JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (http://msass.case.edu) offers curricula leading to the Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA) degree in social work, Master of Nonprofit Organization (MNO) and to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in social welfare.

Mission and Vision

Our Mission

Advancing leadership in social work and nonprofit education, scholarship, and service to build a more just world.

Our Vision

Students are central to what we do, and they actively participate and contribute to a dynamic learning community that develops leaders of social change in direct practice, community practice and nonprofit management.

The Mandel School was founded by and for the Greater Cleveland community in the belief that a university-based school of social work would transform the work of people and organizations to achieve to their full potential. As the Mandel School celebrates its centennial, we reaffirm our historical commitment to the application of social science for improving social welfare, and seek to continue to broaden the national and international reach of our research, teaching, and service. Our graduates are prepared to be future leaders who turn knowledge into action that furthers health, well being, and social justice.

A History of Innovation

Ranked among the nation’s top ten graduate schools of social work by U.S. News and World Report, and ranked number one in Ohio, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences has always committed itself to learning from and fostering the best in social work practice and to building social work’s knowledge base. Since its founding in 1915 as the nation’s first university-affiliated professional graduate school of social work, the Mandel School has been an innovator in professional education, where educators, researchers and practitioners work side-by-side to investigate, study and disseminate knowledge to bridge the gap between the classroom and communities in which social workers practice.

The Mandel School provides students with a solid foundation designed to build core competencies with its innovative Ability-Based Learning Environment, which allows graduates a great degree of flexibility and portability. Students choose concentrations in either Community Practice for Social Change or Direct Practice, which offers specializations in Aging; Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse; Children, Youth and Families; Health; and Mental Health. Certificate programs include gerontology, global health, management and leadership, nonprofit management and school social work. Dual-degree programs enable Mandel School students to obtain their social work degree concurrently with a master’s degree in bioethics, business, law, nonprofit management and public health.

Founded 30 years ago as one of the first nonprofit management programs in the nation, the MNO program has been at the forefront of training future nonprofit leaders. It provides the essential tools needed to lead a nonprofit, carry out its mission ethically and effectively and contribute to society’s betterment. The Master of Nonprofit Management (MNO) is a 39 hour degree program comprised of 27 hours of required coursework and 12 hours of electives.

The Mandel School believes that advanced practitioners are strategists of change, working in partnership with others to enhance the caring capacity of communities. The concentrations structure cross-trains Mandel School students, who build foundations in both areas that bring a breadth of knowledge to their work lives, allowing them the flexibility to pursue their interests even as they change over time. The school prepares advanced practitioners who become lifelong learners with the abilities needed to practice ethically and effectively with diverse populations and with systems of various sizes and types. Students learn to understand the dynamics of problematic social situations and to identify the strengths and resources in individuals, families and communities that offer the best solutions. The school is committed to a vision of social work practice as a force of social justice, empowerment, and the building of healthy communities. That commitment extends beyond our national borders with the Mandel School’s award-winning program of international study options.

The Mandel School counts among its alumni many prominent educators, government officials, accomplished practitioners, researchers, advocates, public-policy-makers, and chief executives of national and regional agencies. Faculty achievements in professional organizations, research, and agency consultation further extend the school’s reputation as an active participant in the advancement of social work practice.

A Mandel School education is more than preparation. It is an opportunity to join a national network of scholars and practitioners who are shaping the course of social work in communities throughout the world. The Mandel School is ranked seventh in faculty productivity among social work schools by Academic Analytics.

For nearly one hundred years, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences has stood at the forefront of social work education, introducing innovations in teaching, research, and practice at every step of the way, with an approach that integrates theory and practice like no other.

Mandel students take their places alongside long-time professionals in a variety of social work and nonprofit management arenas understanding firsthand the challenges of social work and non profit management and sharing in its rewards. In a broad spectrum of local and regional organizations, students develop skills in direct practice, policy analysis and development, research, management and community development, and in leading nonprofit organizations.

Accreditation and Licensure

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board of Ohio.

The Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA), the social work master’s degree program (MSW) for many other programs, at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, a nationally
recognized professional accrediting association for social work graduate
and undergraduate programs.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences’
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) curriculum is accredited by
the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board of Ohio. The
accreditation indicates that the AODA curriculum meets the formal
master’s degree education requirements for the top level of licensed
independent chemical dependency counselors in Ohio.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
(MSASS) in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace University meets all of
the State of Ohio Department of Education requirements for licensing in
School Social Work.

The Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA) degree fulfills
part of the requirements of social work licensure in fifty (50) states
in the United States. For further information about various licensing
requirements by state, visit the website of the Association of Social Work
Boards (ASWB) (https://www.aswb.org?).

The Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) Degree Program is a
recognized member of Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC).

Administration
Grover Cleveland Gilmore, PhD
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Dean in Applied Social Sciences and
Professor
Sharon E. Milligan, PhD
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs; Chair, Master’s Program; Associate
Director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development
Gerald Mahoney, PhD
Associate Dean for Research and Training
Craig M. Zullig
Associate Dean, Finance and Administration
Scott Wilkes, PhD
Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs
Andrea G. Porter, MSSA
Assistant Dean, Student Services, Director, Office of Student Services
Sonia Minnes, PhD
Chair, Doctoral Program
Sarah Andrews, MSSA
Director, School Social Work
Rachel Blake
Director, Finance
Mark Chupp, PhD
Director, Community Innovation Network
Rashonda Clay-Douthit, PhD
Associate Director Field Education
Matthew Colver
Assistant Director, Financial Aid
Claudia J. Coulton, PhD
Co-Director, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development
Nada Difranco
Director of Alumni Relations and Development
Debra Fields
Registrar
Robert L. Fischer, PhD
Co-Director, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, Chair,
Management of Nonprofit Organizations Degree Program
Daniel J. Flannery, PhD
Director, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education
Carmelo Franchina, BA
Director, Office of Information Technology
Victor Groza, PhD
Director, Child Welfare Fellows Program
Andrea Hess, MSSA
Assistant Director of Admissions
David Hussey, PhD
Associate Director, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and
Education, Director, Mandel Leadership Fellows Program
Lenore A. Kola, PhD
Co-Director, Ohio Substance Abuse and Mental Illness Coordinating Center of
Excellence
Amy Korsch-Williams, MSSA
Director of Field Education
Jeffrey Kretschmar
Managing Director, Begun Center
Marianne Lax, MSSA
Director of Charitable Giving, Interim Associate Dean Institutional
Advancement and Development
Kimberly McFarlin, MSSA, MNO
Director of International Affairs
David Miller, PhD
Director, International Education Programs
Valerie Rambin
Assistant Director of International Programs
Tatiana Riedel
Assistant Director, Research Administration
LaShon Sawyer, PhD
Director Online Education
Richard Sigg
Director of Recruitment and Enrollment
Mark Singer, PhD
Deputy Director, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and
Education, Co-Director, Center on Substance Abuse and Mental Illness
Samantha C. Skutnik, MLS
Director, Lillian F. & Milford J. Harris Library
Gerald A. Strom, MSW  
Director, Intensive Weekend Program

Melissa Van  
Assistant Director, Human Resources

Zoe Breen Wood, PhD  
Director, Office of Educational Assessment