



**2017 STATISTICS ON  
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

*Summary of the CSWE Annual Survey  
of Social Work Programs*



The Annual Survey of Social Work Programs (Annual Survey) is a census of social work programs in the United States and its territories conducted by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. Data collected in the Annual Survey are the primary source of information about social work students, graduates, and faculty members. In addition to advancing knowledge about social work education, the data are used to determine program membership dues for accredited baccalaureate and master's programs.

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# BACKGROUND

The 2017 Annual Survey was composed of five survey sections that gathered data on baccalaureate programs, master's programs, practice doctoral programs (e.g., DSW), PhD programs, and faculty members. The program sections included items on program structure and offerings, enrollments, and degrees awarded. The faculty section collected information about academic rank, professional education, and demographics of full-time and part-time faculty members; it also requested information about administrative titles and tenure status of full-time faculty members.

The survey was administered online through the survey platform, Zarca Interactive. On November 20, 2017, invitations to the survey were sent to all CSWE-accredited social work programs and to doctoral social work programs housed at institutions with CSWE-accredited social work programs (see Table

## PARTICIPATION RATE AND LIMITATIONS

Programs are not required to respond to most survey items and self-reported data may contain incomplete or inconsistent information across program levels and survey years. Researchers should exercise caution in data comparisons across survey year, program level, and survey item. This year's response rates were lower than previous years due to institutional spam filters blocking emailing containing survey links.

1) via email in the Zarca Interactive and a mass-mailing. The 2017 Annual Survey closed in March 2018.

When reporting the number of individuals from historically underrepresented groups, the categories of African American/ Other Black, Chicano/Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Other Latino/Hispanic, American Indian/Native American, Asian American/ Other Asian, Pacific Islander, Other, and Multiple Race/Ethnicity are used.

Truncated text of the survey questions is used in this report to conserve space. You can find a copy of the complete survey instrument on the CSWE website ([www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)). Any questions about this report or the Annual Survey can be addressed to [research@cswe.org](mailto:research@cswe.org).

**Table 1: 2017 Annual Survey Response Rate by Program**

|                          | Invitations | Completed Responses | % Responding |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>Baccalaureate</b>     | 518         | 474                 | 91.5         |
| <b>Master's</b>          | 255         | 235                 | 92.2         |
| <b>Practice Doctoral</b> | 12          | 10                  | 83.3         |
| <b>PhD</b>               | 77          | 68                  | 88.3         |
| <b>Faculty</b>           | 579         | 496                 | 85.7         |

# BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

## BSW AT-A-GLANCE

### PROGRAM OFFERINGS:



Total Programs  
**518**



Certificates  
**24.9% (117)**

### STUDENTS:



Total Enrollment  
**60,306**



from historically underrepresented groups  
**45.4% (27,394)**

### GRADUATES:



Average loan debt  
**\$27,902**



Average with loan debt at graduation  
**78%**

There were 518 baccalaureate programs at the time of the survey and 474 participated (91.5%). Programs reported a total enrollment of 60,306 enrolled students with the majority of those being enrolled full-time (87.5%; 52,745). Programs had an average of 116 full-time enrolled and 19.9 part-time students. Fewer than half of baccalaureate programs offer a part-time program (44.2%; 208 programs). Twenty-one baccalaureate programs offer their entire program online (4.5%).

The majority of full-time BSW students are female, under the age of 25, and White (non-Hispanic). Full-time students from historically underrepresented groups comprised 44.9% (23,718) of the total enrollment.

