagara Falls is a constant draw for visitors from all over the world. Plus Toronto, now one of the great cosmopolitan cities of the Northeast, is only two hours away by car.

Buffalo's weather is moderated by Lake Erie, which is responsible for the region's beautiful snowy winters. Summers in Buffalo are, by measures of sunshine and temperature, the most pleasant in the Northeast. From sailing and jet-skiing in the summer to snowboarding and skiing in the winter, there's something for everyone in Western New York.

