

UTA School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

AUGUST IN REVIEW

Thrive Here, Thrive Forever!



Watch the Summer 2025 Commencement Hype Video and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

[CLICK TO WATCH THE SUMMER 2025 COMMENCEMENT HYPE VIDEO](#)



Jumbotron with Summer 2025 Commencement graphic displayed

School of Social Work graduates more than 200 students during summer commencement

By Jaelon Jackson

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work celebrated the graduation of over 200 bachelor's, master's, and PhD in Social Work students during the summer commencement ceremony on July 7, at College Park Center.

As one of the largest social work schools in the country, the UTA School of Social Work trains students from across the United States and around the world to make a difference through distinguished programs offered both in person and online.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER 2025 COMMENCEMENT](#)

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PhD Graduate, Megan Rose Westmore

PhD Graduate Defends Dissertation on Sexual Consent Education for Students with Disabilities

By Jaelon Jackson

Megan R. Westmore, LMSW, has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work, marking the completion of her PhD in Social Work. Her research, which addresses sexual consent scripts among college students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities

(IDD), contributes to an emerging body of scholarship aimed at reducing sexual violence within this underserved population.

A sexual script refers to the set of expectations or unwritten “rules” that people use to guide sexual behavior and communication. For people with IDD, those scripts are often shaped by limited education, inconsistent messages, or misinformation—which can leave them vulnerable to harm or misunderstanding.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT MEGAN ROSE WESTMORE'S DISSERTATION](#)



PhD Graduate, Priyanjali Chakraborty

PhD Student Defends Dissertation on Immigrant Women’s Health

By Jaelon Jackson

For one PhD student, a lifetime of personal observations and a passion for social justice has guided her academic journey. While working on maternal and reproductive health initiatives in rural India, she witnessed how poverty, gender norms and limited health literacy prevented many women from accessing preventive care. That experience formed the reasoning behind a dissertation, which explores the intersection of family planning care and health literacy among low-income immigrant women in the United States.

Priyanjali Chakraborty’s dissertation, *Unmet Family Planning Care and Health-Literacy Needs Among Low-Income Immigrant Women in the United States*, uses a mixed-methods approach to examine how language barriers, provider communication gaps and cultural stigma contribute to unmet contraceptive care needs. Rather than assessing individual literacy levels, Chakraborty used receipt of contraceptive counseling as an indicator of access to essential reproductive health information.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT PRIYANJALI CHAKRABORTY'S DISSERTATION](#)



PhD Graduate, Erica Robinson

Dissertation Explores Sociodemographic Influences on Early Retirement

By Jaelon Jackson

Erica Robinson has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, Understanding the Sociodemographic Correlates of Early Social Security Retirement, at the University of Texas at Arlington’s School of Social Work, completing her PhD in Social Work.

Dr. Robinson earned a Bachelor of Arts and later pursued graduate study in social work, receiving competitive fellowships and traineeships. She has now added a doctorate to her list of accomplishments, building a research portfolio centered on equity, policy and retirement security.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT ERICA ROBINSON'S DISSERTATION](#)

Research and Faculty Highlights



UTA School of Social Work Alumna and Assistant Professor of Practice, Dr. Traneika Turner-Wentt

Dr. Traneika Turner-Wentt: Inspiring Students to Bloom Where They’re Planted

By Thomas Johns

Any obstacle she faced became a stepping stone toward her purpose. Initially aligned with her father’s suggestion, she entered the world of computer science, but quickly realized her passion lay elsewhere. “I knew I wanted to work with people, not programs,” she explains. “Changing my major was the moment I gave myself permission to pursue the work I was truly called to do. And to this day, he supports me wholeheartedly.”

That decision opened the door to positions marked by service and leadership, from her early clinical experiences at a child and family guidance center in Dallas and Spelman College in Atlanta to leadership in healthcare and direct clinical practice, these experiences strengthened her confidence and commitment to mental wellness. Her philosophy remains steadfast: if someone has done it before, surely it can be done again. And if no one has done it before, then be the one to demonstrate that it can be done.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT DR. TRANEIKA TURNER-WENTT](#)

Watch the Dean's August Pep Talk to Students



Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Sep. 17:** Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (1st Floor Commons)
 - **Sep. 25:** [Community Voices for Suicide Prevention](#)
 - **Oct. 4:** Save the Date - Day in The Life Simulation
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