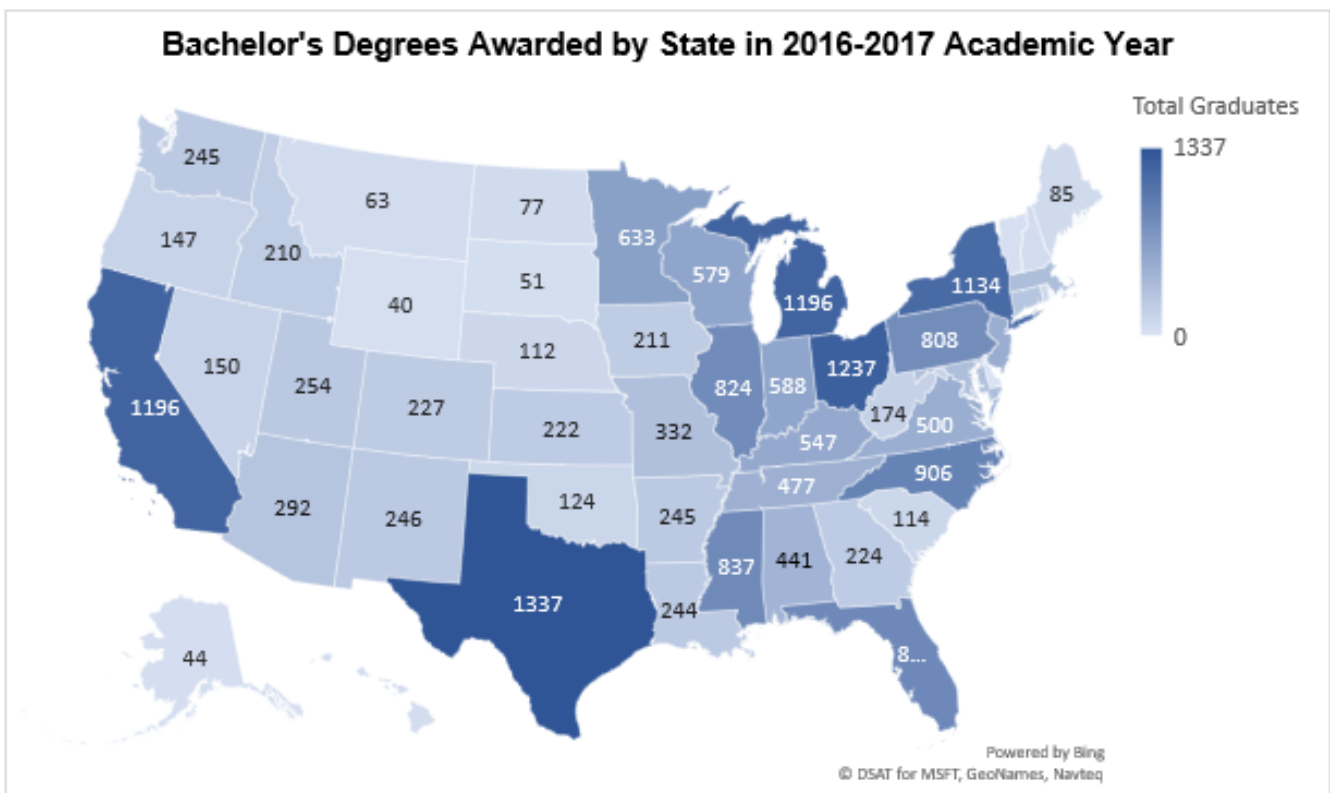
Part-time students, like full-time students, are predominantly White (non-Hispanic) and female. However, part-time students are slightly older, with many between ages 25–34 (32.8%). These patterns are similar to BSW part-time programs in 2016. As in 2016, part-time programs had a greater proportion of students from historically underrepresented groups (48.6%; 3,676) than full-time programs.

### TOP CERTIFICATES OFFERED

|                                     |   |                                  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>CHILD WELFARE</b><br>45 programs | <b>AGING/GERONTOLOGY</b><br>37 programs | <b>ADDICTIONS</b><br>28 programs | <b>SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK</b><br>12 programs |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|

Child Welfare (45), followed by Aging or Gerontology (37), Addictions or Substance Abuse (28), and School Social Work (12) were the top certificates offered. These were also the top four certificates in 2016. In addition to the certificates above, some programs (6.3%; 27) reported an Other certificate type; topics specified under Other include trauma, Spanish, and leadership studies. Almost 25% (117) of the BSW programs reported offering one or more certificates.

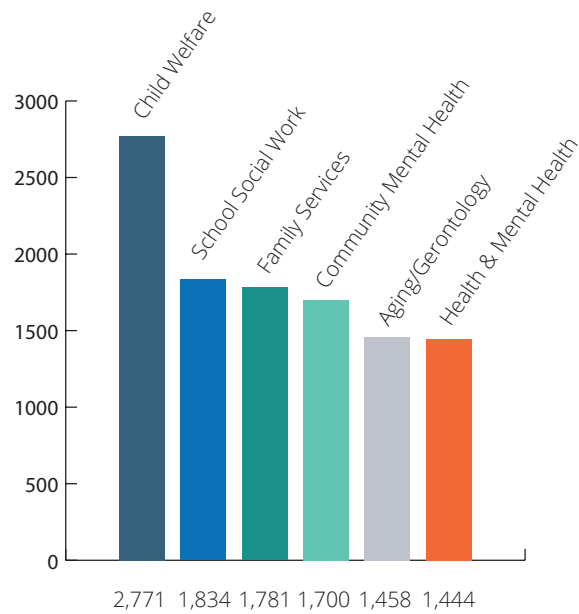
When looking at the total enrollment of BSW students by state, the states with the highest enrollment are Texas (3,720), Ohio (3,289), New York (3,191), and Michigan (2,894). A full listing of the enrollment by state is available in the appendix.



