



# SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH Centennial Commemoration

Division of Social Work, School of Economics, 1918 - 1922  
 Division of Social Work, Department of Sociology, 1932 - 1938  
 School of Applied Social Sciences, 1938 - 1947  
 School of Social Work, 1947 - 1957  
 Graduate School of Social Work, 1957 - 1971  
 School of Social Work, 1971 - present

- 1904            Courses offered: Political Economy; Sociology
  
- 1905            Courses offered: Political Economy; Sociology
  
- 1906            Courses offered: An Introduction to Sociology; Problems of Sociology
  
- 1907            Courses offered: Sociological Theory; Sociological Field Work; Problems of Sociology
  
- 1908            Courses offered: Sociological Theory; Sociological Field Work; Problems of Sociology
  
- 1909            Courses offered: Sociological Theory; Sociological Field Work; Problems of Sociology; Race Development; Ethnology and Anthropology; Principles of Sociology; Statistics; Population and Vital Statistics; Social Economy; Research in Social Economy; Evolution; Race Problems in the United States
  
- 1910            June 6, a School of Economics is established at the University of Pittsburgh. The School was modeled after the London School of Economics, the recognized model of the day.
  
- 1911            A separate School of Philanthropy was proposed for the University, but did not materialize.
  
- 1914            Following the model of the London School of Economics the curriculum of which included social work, the Pitt School of Economics created a Division of Social Work and offered social work courses. The first of these offerings were: Evolution; Race Development; Race Problems; Social Economy; Research in Social Economy; Social Legislation; Social Settlements; Poor Relief; Theory of Sociology; Administration of Poor Relief; Principals and Policies of Population; Social Education; The Social Center; Social Reform; Contemporary Social Movements; The Family and Marriage; and Seminar in Sociology.

- 1915 Social work courses include: Principals of Sociology; Principals and Policies of Population; Social Economy; Social Progress; Social Reform; Problems of Child Welfare; Advanced Social Economy; Research in Social Economy; American Social Problems; Municipal Sociology; Community Center Work; Labor Problems and Immigration; Advanced Sociology; The Individual and Society; and Seminar.
- 1916 Social work courses include: Introduction to Sociology; Social Economy; American Social Problems; Municipal Sociology; Community Center Work; Labor Problems and Immigration; Advanced Sociology; The Individual and Society; and Seminar.
- 1917 Social work courses include: Introductory Sociology; Social Economy; Municipal Sociology; Community Center Work; Criminology; Labor Problems; Race Problems and Immigration; Advanced Sociology; The Child and the Community; The Family; Social Origins; and Seminar.
- 1918 The social work faculty expanded to include at least Dr. Francis D. Tyson, Helen Glenn Tyson, Dr. Joseph K. Folsom, John Yates, Judge William A. Way, Gustav L. Schramm, Sidney A. Teller, David Terry, Paul D. Coleman, Eleanor Hanson, Frederick Bigger, Frederick F. Jordan, Charles C. Cooper, Dr. Howard Woodhead, and Dr. Arthur Todd.
- Courses offered this year included Introduction to Sociology; Modern Social Movements; The Family; Race Problems and Immigration; Social Legislation; Philanthropic Administration; Public Care of Dependents, Defectives and Delinquents; Field Work in Medical Social Work and Public Health; Modern Social Reforms; Poverty and the Treatment of Delinquents; Crime and the Treatment of Delinquents; Health Problems and Medical Social Service; Child Welfare; Municipal Sociology; Housing and Town Planning; Community problems and Community Center Work; Industrial and Employment Problems; Social Progress; Field Work; Graduate Field Work; Technique of Social Case Work; and Seminar.
- 1919 The University of Pittsburgh receives its first social work accreditation. This came from the newly established Association of Training Schools for Professional Social Workers later the American Association of Schools of Social Work (AASSW). This was also the very first accreditation in social work awarded to any school and was awarded simultaneously to Pitt and eleven other schools. The others were Bryn Mawr College, Western Reserve University, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Missouri, Ohio State University, Simmons College, Smith College, the University of Pennsylvania and Virginia Commonwealth University.

