

IN THE LOOP

SSW STUDENT NEWSLETTER

February 17, 2026

Advising Updates

Current UTA students should now schedule advising appointments through MavInspire Appointment Scheduling. To learn more on how to schedule your advising appointment, visit the Office of Advising & Student Retention [website](#)!

To drop courses, students need to use the drop form in MyMav. Visit the Registrar's Office [website](#) for instructions. Last day to drop is 4/3/2026.

Be sure to check your financial responsibility for dropping/withdrawing on the Student Accounts [website](#).

Practicum Updates

Summer 2026 Practicum applications **are open now and will close on 3/6/26 @ 4pm CST** for those students who have met the prerequisite and GPA requirements. Please check eligibility requirements here prior to applying on the practicum [website](#).

Opportunities & Events

Virtual Clinic Peer Support Group Sessions

UTA Virtual Clinic
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PEER SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS

4-Week Peer-Led Group Series

Join a supportive, non-judgemental space to connect with peers, share experiences, and build coping skills

GROUP TOPIC

Mindfulness & Resiliency

EMOTIONAL REGULATION, STRESS MANAGEMENT, GROUNDING, AND BUILDING RESILIENCE.

Starts February 2nd!

How This Can Help You

- Emotional Awareness
- Grounding Techniques
- Coping Skills
- Ability to reflect without judgment
- Support from peers with shared experiences

Session Times

Monday @ 12 PM CST
Tuesday-Thursday @ 12 PM CST & 6 PM CST

Session Format

- Peer-Led Groups
- Attend one session each week
- 4-week series commitment encouraged
- Virtual & confidential

Scan QR Code to Join

The UTA School of Social Work Virtual Peer Support Clinic is offering free, peer-led groups focused on Mindfulness & Resiliency. These virtual sessions provide a supportive, non-judgmental space to explore stress-management skills, grounding techniques, emotional awareness, and mindful coping.

Sessions meet once a week for 4 weeks and are offered at flexible times:

Mondays: 12 PM CST

Tuesdays–Thursdays: 12 PM & 6 PM CST

All students are welcome, and no previous experience is needed.

[Sign up here!](#)

Build community, strengthen coping skills, and support your well-being this semester!

Licensure Info Session

SPRING 2026
CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERIES

LICENSURE INFO SESSION

Interested in pursuing your LBSW, LMSW, or LCSW? Join us for a Licensure Information Session led by Dr. Karen Magruder to learn the steps to licensure, get helpful resources, and have your questions answered.

Tuesday, 2/17/26
6:30PM – 7:30PM
Teams

JOIN HERE:



Interested in pursuing your LBSW, LMSW, or LCSW? Join us for a Licensure Information Session led by Dr. Karen Magruder to learn the steps to licensure, get helpful resources, and have your questions answered!

- **When:** Tuesday, Feb. 17
- **Time:** 6:30PM-7:30PM
- **Where:** Teams

Financial Aid Popcorn Event



In honor of Financial Aid Awareness Month, stop by the Financial Aid Office to get help completing your 2026-27 FAFSA or turning in any requested forms.

- Get one-on-one assistance
- Avoid delays with your financial aid
- Enjoy free popcorn while you're there!

- **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**
- **11AM**
- **University Administration Building 252**
- **(701 S. Nedderman Dr., Arlington, TX)**

No appointment needed—just pop in! And don't forget, the financial aid priority deadline for next school year is March 1!

[Learn more here!](#)

Webinar: Seeing Strengths in Action: Empowering Clients Through Ethical, Person-Centered Care



You're invited to join NASW for an inspiring Student Series webinar that celebrates the power of strengths-based care in social work practice. Together, we'll explore how centering clients' strengths, resilience, and lived expertise—grounded in the NASW Code of Ethics—can lead to more meaningful, collaborative, and effective outcomes. This session will highlight person-centered approaches, practical strategies for identifying strengths, intentional language use, and real-world practice examples that uplift client voice, promote self-determination, and foster lasting change. ALL are welcome!

Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 6:00 pm - 7:30pm ET, 5:00pm - 6:30pm CT, 3:00 - 4:30pm PT

Presenter: Emma MacDonald, LMSW-Clinical (pronouns: she/her)

[Register Here!](#)

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: Working with LGBTQIA+ Individuals: Practical & Effective Group Work Strategies

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

Working with LGBTQIA+ Individuals: Practical & Effective Group Work Strategies

Friday, February 20th, 2026
1 pm - 4 pm Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3 CEUs

This session satisfies the 3-hour Cultural Competency requirement for LCSW licensure renewal in Illinois.


This interactive workshop focuses on facilitating effective groups for diverse LGBTQIA+ populations throughout the lifespan. It identifies unique considerations for some of the different LGBTQIA+ communities within the context of traditional human development theory, as well as group work theory and principles.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand how the socioeconomic dynamics and coping mechanisms of LGBTQIA+ individuals could impact the group process.
- Apply practical strategies for engaging LGBTQIA+ individuals in a broad array of diverse groups at different life stages.
- Discuss the utility of group work principles in working effectively with LGBTQIA+ populations.

Fees: General \$85
Loyola Alumni/Intern Supervisors \$70
Students \$25
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.luc.edu/ssw/gwspring2026



Mauricio Cifuentes, PhD, LCSW, JD
Mauricio Cifuentes received a JD from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia and an MSW and Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago. He worked as a clinician, supervisor, administrator, and professor for organizations such as St. Anthony Hospital in Chicago, Augsburg University in Minneapolis, and Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) in Minneapolis/St. Paul. He is currently the Director of Programs for Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero, IL.

Endorsed by:
International Association for
Social Work with Groups, Inc.

Contact Caroline Gosselin at cgosselin@luc.edu
for additional info and scholarship options.

This interactive workshop focuses on facilitating effective groups for diverse LGBTQIA+ populations throughout the lifespan. It

identifies unique considerations for some of the different LGBTQIA+ communities within the context of traditional human

development theory, as well as group work theory and principles.

- **Friday, February 20, 2026**
- **1PM - 4PM Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3CEUs**
- **Student Fee: \$25**
- ***20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions**

[Register here!](http://www.luc.edu/ssw/gwspring2026)

Career Advancement Series: Resume Preparation for Graduate Students

**Graduate School
Workshop**



OFFICE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

Interested in creating a resume that puts you ahead of the other candidates? In this live online workshop, we will discuss how to identify skills you've acquired in graduate school and how to communicate those to potential employers.

- **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 | 2pm-3pm (Online)**
- **Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 6pm-7pm (Online)**

Doggy Days



Doggy Days returns for another year at UTA! Hosted at the Central Library on the 6th floor, Doggy Days brings trained therapy dogs for students to decompress, learn about their favorite fuzzy friends, and collect individual trading cards for each of the pups. **Bring your MavID and/or ID number** for sign-up, and we will pair you with one of our therapy dogs for a period of 15 minutes. You are more than welcome to re-enter the queue at the end of your time slot. The maximum size of groups is five students! More information provided on [MavEngage](#).

Dates are below:

- February 25
- March 25
- April 15

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: Effective Intervention with Suicide Bereavement: Challenges, Strategies, and Practical Approaches

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

**Effective Intervention with Suicide Bereavement:
Challenges, Strategies, and Practical Approaches**

Friday, February 27th, 2026
1 - 4 pm Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3 CEUs

This presentation provides an overview of the critical considerations in effective work with suicide bereavement. It demystifies the experiences of a suicidal individual, addresses common feelings and responses in the bereavement process, and identifies key factors and healing group interventions to support those grieving a suicidal loss. Presenters will draw on their nine years of work with suicide bereavement groups, and discuss how psychoeducational strategies can be a means of supporting healing, decreasing feelings of shame, anger, and guilt, and increasing mutual aid within the bereavement process.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:


- Identify the key dimensions in suicide bereavement.
- Define the key factors that support recovery for survivors grieving a suicidal loss.
- Implement effective interventions in suicide bereavement groups.