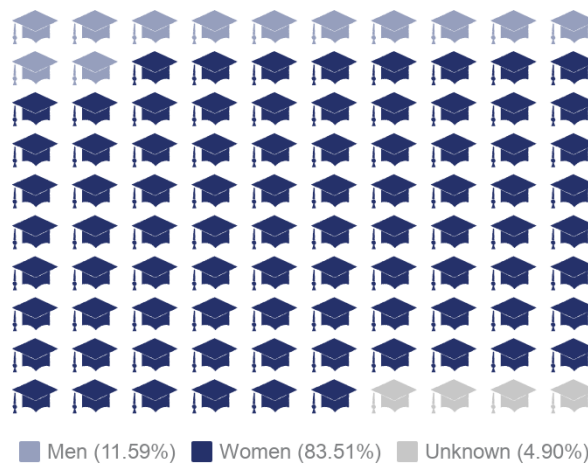
When looking at number of graduates by state, Texas had the largest number of BSW graduates (1,337), followed by Ohio (1,237), and California and Michigan (1,196).

### FIELD EDUCATION: TOP PLACEMENTS

Total students reported in field: 17,582



### Gender of BSW Graduates



Programs reported a total of 20,295 degrees awarded in the 2016–2017 academic year. Most graduates were female, between the ages of 20–24, and White (non-Hispanic). Forty percent (40.4%; 8,198) of the graduates were from historically underrepresented groups.

# MASTER'S PROGRAMS

## MSW AT-A-GLANCE

### PROGRAM OFFERINGS:



Total Programs  
**255**



Certificates  
**47.2% (111)**

### STUDENTS:



Total Enrollment  
**63,569**



from historically underrepresented groups  
**41.3% (26,262)**

### GRADUATES:



Average loan debt  
**\$44,296**



Average with loan debt at graduation  
**77.7%**

There were 255 accredited master's of social work programs at the time of the survey; 235 participated in the survey for 92.2% response rate. Programs reported a total enrollment of 63,569 students with the majority being enrolled full-time (64.8%; 41,186), although the split between full-time and part-time is more even than at the BSW level. Programs had an average of 188.9 full-time enrolled and 109.7 part-time students. Forty-four programs offer their entire program online (19%).

The majority of full-time master's students are female (85.3%) and White (non-Hispanic) (50.8%). In age, 40.4% (16,653) are 25–34 years old. Full-time students from historically underrepresented groups comprised 39.7% (16,353) of the total enrollment.

