

SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Co-Chair:

As I reflect on this Spring semester, I'm reminded of the incredible dedication each of you is putting into your education. You are investing in yourselves—not just to further your careers, but to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others and strengthen our communities.

In the face of all the changes and challenges around us, it's more important than ever to stay united and remember why we chose this path. Social work is needed now more than ever, and the world is counting on us.

Don't give up. We are proud to be a part of your journey, and we believe in the difference you will make.

Ruby A. Aguilar, LICSW

Social Work Program Co-Chair



SPOTLIGHT

Meet our spotlight practicum supervisor, Dr. Murphy Freeman. A dedicated professional whose guidance and mentorship play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of social workers. This month, we are also highlighting an outstanding MSW student, Victoria Barajas who excels academically and has ambitious plans to pursue a doctoral program after graduation. Additionally, we recognize a remarkable BSW student Manuel “Manny” Alcala who serves as a mentor and passionate advocate for his peers always bringing humor, openness, and a helping hand to support the social work program. We asked both Victoria and Manny to share some advice to those thinking about joining the Heritage family.

We are proud and honored to have them as community partners and students. From the entire social work program and HU, thank you for contributing to the strength and success of our social work community.



DR. MURPHY FREEMAN, PHD
TRAUMA AND DISASTER RELIEF SPECIALIST
AAT- DIRECTOR

Prior to Redemption Ridge, Dr. Freeman, worked in the field of human trafficking. She has extensive hands-on, in the trenches work experience in street culture, the 4 forms of homelessness (chronic, episodic, transitional, and hidden), and the role of culture in substance use and abuse as well as all the trauma that is attached. Working in the field of human trafficking was a true calling, it allowed to show what was missing. We were missing the mark, breaking the trauma. Survivors and victims were just surviving. They longed for more than just survival. Redemption Ridge is tearing down the walls of cultural intergenerational trauma.

Heritage Tri-Cities Appreciates your dedication to our students learning from you!

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Victoria Barajas

MSW Adv Standing Student

"Just go for it—don't wait another year! Heritage University's program is convenient and designed for those of us balancing work, family, and life. As a first-generation student juggling work and motherhood, I know it's tough—but it's possible. Networking was key for me; meeting a supportive social worker at my job changed everything. Stay open, seek mentors and allies, and trust that your experiences and perspective matter."



MANUEL “MANNY” ALCALA

BSW Student

“SOMETIMES, WE DOUBT OURSELVES WHEN FACING NEW CHALLENGES, THINKING WE’RE NOT CAPABLE. BUT IN THOSE MOMENTS, YOU’D BE SURPRISED BY YOUR OWN STRENGTH. WHEN I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD ENJOY IT, ESPECIALLY SINCE I DIDN’T CARE FOR SCHOOL IN THE PAST. BUT DOING IT FOR SOMETHING I LOVE AND TO GAIN NEW EXPERIENCES HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, TAKE THAT LEAP, AND YOU MIGHT JUST SURPRISE YOURSELF WITH WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE.”



NASW-WA Chapter

NASW-WA has many benefits for students including but not limited to:

Joining the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is an invaluable opportunity for students to enhance their education, expand their professional network, and gain access to essential resources. Members can connect with peers and experts through MyNASW, special practice sessions, and live events while staying informed through NASW publications, the Social Work Talks Podcast, and the Social Work Advocates Magazine. Students can boost their careers with the NASW Career Center, virtual career fairs, and job search tools, as well as manage student loans, apply

for scholarships, and save on expenses. Professional growth is supported through the Social Work Online CE Institute, webinars, conferences, and policy-focused summits. Plus, members can advocate for the profession by attending Student Advocacy Day with their local NASW chapter. Joining NASW ensures students are well-equipped for success in social work!



**Dr. Juarez,
NASW-WA President**



For detailed information about all the above benefits and more, visit the NASW website at [Student Benefits](#)

Congratulations to Gregorio Ochoa, MSW, on receiving both the Taylene Watson President's Award from NASW-WA and the esteemed Emeritus recognition from Heritage University! Your lifelong dedication to the field of social work, mentorship, and advocacy has left a lasting impact on the profession and the communities you serve. These honors reflect your unwavering commitment, leadership, and the profound influence you have had on students and colleagues. We celebrate your remarkable achievements and thank you for your invaluable contributions to the field.





