

IN THE LOOP

SSW STUDENT NEWSLETTER

March 3, 2026

Advising Updates

The advising team will be doing classroom visits in March to share basic review of department & university policies and answer general questions that current students may have. Visits will be held on the following:

- March 16 – SOCW 3300 (1:00–2:00)
- March 17 – SOCW 5301 (5:30–6:30)
- March 17 – SOCW 5312 (6:00–7:00)
- March 19 – SOCW 5311 (2:00–3:00)
- March 19 – SOCW 5304 (5:30–6:30)

For more information, visit the Office of Advising & Student Retention [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

Safe Spring Break Send Off



Free and open to UTA students. If you need accommodations to participate, please email cars@uta.edu at least 5 days prior to the event.

Learn how to stay safe in the sun, on the road, and with friends ! Free and open to UTA students!

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

11AM - 1PM

School of Social Work Courtyard

Yard Games - Trivia - Free Food - Giveaways

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

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 to 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.

Fee: General \$25
Loyola Alumni/Staff: Supervisors \$10
Students \$10
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/13

Dr. Cheryl McCulloch, Ph.D., MSW
Dr. Cheryl McCulloch, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Community Practice in the Department of Social Work. She is a faculty member for the group work courses and teaches professional social interventions with aging and cancer survivors. She is also a frequent speaker at national and international Association of Social Work and Health Professions conferences.

Brandon T. Johnson, Ph.D., MSW
Brandon T. Johnson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago. He is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on health promotion, gender equality, and health disparities. He is also a frequent speaker at national and international Association of Social Work and Health Professions conferences.

Sponsored by
LAWO
Loyola University Chicago
www.loyola.edu/ce

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

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- **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!](http://www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/13)

Social Work Advocacy Day 2026



Join us for Social Work Advocacy Day on **April 17, 2026, in Austin, TX**, for a day of education, advocacy, and connection.

This year's theme, **United in Purpose, Unique in Perspective**, celebrates the power of social workers coming together to drive change while honoring the diverse experiences and perspectives.

Student Fee: \$10 (includes event registration, a UTA SSW Advocacy Day shirt, and lunch)

To join us in Austin, please complete this **registration form** by **March 15, 2026**.

Additional information regarding registration will be provided after March 15th.

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!

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: Essentials of Clinical Group Work Practice: Effective Use of Self

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

Essentials of Clinical Group Work Practice: Effective Use of Self

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

The professional use of self entails a group worker's planned, purposeful engagement in behaviors that strengthen a group's process, facilitates stages of development, and models effective communication. Similarly, how the worker responds to early member ambivalence in their groups can either promote or inhibit the development of beneficial group norms. This workshop combines a didactic component, using a lecture style (power point) method of instruction, and an experiential component where participants develop skills in their use of self in groups.

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

- Have knowledge and skills in the use of a practice model focusing on the professional use of self in group work.
- Know how to differentially use their professional self throughout various stages of group development.
- Learn to be able to discern between responses that can be used in service of the group and promote group development and those that should be contained.
- Respond to ambivalence in groups in a way that promote openness and risk-taking by members in their groups.

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

REGISTER HERE
www.loyolachicago.edu/ce

William Pollock
William Pollock is an Associate Professor and Social Work Practice Faculty at Loyola University Chicago. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of social work and has been a frequent speaker at national and international conferences. He is also a frequent contributor to the professional literature on group work and has co-authored several books and articles on the topic. He is currently working on a book about the professional use of self in group work.

Presented by:
NASW International Association for Social Work with Diversity, Inc.

Contact Carolina Grassalin at cgrassalin@luc.edu for additional info and scholarship options.

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

Register here!

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: The School-Aged Child in Groups

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

The School-Age Child in Groups
Friday, March 27th, 2026
1 pm - 4 pm Central [Chicago] Time [Zoom] | 3 CEUs

School-aged children spend much of their lives in groups through participation in families, classrooms, teams, clubs, and friendships. Groups provide opportunities to practice socializing, regulate emotions, try out and shape identity and feel accepted and acceptable. This workshop focuses on understanding and applying strategies for effective group work with school-aged children. It addresses issues related to screening, planning, group beginnings and endings, norm development, use of activities, evaluation and accommodations for a variety of participant needs. The session incorporates didactic instruction, practice examples, and experiential activities, and is relevant for those working within the school system, residential facilities and community-based programs.

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

- Understand the specific opportunities and challenges involved in facilitating groups for school-aged children both within and outside the school setting.
- Apply the Developmental Model of Groups to work with school-aged children.
- Plan for needed accommodations based on developmental differences, specific interests of participants, environmental considerations and other issues specific to children's groups.
- Understand how to effectively conclude groups with consideration of maintaining gains.

Fees: General \$85
Loyola Researchers/Supervisors \$30
Students \$20
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/27

Barbara Minkoff, PhD, MSW
Barbara Minkoff has been involved in group work throughout her career. She has worked in residential treatment centers, a community mental health center, a university counseling center, and a university research center. She has published articles on group work and has presented at numerous national and international conferences. She is currently a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago.