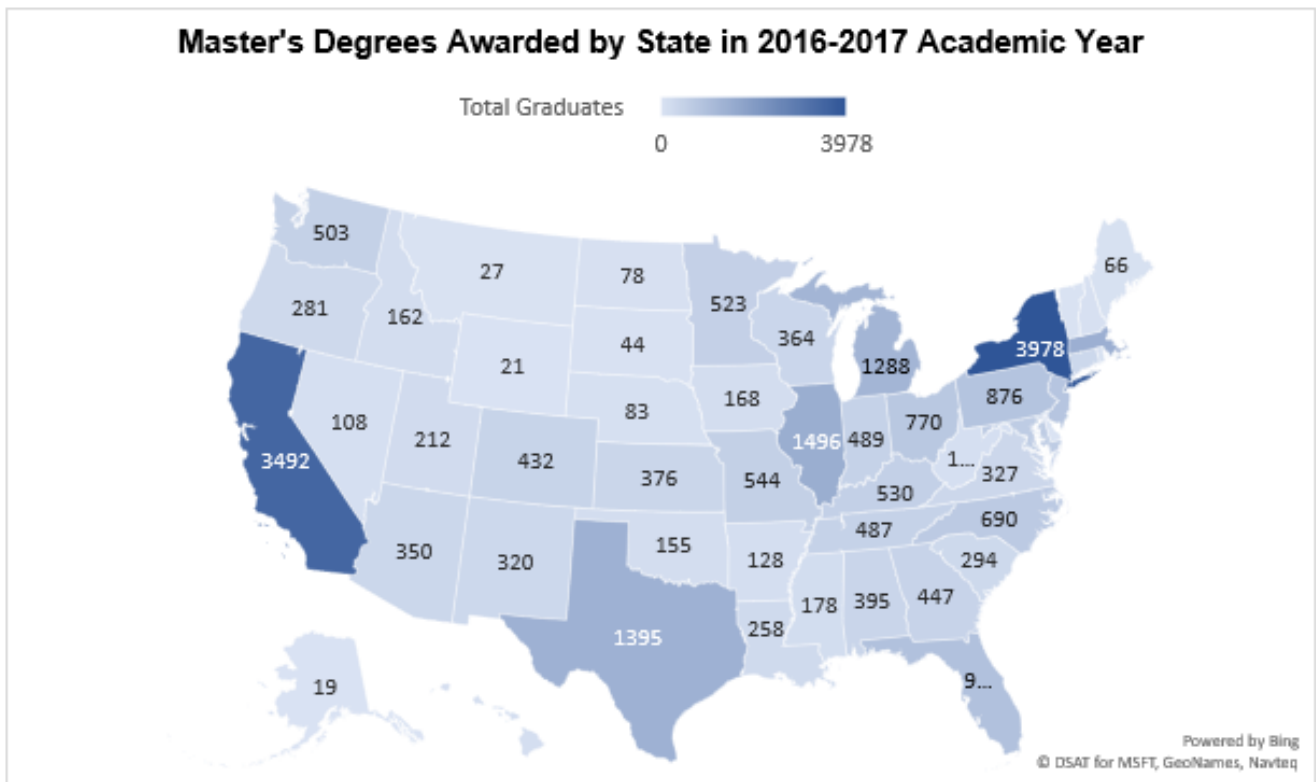
Most master's programs offer a part-time program (87.9%; 204 programs). Part-time students are predominantly female (85%; 19,026), age 25–34 (47.7%). Part-time programs had a greater proportion of students from historically underrepresented groups (44.3%; 9,909) than full-time programs.



### TOP CERTIFICATES OFFERED

|  |  |                                  |  |                                     |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>AGING/<br/>GERONTOLOGY</b><br>47 programs | <b>SCHOOL<br/>SOCIAL WORK</b><br>42 programs | <b>ADDICTIONS</b><br>23 programs | <b>NONPROFIT<br/>MANAGEMENT</b><br>21 programs | <b>CHILD WELFARE</b><br>19 programs |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|

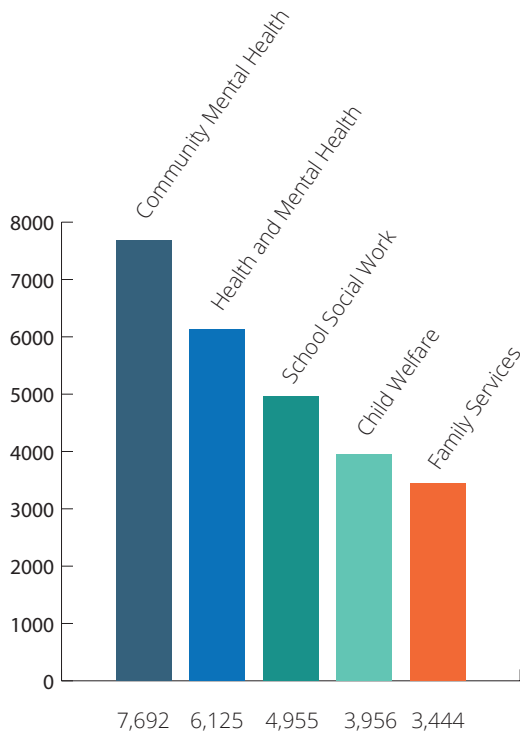
The top five MSW certificates offered in 2017 are Aging/Gerontology (47), School Social Work (42), Addictions (23), Nonprofit Management (21), and Child Welfare (19). These were the same top five certificates offered in 2016. Forty-seven percent (111) of MSW programs offered one or more certificates.



New York (3,978), California (3,492), Illinois (1,496), and Massachusetts (1,443) had the most graduates. A full table of master's program degrees and enrollment by state can be found in the report appendix.

