Domestic Violence and Evidence-based Practice (Graduate Certificate)

When you are an advocate for survivors of domestic violence, you can help ensure their safety and empower them when they most need it. Become equipped with the knowledge and tools you need to aid this vulnerable population.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Domestic Violence and Evidence-Based Practice (Certificate)

The certificate program in domestic violence and evidence-based practice provides students with the experience and knowledge to intervene safely and effectively on behalf of survivors of gender-based violence, a vulnerable group that helping professionals are likely to encounter in all areas of practice. Graduates who have learned the dynamics of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence are better equipped to assist those suffering its negative physical and mental health consequences.

Evidence-based care is crucial in domestic violence settings. Students in the certificate program engage in service-based and classroom learning to understand the role of evidence-based interventions in promoting survivor safety and client empowerment. Upon completion of the program, certificate holders become verified advocates for victims of domestic violence in the state of Arizona.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus or Online

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours
**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
SWG 545 Domestic Violence and National AmeriCorps Service (3)

**Restricted Electives (6 credit hours)**
SWG 546 Approaches to Teen Dating Violence Prevention (3)
SWG 618 Advanced Practice in Domestic Violence (3)
SWG 647 The Domestic Violence Movement: An Intersectional Framework (3)
SWG 648 Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment (3)

**Other Requirement (6 credit hours)**
SWG 541 Field Practicum I (3) or SWG 641 Advanced Practicum: Direct Practice I (3) or SWG 643 Advanced Practicum: Planning, Social Work Administration and Community Practice I (3)
SWG 542 Field Practicum II (3) or SWG 642 Advanced Practicum: Direct Practice II (3) or SWG 644 Advanced Practicum: Planning, Social Work Administration and Community Practice II (3)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
For restricted electives, students select two courses from the approved course list. Other coursework may be used with the approval of the academic unit.

For the other requirement section, students must select one course from SWG 541, SWG 641 or SWG 643 and one course from SWG 542, SWG 642 or SWG 643. Other coursework may be used with approval of the academic unit.

The student's department-specific field experience practicum credits may be substituted for the other requirement section with department approval.

All students are required to complete 300 hours (minimum) of domestic violence service through a field experience practicum. Students should work with the academic unit in coordinating the field experience practicum. Concurrent to the beginning of their field experience practicum, students take the Domestic Violence and National AmeriCorps Service core course (SWG 545) in order to learn about the foundations for working with domestic violence victims. The coursework and field experience practicum experience maximize experiential learning opportunities.

**Admission Requirements**
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution and are degree-seeking graduate students. Experience in social work, social services or a related field is required.
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

International students who need an F1 or J1 visa first need to apply to and be accepted into a graduate degree program prior to being considered for the certificate program. International students residing in the USA on other types of visas must adhere to all Graduate College policies and procedures regarding admission to be considered for admission to this certificate program.

Applicants interested in the domestic violence and evidence-based practice certificate are asked to attend an interview. The interview is a chance to help the student find an appropriate field experience or practicum to match the certificate requirements.

Program Learning Outcomes
Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Identify and implement evidence-based interventions, scientific process, domestic violence, safety planning
- Exercise professional values and ethics

Career Opportunities
Prospective administrators, helping professionals and community activists gain practical knowledge, implement interventions backed by evidence, and develop the tools and networks to create change for survivors, families and communities.

Career examples include:

- clinician or therapist
- domestic violence or lay legal advocate
- domestic violence support group facilitator
- shelter case manager
Contact Information

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