Fees: General \$85
Loyola Alum/Intern Supervisors \$70
Students \$25
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.luc.edu/ssw/pwspmg2026

Sera Godfrey-Kaplan, LICSW
Sera Godfrey-Kaplan is the current president of the International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG). She has an extensive private clinical practice and teaches group work at Boston University School of Social Work. She has facilitated numerous diverse groups over the past twenty years, both in-person and virtually, and has frequently presented her work internationally.

Clyde Godfrey, LICSW
Clyde Godfrey has presented extensively on suicide assessment and intervention. His professional work includes 20 years in residential treatment, 20 years in the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and 9 years at Child and Family Services. He was also the former president of the New England Association of Child Care. He now works with his daughter, Sera, in private practice.

Endorsed by:
 International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc.

Contact Caroline Gosselin at cgosselin@luc.edu for additional info and scholarship options.

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- **Friday, Feb. 27, 2026**
- **1PM - 4PM Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3 CEUs**
- **Student Fee: \$25**
- ***20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions**

[Register here!](#)

Career Advancement Series: Interview Skills for Graduate Students



How do you stand out from other candidates in an interview? How do you convey the skills you've acquired in graduate school to the hiring committee? Attend this live online workshop in order to learn how to effectively convey the experience and skills you acquired in graduate school for an interview outside the professoriate.

Two dates to choose from:

- **Monday, March 2, 2026 | 6pm-7pm (Online)**
- **Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 2pm-3pm (Online)**

[Sign up here!](#)

UTA All Major Job & Internship Fair

This fair is open to all UTA students and alumni seeking full-time positions, part-time jobs, internships and field placements. Over 100 employers expected to attend! See a real-time list of employers on **[Handshake](#)**. Dress professionally and have updated copies of your resume to share.

Location: Maverick Activities Center (MAC) 500 W Nedderman Dr, Arlington, TX 76013

Date: March 4, 2026

Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Webinar: Addressing Veteran Substance Use: Promoting Recovery Through Collaboration and Compassion

Veterans face higher risk of substance use challenges, but proven solutions exist.

Join leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs, SAFE Project, and Oregon Health Authority for a focused discussion on effective, evidence-informed approaches to supporting Veterans and Service Members affected by substance use.

This free webinar will cover:

- Key trends in Veteran substance use and co-occurring conditions
- Proven treatment and recovery models
- Practical strategies for cross-system collaboration

March 3, 2026 | 1PM CST | Zoom | [Register Here!](#)

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: Healing Connections Harnessing the Power of the Arts

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

Healing Connections: Harnessing the Power of the Arts
Friday, March 13th, 2026
1 - 4 pm Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3 CEUs

This experiential workshop explores the role of arts-based strategies as a powerful way to identify and express emotions and experiences. The theoretical foundations of non-deliberative group work will be described and applied to the use of media such as photography, memes, creative writing, collage, and music. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in several arts-based group activities and brainstorm how to integrate these into their practices.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe theoretical and empirical foundations of arts-based group work interventions.
- Explain how sharing in community through experiential artistic activities fosters emotional connection and belonging, exploration of and processing of responses, and creative expression.
- Develop and implement arts-based activities for one's own group practice.

Fees: General \$85
Loyola Alum/Intern Supervisors \$70
Students \$25
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.luc.edu/ssw/gwspmg2026

Jen Currin-McCulloch, Ph.D., LMSW
Jen Currin-McCulloch (she/her) is an associate professor at Colorado State University's School of Social Work. She is Ph.D. director, teaches group work courses, and studies photovoice as an intervention with young adult cancer survivors. She is also Chairperson of the Western States Chapter of the International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG).

Brendon T. Holloway, Ph.D., MSW
Brendon T. Holloway (he/him) is an assistant professor in the Colorado State University School of Social Work. Brendon's research focuses on health promotion, gender euphoria, and health-related mutual aid. In his work, Brendon uses mixed-methods, community-engaged approaches, and arts-based research methods.

Endorsed by:
International Association for
Social Work with Groups, Inc.

Contact Caroline Gosselin at cgosselin@luc.edu
for additional info and scholarship options.