### FIELD EDUCATION: TOP PLACEMENTS

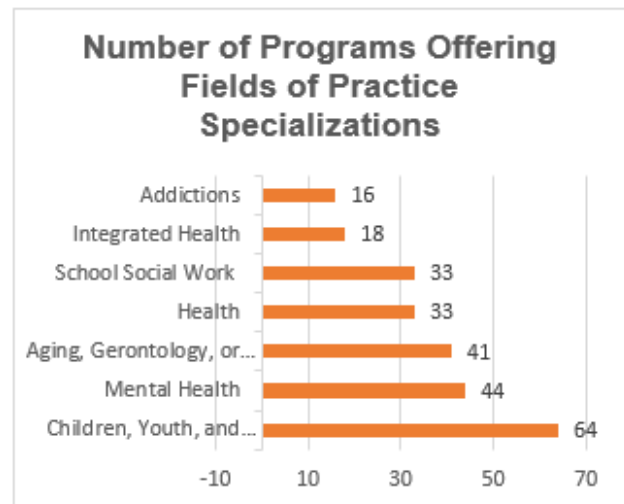
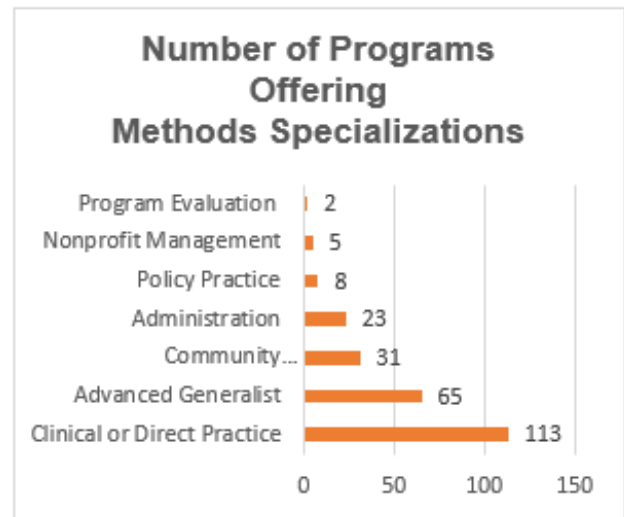
Total students reported in field: 42,884



In 2017 the most popular field education practicum was community mental health, or mental health (7,692). Other popular field education practicums were health/integrative health and mental health (6,125), school social work (4,955), child welfare (3,956), and family services (3,444).

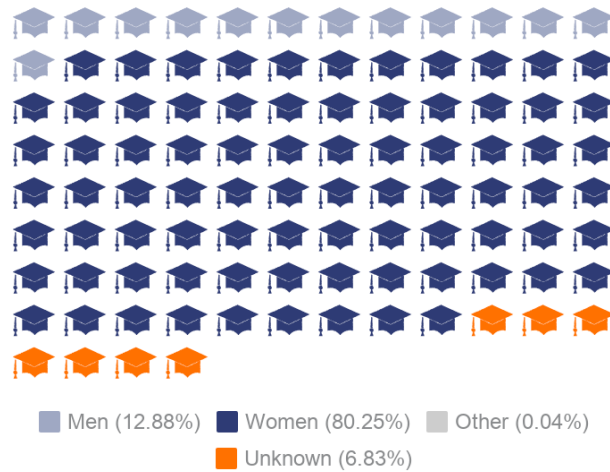
Programs were asked to identify the methods and field of practice specializations offered. Clinical or direct practice was the methods specialization most frequently offered (113), with the highest enrollment of 20,150 in 2017.

The second most offered methods specialization was advanced generalist (65), followed by community development, organization, or planning (31), and administration (23).



The field of practice specialization most frequently offered in 2017 was children, youth, and families (64), with an enrollment of 6,585.

## Gender of MSW Graduates



Programs reported a total of 27,270 degrees awarded in the 2016–2017 academic year.

The majority of graduates were female (80.2%), ages 25–34 (44.3%), and White (non-Hispanic) (49.5%). The proportion of graduates identifying with a historically underrepresented group was 36.1% (9,853). There were 6,986 advanced standing MSW degrees. There were also 409 international graduates.