- 1922 The University administration decided to redesign the School of Economics into a School of Business Administration and voluntarily withdrew from the AASSW. Social work courses disappeared from the curriculum.
- 1924 Social work courses begin to reappear in the curriculum. Eight courses including Functions and Administration of Social Agencies is one of the courses.
- 1926 Manuel Conrad Elmer is recruited by the University of Pittsburgh as Head of the Department of Sociology. Dr. Elmer's childhood schoolmaster was Jane Addams's father, "Doc" John Addams. Elmer had one of the first doctorates in sociology from the University of Chicago where he had come into contact with Grace and Edith Abbott, Sophonisba Breckinridge, Jane Addams and other leading progressives, social workers and social work educators. He believed strongly that social work was essential to society and a necessary component of any university. He immediately established a Division of Social Work in the Department of Sociology and offered courses at the master's level. Students were awarded the degree Master of Arts in Social Work. Initially, the courses included The Family; Functions and Administration of Social Agencies; Theories of Social Progress; and Psychology of Crime and Delinquency.
- 1931 By this time the enrollment and number of social work degrees offered had grown significantly. An Agency Advisory Committee was established for the Division of Social Work.
- 1932 Dr. Elmer recruited Dr. Marion Hathway from the University of Chicago. Edith Abbott and Sophonisba Breckinridge were her doctoral dissertation advisors. Her dissertation was "The Migratory Worker and Family Life."
- In May, Dr. Elmer corresponds with the American Association of Professional Schools of Social Work about "membership," the designation at the time for accreditation.
- 1933 On January 7, 1933, the formal application to the AAPSSW for "membership" was filed. The president of AAPSSW was Dr. M. J. Karph of New York and the secretary was Mary Burnett of the Department of Sociology at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh.
- July 1, Dr. Marion Hathway (MA, 1927; Ph.D., 1933, University of Chicago) joins the faculty of the Department of Sociology as an assistant professor at a salary of \$3,250. Hathway's charge was to get the social work program accredited again and to strive to have it established as a separate school. Agency/Community Advisory Committees on Group Work, Community Organization, Medical Social Work, Public Policy, and Administration were established. Child welfare becomes a major focus with courses and institutes.

July 19, a revised application for “membership” in the AASPSW is filed by Dr. Hathway.

December 6-10 Dr. Karpf makes site visit to Pitt and meets with Dr. Elmer, Dr. Hathway and others. December 13, Dr. Karpf writes to Family Society of Allegheny County with questions regarding field work. December 19, Dr. Hathway responds to Dr. Karpf’s questions.

1934 By April 19, there had been no AASSW action, so Dr. Hathway inquires. On May 17, Pitt submits further documentation; on June 6, Dr. Hathway responds to still further questions.

July 1, Dr. Hathway is appointed Assistant Director of the Division of Social Work.

January 9, Dr. Hathway active at state level in field of child welfare.

July 7, AASSW decides to recommend approval of Pitt’s application and on July 8 confirms this to Pitt by telegram. (Original in Hathway papers.)

1935 Dr. Hathway reports an unduplicated student enrollment to AASSW of 252 students (232 women and 29 men). October 28, Dr. Hathway writes to Chancellor John G. Bowman indicating that the AASPSW would act on Pitt’s regular “membership.” She informed the chancellor that Wilbur I. Newstetter of Western Reserve University would represent the AAPSSW in the site visit. Note: Dr. Sophonisba Breckenridge was the executive secretary of the AAPSSW and Dr. Marion Hathway was its secretary.

1937 Wilbur I. Newstetter chairs the second AASSW accreditation site visit team. AASSW meets in December to consider Pitt’s application.

1938 January 7 the Division of Social Work (in the Department of Sociology) was accredited by the AASSW retroactively to 1934.

August 1938, local Pittsburgh newspapers announce that the University trustees have approved the creation of a new school. The School of Applied Social Sciences is described as the University’s 18<sup>th</sup> separate school.

Wilbur I. Newstetter becomes the first dean of the new School and Dr. Hathway becomes the national Executive Director of the AASSW, but continues to work from her office at Pitt. At the same time, Dr. Hathway accepts an invitation to serve as a member of the Special Advisory Committee on Training and Personnel of the United States Children’s Bureau.