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- Describe theoretical and empirical foundations of arts-based group work interventions.
- Explain how sharing in community through experiential artistic activities fosters emotional connection and belonging, exploration of and processing of responses, and creative expression.
- Develop and implement arts-based activities for one's own group practice.

- Friday, March 13, 2026
- 1PM - 4PM Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3CEUs
- Student Fee: \$25
- *20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

[Register here!](#)

Andrew Marks Student Advocacy Award



In memory of Texas State University Professor Andrew Marks, LMSW, this award honors his dedication to social work advocacy and empowering students to engage in the legislative process.

The award is given to one BSW and one MSW student during Social Work Advocacy Day. Students self-nominate by submitting a brief (500-word max) description of a non-work-related advocacy effort they've undertaken to create change at the local, state, or national level.

Award winners will receive a certificate of recognition, a \$150 Visa Gift Card, and FREE registration to the 2026 NASW-TX Conference in Galveston. Submissions are due by **March 27, 2026**. [Apply here!](#)

Become a SWAG Leader!



BECOME A SOCIAL WORK ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP (SWAG) LEADER!

SWAG Leaders oversee one accountability group and facilitates a weekly or biweekly meeting. They provide social support, accountability for students, and cultivate a welcoming space to promote a sense of belonging to the School of Social Work community.

Qualifications

- Enrolled in a UTA Social Work academic program (BSW, MSW)
- 3.0 GPA or higher
- Completed at least one semester in the UTA program
- Can commit up to 4 hours either weekly or biweekly to host a group



To Learn More & Apply
Scan QR Code:



For any questions, please contact sswengage@uta.edu

Powered By QuestionPro

Interested in bringing together your peers to build community? The School of Social Work is piloting our Social Work Accountability Groups (SWAG). SWAG Leaders will oversee one accountability group and provide social support, accountability for students, and cultivate a welcoming space for social work students.

To learn more, visit the [application link!](#)

SSW Connections Tutoring Lab



The flyer for the Social Work Tutoring Connections Lab features the UTA School of Social Work logo at the top left. The main title is 'Social Work Tutoring Connections Lab'. Below the title, a paragraph describes the lab's services for BSW and MSW students. To the right, a list of services is provided with orange bullet points. At the bottom right, there is a 'Book A Session' button and a QR code. The flyer also includes two circular images: one showing a blurred scene of people in a modern building, and another showing a group of students sitting on a bench outdoors, some using laptops.

UTA
School of Social Work

Social Work Tutoring Connections Lab

The Connections Tutoring Lab offers BSW and MSW students assistance with all aspects of the writing process for all types of writing assignments, especially those assigned in social work courses.

Our Services

- Content
- Research
- Organization
- Style & Grammar
- APA Guidelines
- Class Assignment Rubric
- Brainstorm Ideas
- Ethical Research & Writing
- Plagiarism

Book A Session



The Connections Tutoring Lab offers BSW and MSW students assistance with all aspects of the writing process for writing assignments.

To learn more about the services and to book a session, visit our [website!](#)

Student Organization Corner

Black History Month Celebration 2026

Legacy, Leadership, and Liberation: Black Excellence in Service, Culture, and Community



Join us for an inspiring evening honoring the rich legacy, transformative leadership, and enduring contributions of Black leaders in service, culture, and community. This powerful celebration will highlight stories of resilience, excellence, and impact that continue to shape our nation and future generations.

- **Tuesday, February 24**
- **6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**
- **Rio Grande Ballroom, University Center (300 W. First St., Arlington, TX 76019)**

This event will feature distinguished guest speakers representing historic and community-based organizations, including leaders connected to the Tuskegee Airmen, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Attendees will gain insight into the profound legacy of service and cultural excellence that continues to influence our communities today.

- **Free admission**
- **Free parking available with registration (voucher code provided upon sign-up)**
- Complimentary refreshments will be served.

Come celebrate Black excellence, build community, and engage in meaningful dialogue that uplifts history while inspiring the future.

REGISTER TODAY and be part of this impactful celebration.

To learn more about SAMSW, visit our [website](#).

Join the Social Work Students for Children & Families!