# PRACTICE DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

## DSW AT-A-GLANCE

PROGRAM  
OFFERINGS:



Total Programs

12

STUDENTS:



Total Enrollment

1,052



from historically underrepresented groups

50% (527)

GRADUATES:



Average loan debt

\$61,647

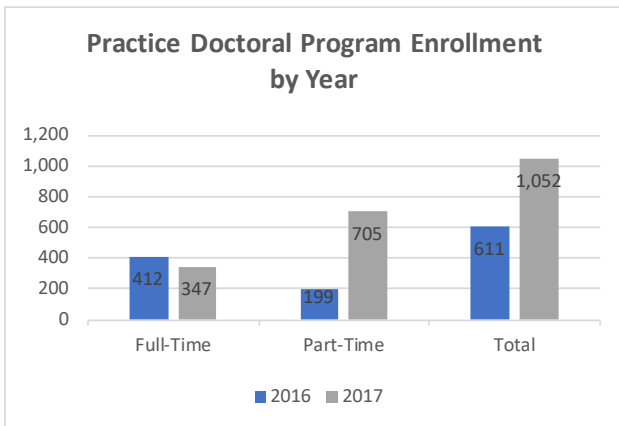


Average with loan debt at graduation

51.4%

There were 12 practice doctoral social work programs at the time of the survey; 10 participated in the survey, for an 83.3% response rate. Programs reported total enrollment of 1,052 students with 33% of those being enrolled full-time (347). Programs had an average of 38.5 full-time enrolled and 80.9 part-time students. Half of the practice doctoral programs (50%) offer a part-time program.

The number of practice doctoral programs has been growing. The master's program survey included a question about how many programs had a practice doctoral program planned; three reported they were planning to launch a program by the next academic year, and 15 within the next 2 academic years. Of those programs offering an applied degree or that are still in the planning stages (30), 13 (43.3%) are planning a clinical focus, three general, three teaching, four administrative, and six other.

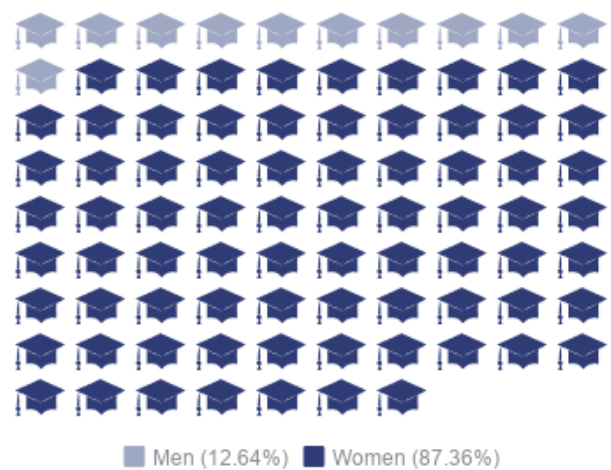


The majority of enrolled practice doctoral students are female (84.8%). In age, 39.3% (413) are 45 years or older. Students from historically underrepresented groups comprised 50% (527) of the total enrollment. It should be noted that two programs accounted for more than half (65.6%) of the enrolled students from historically underrepresented groups and 74.7% of all African American/other Black enrolled students. Six Practice Doctoral programs offer the entire program online (60%).

| Full-Time            | # Students   |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Taking Coursework    | 347          |
| Completed Coursework | 0            |
| <b>Part-Time</b>     |              |
| Taking Coursework    | 626          |
| Completed Coursework | 79           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,052</b> |

Programs reported 87 degrees awarded from six programs in the 2016–2017 academic year. Because most students finish the doctorate in 3 years, we expect the number of graduates to triple in 2–3 years as the newer programs begin to graduate their first cohorts. Most graduates were female (87.4%), aged 35 to 44 years (39.1%), and White (non-Hispanic) (55.2%). There were no graduates in the Other or Unknown gender category. The proportion of graduates identifying with a historically underrepresented group was 40.2% (35).

### Gender of DSW Graduates



Programs were also asked about time to degree and employment of the practice doctorates. Most graduates finished their DSW degree within 3 years or less (66.7%), and 12.6% finished within 4 years.

**Table 2: Employment of DSW Graduates in May 2017**

| <b>Type of Position</b>                                       | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b> |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Tenure-line faculty position in a CSWE-accredited program     | 20            | 32.3     |
| Other position  | 13            | 21       |
| Non-tenure-line faculty position in a CSWE-accredited program | 10            | 16.1     |
| Private clinical practice                                     | 9             | 14.5     |
| Unknown   | 9             | 14.5     |
| Academic administrative position                              | 1             | 1.6      |
| Consulting  | 0             | 0        |
| Not employed  | 0             | 0        |
| Academic research position                                    | 0             | 0        |
| Nonacademic research position                                 | 0             | 0        |
| Nonacademic administrative position                           | 0             | 0        |
| Postdoctoral fellow   | 0             | 0        |
| Faculty position in a program not accredited by CSWE          | 0             | 0        |

There is little contrast between employment reported for PhD graduates and that of DSW graduates, with more than half of PhD graduates taking faculty or academic research positions compared to 48.4% of DSW graduates. Programs reporting details on the Other position mentioned nonprofit agencies, clinical positions, and work with children and youths.