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Summer

Dates & More

Summer Semester 2025 (May – July)

Classes Begin (Graduate): Tuesday, May 20*

Classes Begin (Undergraduate): Tuesday, May 27

Classes End (Undergraduate): Friday, July 18

Classes End (Graduate): Sunday, July 20*

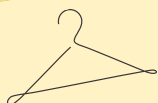
Summer Safety



Stay Hydrated
Drink 8+ glasses
of water/day



Stay Cool
Stay indoors when
the weather is
extreme



Wear light, loose,
breathable
clothing



Exercise Smart
Consider indoor
locations in
summer months



Know the weather
forecast to plan
your day



Apply sunblock
when spending
time outside

Summer
2025

MSW Class Schedule

Summer class content
starts Tuesday 05/27/25

05/31/25 1st Saturday
06/14/25 2nd Saturday
06/28/25 3rd Saturday
07/12/25 4th Saturday

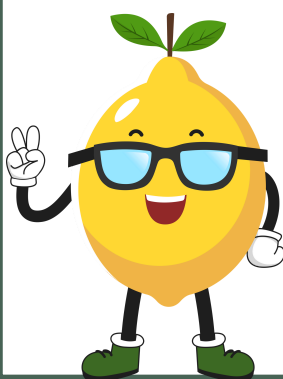
Summer class content
ends Friday 07/18/25



MSW **07/23/25**

**Final Grades Due by
Faculty Wednesday**

Now



Summer Dates Campus is Closed

05/26/25: Memorial Day
Holiday

06/06/25: Yakama Nation
Treaty Day (Observed)

06/19/25: Juneteenth

07/04/25: Independence
Day



Getting the Year Started Right

2025–2026: Heritage Univ. MSW Cohort Orientation

We will be welcoming our new advanced standing MSW students to orientation, **July 29th - 31st**, with our advanced generalist students attending the 31st. There will be a focus on integration of social work values, skills, and knowledge. We will build on generalist practice content applying it to advanced practice and preparing for practicum.

School-based placement students should be on the look out for information about the additional orientation with the ESD 105



2025-2026 Academic Calendar Fall Semester 2025 (August – December)

- Classes Begin (Graduate): Monday, August 11
 - Classes Begin (Undergraduate): Monday, August 25
 - Labor Day (Offices closed): Monday, September 1
 - Registration Closed – Last day to add a course: Friday, August 29
 - Drop Date (for 100% refund): Monday, September 8
 - Last Day to Withdraw from a course (for 50% refund): Monday, September 22
 - Annual All Faculty Assessment Day (classes cancelled 8 am to 5 pm): Friday, October 3
 - Midterm Exam Week (Undergraduate): Monday, October 13 – Friday, October 17
 - Midterm Grades Due: Wednesday, October 22
 - Spring Registration Opens: Monday, October 27
 - Veteran's Day (Offices closed): Tuesday, November 11
 - Thanksgiving (Offices closed): Thursday, November 27 – Friday, November 28
 - Classes End (Undergraduate): Friday, December 5
 - Classes End (Graduate): Sunday, December 7
 - Finals Week: Monday, December 8 – Friday, December 12
 - Final Grades Due: Wednesday, December 17
 - Winter Break (Offices closed): Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2
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Written By: Miguel A. Juarez, EdD, MSW
Professor & MSW Program Director Heritage University

The D in ADEI

Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity refers to the acceptance of and respect for the variety of similarities and differences among people, including but not limited to gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, race, Native or Indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, romantic orientation, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, other family status, socio-economic difference, appearance, language and accent, ability and disability, mental health, substance use disorders, education, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role and function, veteran status, thinking style, and personality type. Inclusion of various diversity dimensions may vary by geography or organization (NASW, 2022).

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) 2022 adopted a competency-based education framework identifying the nine social work competencies accompanied by a set of behaviors for each competency. Following the nine social work competencies, the EPAS describes five elements of integrated program design:


* Diversity is addressed in the second element of the integrated program design.

1. Program mission (EPAS 1.0)
2. Anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (EPAS 2.0)
3. Explicit curriculum (EPAS 3.0)
4. Implicit curriculum (EPAS 4.0)
5. Assessment (EPAS 5.0)

As mentioned above, the CSWE 2022 EPAS adopted a competency-based education framework identifying the nine social work competencies accompanied by a set of behaviors for each competency. See competency 3 below addressing diversity.

Competency 3: Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice

Social workers understand how racism and oppression shape human experiences and how these two constructs influence practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels and in policy and research. Social workers understand the pervasive impact of White supremacy and privilege and use their knowledge, awareness, and skills to engage in anti-racist practice. Social workers understand how diversity and intersectionality shape human experiences and identity development and affect equity and inclusion. The dimensions of diversity are



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understood as a the intersectionality of factors including but not limited to age, case, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, generational status, immigration status, legal status, marital status, political ideology, race, nationality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that this intersectionality means that a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege and power. Social workers understand the societal and historical roots of social and racial injustices and the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. Social workers understand cultural humility and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, racial, technological, and cultural exclusions, may create privilege and power resulting in systemic oppression.

**"Diversity is not about how we differ.
It is about embracing one another's
uniqueness."**

(Ola Joseph)



Toppenish: Social Work Club

This is the second year for our Toppenish Social Work Club. Here are our officers:

VIVIANA AGUILAR- CLUB PRESIDENT
VANESSA MORAN-TAPIA- VICE PRESIDENT
KAREN BENITEZ-SECRETARY
LENIZE MADRIGAL-SENATOR
JONATHAN BUSTAMANTE-SOCIAL
MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tri-Cities: Social Work Club

This is the first year for our Tri-Cities Social Work Club. Our officers have put in a great amount of effort and time in engaging the social work student body in community services and unifying the cohorts.