Endorsed by: **ASWO** (American Society of Work-Oriented Professionals)

Contact: **Caroline Gessalin** at cgessalin@loy.edu for additional info and scholarship options.

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Register here!

DFW Alliance in Mental & Behavioral Health Research Symposium: Development, Mood, Psychosis, and Addiction

The 2026 DFW Alliance in Mental & Behavioral Health Research Symposium: Development, Mood,

Psychosis, and Addiction. This event is hosted by Metrocare's Altzheimer's Center for Education and Research (ACER) in partnership with faculty from UT Southwestern, UT Dallas, UT Arlington, University of North Texas, and East Texas A&M University - Commerce.

The Symposium brings together academic and community-based investigators to expose research informing mental and behavioral health care—and is designed to strengthen cross-institutional relationships to catalyze future research collaboration.

- **Friday, April 10, 2026**
- **8:30AM - 3:00PM**
- **Scottish Rite Hospital for Children**
- **T. Boone Pickens Training and Conference (2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219)**

Registration Fee: \$50

To learn more and register, visit the [**Metrocare Services website**](#).

The Big Event: UTA's Largest Day of Service

The Big Event:
UTA's Largest Day of Service
And this year, your service has a global goal.

April 18, 2026

As North Texas prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 26™, UTA is proud to partner with the North Texas FWC Organizing Committee and the City of Arlington to integrate sustainability into our day of action. Join UTA Volunteers as we lead regional efforts in environmental stewardship and community impact. Be part of this powerful tradition of giving back and help us build a lasting legacy that the world will see in 2026.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
and select preferred service site.

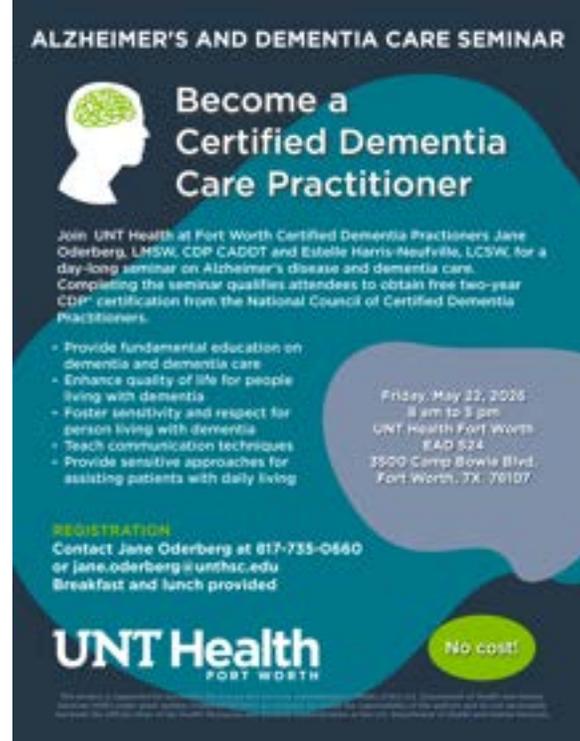
@fwc26dallas

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Join UTA Volunteers on **April 18, 2026**, as we lead regional efforts in environmental stewardship and community impact. Be part of this powerful tradition of giving back and help us build a lasting legacy that the world will see in 2026.

Register [**HERE**](#) and select preferred service site!

Become a Certified Dementia Care Practitioner



Join UNT Health at Fort Worth Certified Dementia Practitioners Jane Oderberg, LMSW, CDP CADDT and Estelle Harris-Neufville, LCSW, for a day-long seminar on Alzheimer's disease and dementia care.

Completing the seminar qualifies attendees to obtain free two-year CDP® certification from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

- **Friday, May 22, 2026**
- **8AM - 5PM**
- **UNT Health Fort Worth EAD 524 (3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76107)**
- **Breakfast and lunch provided!**
- **NO COST!**

To register, contact Jane Oderberg (jane.oderberg@unthsc.edu)

Student Organization Corner

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



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**

2026 Native American Student Association Powwow at UTA



The Native American Student Association at UTA is preparing for our 2026 Powwow on **April 4, 2026**, at the Maverick Activities Center, and we are seeking volunteers to help make this important event a success.

This is an all-day event, but volunteers may sign up for one-hour shifts. We currently have approximately **100 volunteer slots available** throughout the day, and individuals are welcome to sign up for multiple shifts.

We will host one or two optional virtual volunteer meetings, as well as an in-person volunteer meeting on March 26 at 7:00 PM at the Maverick Activities Center. Attendance is encouraged but not required.

Sign up **[HERE!](#)**

This is a meaningful opportunity for students, departments, and organizations to support cultural education, community engagement, and cross-cultural connection. We welcome individuals, families, and student organizations to participate. It is also a wonderful opportunity to bring your organization members and experience a vibrant cultural gathering together.

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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