# PhD PROGRAMS

## PhD AT-A-GLANCE

PROGRAM OFFERINGS:



Total Programs  
**77**

STUDENTS:



Total Enrollment  
**2,152**



from historically underrepresented groups  
**45.6% (981)**

GRADUATES:

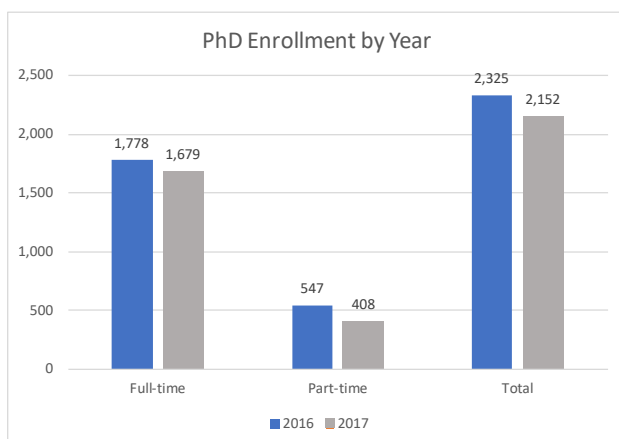


Average loan debt  
**\$45,609**



Average with loan debt at graduation  
**56.8%**

There were 77 PhD social work programs at the time of the survey; 68 participated in the survey for 88.3% response rate. Programs reported a total enrollment of 2,152 enrolled students with the majority of those being enrolled full-time (1,679; 78% of enrolled). Programs had an average of 26.0 full-time enrolled and 8.8 part-time enrolled students. Half of all PhD programs (50.0%; 33) offer a part-time program. Two PhD programs (3%) offer their program entirely online.

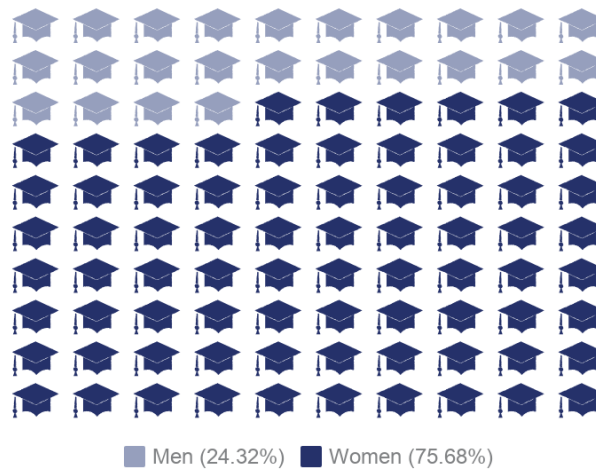


The majority of enrolled PhD students are female (75.5%). In age, 40.7% (876) are 25–34 years old. Students from historically underrepresented groups comprised 45.6% (981) of the total enrollment.

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Full-Time</b>     |              |
| Taking Coursework    | 885          |
| Completed Coursework | 794          |
| <b>Part-Time</b>     |              |
| Taking Coursework    | 198          |
| Completed Coursework | 210          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>2,152</b> |

Programs reported a total of 292 degrees awarded from programs in the 2016–2017 academic year. Most graduates were female (75.7%), and White (non-Hispanic) (52.7%). Forty-three percent (42.5%, 124) were aged 35–44 years old. There were no graduates in the Other or Unknown gender category. The proportion of graduates identifying with a historically underrepresented group was 40.4% (118).

### Gender of PhD Graduates

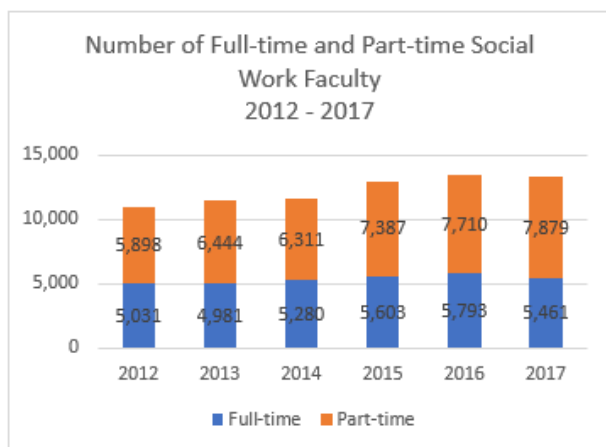


Programs were asked about time to degree for graduates and employment of graduates. Most students graduate within 4–6 years: 27.4% in 5 years (80), 22.9% in 6 years (67), and 12% in 4 years (35). A minority of students took 10 years or more to graduate (7.2%; 21). Most graduates were employed in faculty or academic research positions (64.5%; 229).