INTERESTED IN SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN & FAMILIES?

Social Work Students for CHILDREN & FAMILIES

A student organization for social work students that have a passion to work with children and families. Meet other students with similar interests, gain networking opportunities, hear from professionals in the field, volunteer, and advocate.

To learn more or to join:
Contact Dr. Hui Huang (faculty co-advisor) at hui.huang@uta.edu or Dr. Saltanat Childress (faculty co-advisor) at saltanat.childress@uta.edu

The Social Work Students for Children & Families is a student organization for social work students that have a passion to work with children and families.

Meet other students with similar interests, gain networking opportunities, hear from professionals in the field, volunteer, and advocate!

To learn more or join, contact the faculty co-advisors:

- Dr. Hui Huang (hui.huang@uta.edu)
- Dr. Saltanat Childress (saltanat.childress@uta.edu)

Call for Abstracts - 3rd International Social Work Students Virtual Conference (ISWSC)

STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE
SOCIAL JUSTICE | GLOBAL SOLIDARITY | TRANSFORMATION

Students for GLOBAL CHANGE
SOCIAL JUSTICE | GLOBAL SOLIDARITY | TRANSFORMATION

Call for Abstracts

3rd International Social Work Students Virtual Conference (ISWSC)

Rising Together: Building Solidarity in a Fragmented World

24 March 2026
8 AM - 11 AM (CST)

Zoom

Objectives:

- To foster global solidarity among social work students by creating a shared space for dialogue, mutual learning, and intercultural exchange.
- To showcase innovative and inclusive social work interventions.
- To encourage the co-creation of global networks and long-term partnerships.

Review Criteria:

- Methodological rigor, clarity of presentation, relevance to global social challenges, and consistency with SGC's mission and objectives.

Keynote Speaker
Professor Antoinette Lombard
President of International Association of Schools of Social Work
Professor of Social Work
University of Pretoria, South Africa

sgc@uta.edu

Scan to Submit Your Abstract

Students for Global Change is excited to invite you to submit abstracts for our 3rd International Social Work Students Virtual Conference (ISWSC). The Conference is scheduled for **24 March 2026, between 8:00 am and 11 am (CST)**, under the theme: “Rising Together: Building Solidarity in a Fragmented World”.

The International Social Work Students Virtual Conference is an initiative of the Students for Global Change (SGC), a student-led organization in the School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). This Conference brings students from around the world to engage in meaningful dialogue on the evolving role of social work in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Since its inception, the conference has served as a vibrant meeting point for aspiring and emerging social work professionals. We connect students from diverse cultural, academic, and practice backgrounds who share a passion for advancing social justice and human rights. Last two years over fifty students and faculty represented from India, Canada, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Poland, South Africa, Netherlands, Hong Kong, UK, and USA.

Submission guidelines:

We encourage submissions from **undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral scholars** across all social science disciplines and from universities worldwide.

Submissions may include **fieldwork projects, case studies, innovative practice models, or research papers**. The abstracts, no more than 250 words, should clearly outline the Objective, Method, Key findings, and Relevance of the study to contemporary global social challenges and social work practice.

Participants will have opportunities to present and engage in live Q&A discussions.

Presenters will receive certificates.

- Presentation Format: Oral paper presentations
- Abstract Submission Deadline: March 5, 2026, 11:59 pm CST
- Notification of Acceptance: March 14
- Presentation Time: 15 minutes

[Submit your Abstract here!](#)

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES

ACADEMIC ADVISING

PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

CONNECTIONS LAB

SW LIBRARIAN

LICENSURE

DEAN'S LETTER FOR LICENSURE

CARE FUND

CARE REFERRAL

UTA RESOURCES

- [UTA Academic Calendar](#)
- [Library Resources](#)
- [Office of International Education](#)
- [Apply for Graduation](#)
- [Free Windows Apps with Student ID](#)
- [Student Access & Resource \(SAR\) Center](#)

- [UTA Counseling & Psychology Services \(CAPS\)](#)

- [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Fund](#)
- [Health Services](#)
- [UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distribution](#)

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