Social Work Integrations for Thriving (SWIFT) Schools Scholars Program

Dominican University School of Social Work

Preparing individuals to make a difference in the lives of others

The Social Work Integrations for Thriving (SWIFT) Schools Scholars Program is designed to prepare school social workers as school-based mental health providers who will work with marginalized and minoritized school populations in high-needs school districts that surround Dominican University's River Forest campus.

This program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. If awarded, scholars will be placed in partner districts and will receive funding** to cover tuition during their advanced generalist internship for as long as the grant is extended by the federal government*. They will be supervised by school social workers who will receive a stipend for supervision.

**Program specifications are contingent upon funding and are subject to change.*

*** This is a monthly stipend, not an academic scholarship. It may impact students' financial aid and must be reported as income on taxes.*

Eligibility criteria and application details

Applicants must be a school social work track student who will do their advanced generalist internship in 2027-2028 and also:

- Have minimum GPA of 3.0
- Be approved/cleared by their academic advisor
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Be willing to be placed in one of our high-needs partner school districts for their internship (Bellwood 88, Maywood 89, Berwyn 98 or 100, Cicero 99, Mannheim 83, Argo HS 217, Morton HS 201, Township HS District 214, Cook County SD 130, DuPage HS District 88)

If awarded, scholars must agree to the following beyond all requirements of the School Social Work PEL program:

- Follow the process and timeline specific to SWIFT school scholars for internship assignments
- Register for SWIFT-specific cohort class sections
- Participate in extra training requirements
    - In-person SWIFT Orientation in August (date TBD)
    - In-person Mid-semester Workshop (date TBD)
    - Attend 2 SSW 664 Class Sessions in-person on campus (dates TBD)
- Take the Illinois State Board of Education licensing exam before completing the program
- Participate in program evaluation (sign informed consent)
- Participate in post-program communication and follow-up

Timeline

Interested applicants should complete the online application. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and accepted applicants will be notified upon review. Applicants will be matched for potential internship placements in partner districts. Placement contracts will be signed and submitted. An in-person orientation meeting will be held in August (date TBD).