KENNEDY NOYES- CLUB PRESIDENT
ALYSSA VALENCIA- VICE PRESIDENT
RACHELLE THOMPSON-SECRETARY
KASSIDY LEWIS -TREASURERE
CASSANDRA DAVIS- SGA SENATOR



Tri-Cities : Location & Hours

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
1P.M.-4PM.or by request.

The Kennewick Hu Food Pantry is new this year aiming to serve our HU family with an appetite for knowledge and nourishment. Stop by for yummy nutritious snacks. 😊

Any questions: Reach out to Alicia Gomez, MSW



Toppenish : Location & Hours

Simkins Hall

Monday 2:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Any questions: Reach out to
Clarie Wilmes

References:

Council on Social Work Education. (2022). 2022 EPAS: Educational policy and accreditation standards for baccalaureate and master's social work programs.<https://www.cswe.org/accreditation/policies-process/2022epas/>

National Association of Social Workers. (2022). NASW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Charter.
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Committee-Charter>

All Things Practicum Education

Faculty Practicum Liaisons

Dr. Jacob Campbell, LICSW, MSW
Associate Professor/MSW
Practicum Liaison

Email: Campbell_J@heritage.edu
Phone: (509) 392-1056



Alicia Gomez, MSW
Assistant Professor/BSW & MSW
Practicum Liaison (Tri-Cities)

Email: Gomez_A@heritage.edu
Phone: 509-865-0424 Ext: 4213



Jessica Vega, MSW
Practicum Director/Assistant
Professor

Email: Vega_J@heritage.edu
Phone: (509) 901-6663

Faculty work on a flexible schedule
including both in person and remotely.
Therefore, appointments are
recommended and can be made via
email, phone, or book with me links.

Faculty Practicum Liaisons Role:

The Faculty Practicum Liaisons (FPL) are HU faculty who serve as a liaison between the student, practicum supervisor, and practicum placement site. Each student is assigned a FPL upon starting practicum. The FPL meets with the student and practicum supervisors as needed. Faculty Practicum Liaisons can also assist students with advising.

Some tasks FPL conduct are:

- Develop learning contracts with the student and practicum supervisors
- Serve as conduit between agency and the school
- Assists students with their educational experiences in practicum
- Discuss student concerns, agency experiences
- Ensures that standards for practicum are upheld
- Review student progress with practicum instructors
- Grade/evaluate students, after consult with practicum supervisors
- Discuss any issues related to the student education in practicum with the Practicum Director and
- Provides feedback to agencies.

Each student registered for practicum will be assigned a FPL. The FPL will make a minimum of three (3) practicum site visits either in person or virtual per academic year for students both in BSW and MSW programs. **The first visit should occur no later than the first month of practicum to solidify the learning contract.** It is the student's responsibility to coordinate such meetings. **The second visit should occur at mid-point evaluation with the last visit being at final evaluation.**

Welcome Back Practicum Supervisors

All practicum supervisors are invited to join via zoom as we prepare for the new students. Become familiar with the people, processes, and receive support. We are committed to supporting you and the students in their journey.

Where: <https://heritage.zoom.us/j/96278706904?pwd=MNIgMgxzR8Uq2OAVB6d5JiWSgyZlLWj.1&from=addon>

When: Monday July 28, 2025 @ 10:30A.M.-11:30A.M.

Addressing Professional Concerns POLICY

When concerns about a student's performance arise, agency practicum supervisors with concerns should consult the practicum instructor or practicum director for guidance in addressing the problem. It is the responsibility of the faculty advisor, faculty, practicum director, or agency practicum supervisor to document the student's behaviors, and assure that decisions are neither random nor capricious (HU Practicum Manual, p. 33).

Upcoming Events, Resources, and Opportunities

hooray!

**IF NOT,
NOW
WHEN?**

Thinking about advancing your social work career? HU has partnered with **ESD105** to offer the MSW program school based practicums. Applications for the **Master of Social Work (MSW) program** are now open! Take the next step in deepening your skills and expanding your impact **apply** today!



Training Opportunities

Webinar: Foundational Community Supports presents: Supporting Individuals within Washington State Tribal Communities

When: April 15th, 2025

Time: 3-4:30P.M. (Pacific)

Register here

Comprehensive Health Care: Adult Mental Health First Aid:

When: May 6th, 2025

Time: 8A.M.-4:30P.M.

Where: Yakima Center Auditorium

Registration Link

Congratulations to Viviana Aguilar one of our very talented BSW students on receiving the Outstanding Student award from NASW-WA! Your dedication, hard work, and commitment to social work have not gone unnoticed. This recognition is a testament to your passion for serving others.

We celebrate you and your achievements and look forward to seeing the incredible work you will continue to do in the profession. Felicidades Viviana!



Social Work Resources

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [National Association of Social Workers \(NASW\)](#)
- [Social Work Insurance](#)
- [Social Work Examination Preparation](#)