1938-1941 On June 12, 1939, University Chancellor John G. Bowman requests a grant of \$194,720 from the Buhl Foundation on behalf of the School. In June 1940 the Buhl Foundation responds with a grant of \$150,000 for a program in social

administration, a social work library, the creation of specialized training facilities, the development of an advanced program, and the development of interdisciplinary programs with law, medicine, business, political science, economics, psychology, sociology and others to focus on social welfare.

Newstetter, was himself a pioneer in several major developments in social work. In 1936, he wrote a paper “Community Organization Work and other Special Services.” At least as early as 1939, Dean Newstetter began teaching a course in “Intergroup Work” (Community Organization). In 1941, Newstetter wrote a paper “Teaching Community Organization in Schools of Social Work.” The culmination of this work was his seminal paper “The Social Intergroup Work Process” in 1947. Newstetter is credited with conceptualizing community organization and introducing it to the profession.

Aside from the historic importance of this new concept of “intergroup work” for social work, it is also of interest because it reveals the thread of thinking in group work which was developing at about the same time and from which community organization was derived. Certainly, the advocacy and organizing activities of social work did not begin with Newstetter’s paper. These activities were well established by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. What Newstetter added were such marks of a profession as a theory base and a formal curriculum.

Social group work as a formal, theory-based practice component of social work was likewise closely linked with Newstetter and the University of Pittsburgh. Indeed, the progressive and interdisciplinary Newstetter was a leader in the movement. In 1935, he presented a paper at a conference of the National Conference of Social Work in Montreal, Canada entitled “What is Social Group Work?” In 1936, he wrote a paper “The Group Work Field.”

Dr. Hathway returns to the Pitt Social Work faculty full-time Professor of Social Welfare and undertakes her new assignment to establish a doctoral program, known then as the “Advanced Program.”

- 1943           Advanced Program Committee created with Dr. Hathway as the chair.
- 1944           Proposed doctoral program submitted to the University trustees
- 1945           Doctoral Program approved by the University trustees and appears in the School Bulletin for the first time.
- 1946           First doctoral students admitted.
- 1938-1949    Diagnostic and Functional Casework debate raged. Pitt was a powerhouse during this time and one of the most important centers of the debate because of who was on the faculty. On the diagnostic side were William and Karl Menninger; Gertrude Wilson; Gladys Ryland; Eric Erickson; Benjamin Spock; Eleanor Cockerill and

others. On the functional side were Ruth Smalley (1903-1979) and Ruth Gartland (1893-1946). Wilson and Ryland co-authored a very famous group work textbook (Social Group Work Practice: The Creative Use of Social Process, 1949) that was the standard nationally for many years.

1949 Ruth Smalley completes her DSW at Pitt. (Dissertation title: “The Teaching of Social Casework: A Basic Process in Social Work Education”) The first two doctorates were awarded in 1949. The second went to Merrill Conover. Smalley’s *magnum opus* was Theory for Social Work Practice. Conover’s *magnum opus* was a co-authored book first published in 1942 that extended to five editions entitled The Field of Social Work. It was a standard text nationally for at least 30 years.

The “Great Schism of ’49.” By 1950 Smalley left Pitt for the University of Pennsylvania where she became Dean of the School of Social Work. Virginia Robinson and Jessie Taft were two of the Penn faculty most closely identified with the functional (Rankian) school of thought in social work at Penn. In 1950, Cora Kasius editd A Comparison of Diagnostic and Functional Casework Concepts published by the Family Service Association of America. This collection of articles by six Diagnostic (Freudian) clinicians and six Functional (Rankian) clinicians sought to clarify the issues that had split the Pitt faculty and the field.

