

NINTH EDITION

Social Work

An Empowering Profession

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Preface

Education for the social work profession requires an understanding of the dynamics of human behavior, social problems, social welfare responses, and professional interventions. In short, early in their educational experience, students will want to know “the who, the what, and the why” of social work.

We believe the most important characteristic of an introductory textbook is in the way it presents a foundation so that students develop a mindset, or way of thinking, about the “who, what, and why” of social work. Curriculum frameworks developed by the Council on Social Work Education prescribe content on diversity, human rights and social justice, ethical and professional behavior, policy practice, and social work practice. We believe that, in their introduction to social work, students need to explore the common base of professional values, knowledge, and skills as each relates to the curricular components.

What distinguishes this introductory textbook from others is that it adopts a discipline-based, empowerment-oriented approach in framing the foundation of the introductory course. To that end, this text introduces various elements that comprise the curriculum. Content covers the historical and philosophical roots of social work; the professional base of values and ethics; perspectives on diversity and difference; human rights and social justice; the social service delivery network, social policy, and client populations; an array of strategies related to social work practice, policy, and research; and an overview of various fields of social work practice.

The vision for this textbook reflects our combined experience as social work educators and incorporates our collaborative efforts in developing content for our respective introductory social work courses. Originally, our plan for the book developed out of differences in the strengths of our educational and practice backgrounds—a social systems perspectives from the University of Iowa School of Social Work and social group work from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration; our varied practice experiences in public welfare, school social work, and aging services; and our differing foci of macrolevel and clinical practice. We both now embrace a generalist approach informed by perspectives on strengths and empowerment.

The ninth edition fully incorporates empowerment-based social work and the strengths perspective in the context of human rights and social justice. The Reflections on Empowerment and Social Justice boxes, along with the Reflections on Diversity and Human Rights boxes, emphasize contemporary issues and ethical concerns in the context of empowerment and diversity. The Voices from the Field boxes include fictitious accounts of social workers’ perspectives on their professional experiences in various fields of practice. To further anchor students in competency-based education, each chapter includes critical thinking questions linked to the CSWE competencies. Most chapters still include Social Work Highlights that feature practice applications and case examples.

New to This Edition

The ninth edition of *Social Work: An Empowering Profession* maintains the basic structure of previous editions while refreshing the internal organization of some chapters and updating content throughout. Notable revisions and additions include:

- An increased emphasis on diversity and difference, including an extensive revision of Chapter 7 and a new section on diversity and the history of social work in Chapter 2
- Major revisions in the sections on disabilities and substance use disorders in Chapter 12 and healthy aging in Chapter 14
- New material on runaway youths, domestic minor sex trafficking, and youth empowerment in the section on services for youths in Chapter 13
- Additional content on biological influences on behavior, environmental justice, evidence-based practice, and human rights and social justice in various chapters, adverse childhood experiences and principles of trauma-informed care in Chapter 13, eco-maps in Chapter 3, and an extension of empowerment-based social work in Chapter 1 to include content on affirming diversity and difference, adopting a human rights perspective, and taking action
- E-text features, including an electronically linked glossary, Assess Your Understanding “pop-up” quizzes aligned with learning outcomes, and MyLab Helping Professions for Introduction to Social Work activities at the end of each chapter
- Updates to demographic data as well as inclusion of several hundred new citations to ensure currency

Organization of the Book

The book is organized into four sections:

Part One, *The Profession of Social Work*, lays out the “who, what, why, and where” of social work and the social service delivery system.

- Chapter 1 defines social work, examines the purpose of the profession, overviews fields of practice, and introduces empowerment-based social work practice.
- Chapter 2 surveys the historical roots of the social work profession, including the contributions of diversity in the history of social work, and details the base of professional knowledge, values, and skills.
- Chapter 3 introduces the social systems and ecological frameworks for practice and delineates micro-, mezzo-, and macrolevel clients.
- Chapter 4 identifies key components of the social service delivery network.

Part Two, *Social Work Perspectives*, examines the values, social justice mandate, and elements of diversity and difference that both inform and shape social work practice.

- Chapter 5 features the value and ethical foundations of social work practice.
- Chapter 6 focuses on social justice and human rights, the “isms” and injustice, the theoretical basis of social injustice, and implications for social work practice.
- Chapter 7 considers diversity and difference in the context of cultural identity and intersectionality and the knowledge, values, and skills necessary to support multicultural social work practice.

Part Three, *Generalist Social Work*, introduces an empowering approach to generalist social work at all system levels, including core processes, social work functions along with associated roles and strategies, and policy practice.

- Chapter 8 describes the nature of the collaborative partnership between practitioners and clients and briefly describes empowering processes for generalist practice.
- Chapter 9 delineates the various roles and strategies associated with each function of social work—consultancy, resource management, and education.
- Chapter 10 explores the relationships between social work and social policy and reviews major historic and contemporary social welfare policies and services.

Part Four, *Contemporary Issues in Fields of Practice*, features the opportunities and challenges for social workers within the broad fields of public welfare, health systems, family services and child welfare, and adult and aging services.

- Chapter 11 profiles responses to issues in the public domain that involve social workers, including poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and crime and delinquency.
- Chapter 12 presents opportunities for social workers in the fields of health and behavioral health care, including a range of public health and health care settings and services for people with disabilities, mental health issues, and substance use disorders.
- Chapter 13 examines social work interests in the areas of family-centered services, child maltreatment, a continuum of child welfare services, school social work, and other services for youths.
- Chapter 14 emphasizes adult and aging services, including longstanding fields of practice such as occupational and gerontological social work, as well as response to family caregiving issues, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and the increasing numbers of older adults who aspire to a life span that is equal to their health span.

Also Available with MyLab Helping Professions for Introduction to Social Work

This title is also available with MyLab Helping Professions for Introduction to Social Work, an online homework, tutorial, and assessment program organized around the 2015 CSWE EPAS and designed to work with the text to engage students and improve results. Within its structured environment, students see key concepts demonstrated through video clips, practice what they learn, test their understanding, and receive feedback to guide their learning and ensure they master key learning outcomes.

- **Learning Outcomes and Standards measure student results.** MyLab Helping Professions for Introduction to Social Work organizes all assignments around the 2015 CSWE EPAS and essential learning outcomes.
- **Video- and Case-Based Exercises develop decision-making skills.** Video- and Case-based Exercises introduce students to a broader range of clients, and therefore a broader range of presenting problems, than they will encounter in their own pre-professional experiences. Students watch videos of actual high-quality role-play scenarios. They are then guided in their analysis of the videos through a series of short-answer questions with expert feedback. These exercises help students develop the techniques and decision-making skills they need to be effective helping professionals.
- **Licensure Quizzes help students prepare for certification.** Automatically graded, multiple-choice Licensure Quizzes help students prepare for their certification examinations, master foundational course content, and improve their performance in the course.

- **Video Library offers a wealth of observation opportunities.** The Video Library provides more than 400 video clips of actual sessions and high-quality role plays in a database organized by topic and searchable by keyword. The Video Library includes every video clip from the MyLab Helping Professions for Introduction to Social Work courses plus additional videos from Pearson's extensive library of helping professionals in action. Instructors can create additional assignments around the videos or use them for in-class activities. Students can expand their observation experiences to include other course areas and increase the amount of time they spend watching expert helpers in action.

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K. K. M.



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