# SOCIAL WORK FACULTY

The Annual Survey of Social Work Programs collects aggregate data about full-time and part-time faculty. In the past, individualized information was collected about each faculty member. Programs filled out a separate form for each faculty member every year. In 2011 the process changed to collect aggregate information about full-time and part-time faculty members. The shift has led to a dramatic increase in response rate. Beginning with the 2012 Annual Survey CSWE definitions of full-time and part-time faculty members were dropped; institutions were asked to self-define their full-time and part-time/contract faculty members



The largest proportion of full-time faculty members was in the age range of 45–54 years (25.7%), followed by faculty members in the age range of 35–44 years (22.4%). Most of the full-time faculty members were female (72.5%; 3,959). Faculty members from historically underrepresented groups

accounted for 33.1% (1,809) of full-time faculty members. Compared with full-time faculty members, part-time/contract faculty members tended to be younger, and a smaller proportion (29.7%; 2,343) was from historically underrepresented groups.

The largest proportion of full-time faculty held a rank of assistant professor (27.0%; 1,533), followed by associate professor, and professor. Programs reported 1,804 faculty with an administrative title. The most commonly held title was director of field education (22.8%; 412), followed by director of BSW program (17.6%; 318).

**Table 4: Academic Rank of Full-Time Faculty**

|                      | #     | %    |
|----------------------|-------|------|
| Professor            | 1,052 | 18.5 |
| Associate professor  | 1,353 | 23.8 |
| Assistant professor  | 1,533 | 27.0 |
| Instructor           | 396   | 7.0  |
| Lecturer             | 331   | 5.8  |
| Clinical appointment | 447   | 7.9  |
| Emeritus             | 40    | 0.7  |
| Adjunct              | 125   | 2.2  |
| Field instructor     | 213   | 3.8  |
| Other                | 182   | 3.2  |

Programs were also asked about the tenure status of full-time faculty; 41.7% (2,169) are tenured, and 25.9% (1,350) are on tenure track.

Most full-time (91.0%; 4,986) and part-time (89.8%; 6,996) faculty members hold MSWs. The majority of full-time faculty also hold doctorates (67.6%) as the highest earned degree.

**Table 5: Highest Earned Degree of Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty**

| Highest Earned Degrees  | Full-Time<br><i>n</i> | Full-Time<br>% | Part-Time<br><i>n</i> | Part-Time<br>% |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| MSW   | 1,588                 | 29.0           | 6,004                 | 77.1           |
| Other master's degree   | 112                   | 2.0            | 315                   | 4.0            |
| Research-focused doctorate in social work or social welfare                 | 2,768                 | 50.5           | 683                   | 8.8            |
| Applied doctorate in social work or social welfare (i.e., other than a PhD) | 338                   | 6.2            | 136                   | 1.7            |
| Other doctorate   | 600                   | 10.9           | 349                   | 4.5            |
| Law   | 45                    | 0.8            | 64                    | 0.8            |
| Medicine  | 7                     | 0.1            | 9                     | 0.1            |
| Other degree  | 20                    | 0.4            | 54                    | 0.7            |
| Unknown   | 3                     | 0.1            | 173                   | 2.2            |

The Annual Survey also asked programs to report the salaries of faculty members with administrative titles.

**Table 6: Salary of Full-Time Faculty With Administrative Titles**

| Administrative Title                              | Average Salary | Range              | Programs Reporting |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dean  | \$199,973.94   | \$52,787–\$425,000 | 48                 |
| Director/chair of social work school/department   | \$95,997.90    | \$40,000–\$289,000 | 227                |
| Director of social work research doctoral program | \$121,166.32   | \$76,000–\$236,136 | 41                 |
| Director of social work applied doctoral program  | \$128,243.23   | \$67,000–\$188,000 | 10                 |
| Director of MSW program                           | \$84,514.81    | \$45,000–\$180,456 | 144                |
| Director of BSW program                           | \$71,506.19    | \$39,180–\$149,110 | 260                |
| Director of field education                       | \$65,333.23    | \$26,000–\$247,164 | 285                |

Additional data tables from all sections of the survey can be found in the Appendix.