1950-1951 United States Senator Joseph R. McCarthy attacked Dr. Marion Hathway. Allegheny County Judge Blair Gunther accused Hathway of teaching “young folks that there is something wrong with this country.” He also charged that, “She teaches in her classes that there are poor people in America.” Gunther demanded that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania cut off all aid to the University of Pittsburgh if Dr. Hathway was not fired. Chancellor Rufus Fitzgerald (after whom Fitzgerald Field House is named) and the University trustees declined to defend Hathway. In 1951, Hathway resigned and was hired at Bryn Mawr as Director of the Department of Social Economy, the predecessor to Bryn Mawr’s current Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Hathway’s successor at Bryn Mawr was Bernard (“Ricky”) Ross, a 1941 Pitt MSW graduate and one of Hathway’s students.

1958 Dean Wilbur Newstetter and the faculty formalize the School’s long established, national leadership in community organization to create a two-year concentration in community organization at the Master of Social Work level parallel in academic structure to the social casework and social groupwork concentrations. Meyer Schwartz joins the faculty in community organization.

1962-1963 Dean Newstetter retires and William McCullough becomes Acting Dean and later Dean.

1964 Doctoral degree changed from Doctor of Social Work to Doctor of Philosophy

- 1964 First (and perhaps only) MSW class with more men than women.
- 1950s-1960s The School concentrated upon expanding its enrollment, develop the major curricular emphases of the Master of Social Work program, and build the doctoral program which was converted to a Doctor of Philosophy program in 1964.
- 1967 Joint Master of Social Work/Master of Divinity degree program established with the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- 1969 A CSWE commission chaired of Pitt's chair of Group Work, Professor Erma Myerson, completed a study of the future of undergraduate social work education. At the time, there was loud debate between those who favored accrediting undergraduate social work education as the first professional social work degree and those who opposed it. This debate had been alternately simmering and flaring into the open since 1919. This difference of opinion was not resolved by the merger in 1952 of the American Association of Professional Schools of Social Work (which opposed undergraduate social work education) and a rival group, the National Association of Schools of Social Service Administration (which advocated undergraduate social work education) into the Council on Social Work Education. Professor Myerson was the consummate social work educator, master group worker and respected diplomat selected to attempt to resolve the conflict once and for all. The Myerson Commission was financed by the Heinz Endowments of Pittsburgh and paved the way for accredited undergraduate social work education. By that time more than 30 colleges and universities were already offering undergraduate social work education.
- 1970-1972 Dean William McCullough resigns and Morton (Moe) Coleman became Acting Dean
- 1972 David E. Epperson became dean. Epperson was the longest serving dean at Pitt and among CSWE accredited schools of social work at the time he retired in 2001.  
The Social Work faculty created an entirely new curriculum paradigm for the MSW program. For decades, the national standard among schools of social work and the Council on Social Work Education had consisted of Social Casework to which were later added Social Group Work and Community Organization or Community Organization and Social Administration. Pitt's new design began with four content or field of practice "clusters," "concentrations," or majors in Health and Mental Health, Children and Youth, Juvenile and Criminal Justice and Poverty and Associated Problems. Integrated across all four clusters were skill sets or "specializations" consisting of Interpersonal Skills, Research, Community Organization, and Administration, the latter two subsequently being combined. This curricular design was seen as a radical departure from traditional designs and

threatened the School's CSWE accreditation. However, it was eventually approved and then adapted by most other schools across the nation.

- 1973-1974 CSWE issued accreditation standards for BASW programs and in 1974 Pitt's undergraduate social work degree program was accredited. Pitt named its bachelor's social work degree BASW (Bachelor of Arts in Social Work) to emphasize the heavy liberal arts component of the required course work. Most other schools and the Council on Social Work Education refer to the degree as a BSW or Bachelor of Social Work degree.
- 1980s-1990s All three of the School's degree programs grow in enrollment and an unprecedented number of doctoral students are graduated. The continuing education program is developed and expands.
- 1995 Child Welfare Education and Research Programs created. Eventually the comprehensive model came to include Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL), Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) and the Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC). This is the second largest child welfare education, research and training program in the nation and one of the largest (if not the largest) externally funded projects at the University.
- 2001 Larry E. Davis became Dean of the School
- 2002 Center on Race and Social Problems created
- 2016 U S News and World Report lists the MSW Program as among the top 10 in the nation.
- 2017 Benchmark of 1 million professional social work and other license holders in Pennsylvania complete Child Abuse and Neglect training requirement on Schools Child Welfare Website.

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