Frequently Asked Questions for MSW Advanced Standing Students

What is Integrated Care?
Integrated care is the systematic coordination of physical and behavioral health care. Integrating mental health, substance abuse and primary care services has been shown to be the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple health needs. Integrated care is a model that works for professionals who can communicate and coordinate with others and who see value in interprofessional collaboration.

What is UNC-PrimeCare?
UNC-PrimeCare is the name of a HRSA (Human Resources and Services Administration) funded project awarded to the School of Social Work in 2014, and again in 2017. For students interested in integrated behavioral health care across the life-span with rural and/or underserved groups, UNC-PrimeCare offers a generous stipend and supplemental training. The goal of the project is to prepare MSWs to work effectively in integrated care settings after graduation and contribute to the behavioral health workforce.

Who is eligible?
This project is available to Advanced Standing direct-practice MSW students. UNC-PrimeCare is not available to students who have declared a CMPP or self-directed concentration. This is a stipulation of the funding source. Final year full-time MSW specialization students and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students are also eligible.

What is required of me as a UNC-PrimeCare trainee?
- UNC-PrimeCare trainees must be placed in an approved UNC-PrimeCare field placement. These are sites that provide some level of integrated care with rural and/or underserved groups. The field office will have a list of available agencies that meet the criteria.
- UNC-PrimeCare trainees are required to attend 3-4 seminars over the course of the year to supplement their training and understanding of integrated health care with rural and/or underserved groups. Attendance is mandatory. Seminar dates will be announced over the summer. Seminars are typically held on Friday afternoons.
- UNC-PrimeCare trainees are required to take SOWO741, Integrated Health Care with Underserved Populations (1.5 credits). This course will be offered in the fall on three Saturdays from 9:00-4:00; Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Oct. 5. Attendance at all three classes is mandatory.
- UNC-PrimeCare trainees are required to complete brief evaluations and standardized measures regarding placement experiences and your understanding of integrated health care with underserved groups. These will be administered several times throughout the academic year.
- Once a semester, you and your field-team will be invited to the School of Social Work for a half-day workshop. Workshops are held on a field day and provide opportunities for your own learning, and for the continuing education of field instructors. These workshops will count as field-hours.
- Trainees are required to complete a Capstone Project at the end of the 2020 spring semester. These voice-over Power Point projects will be posted to the UNC-PrimeCare website and used to educate others about integrated health care for underserved populations.
How do I become a UNC-PrimeCare Trainee?
Students interested in applying to the UNC-PrimeCare program must complete the required application and then be selected into the program. **This is a competitive selection process and there are a limited number of training spots.** The UNC-PrimeCare application is due March 4, 2019. Applications are posted on the website: [https://uncprimecare.sites.unc.edu/](https://uncprimecare.sites.unc.edu/) Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. The field-placement process will unfold after you have been selected to participate in the program.

What if I am unable to commit to the seminars, workshops or all of the classes?
We recognize students are busy and have a lot of demands on their time and schedules. However, because of the competitive nature of the project, and the generous stipend associated with it, it is imperative **that only students** who can fulfill all requirements apply.

Are there other courses required for UNC-PrimeCare?
UNC-PrimeCare trainees are required to take the 1.5 credit course, **SOWO 741**. Students will be advised on helpful courses to take once admitted to the program (i.e., Motivational Interviewing, Brief Treatment, CBT). The aforementioned courses are strongly recommended.

Can I be a UNC-PrimeCare trainee and also complete requirements for the SUAS program?
Several field placements meet criteria for UNC-PrimeCare and the SUAS programs. The field faculty will be able to help you identify these placements.

How can students access the application?
The UNC-PrimeCare application is posted on the website: [https://uncprimecare.sites.unc.edu/](https://uncprimecare.sites.unc.edu/) Contact Meryl Kanfer, UNC-PrimeCare Coordinator if you need help locating the application materials.

When are students notified about being accepted into the UNC-PrimeCare program?
Students selected to participate in UNC-PrimeCare will be notified by March 8th, 2019. Once you arrive on campus, you’ll meet with field faculty and will discuss options for your placement in an approved UNC-PrimeCare field placement. If you are not chosen to receive the stipend, but still want to be trained, you will be given the opportunity to be a **waiver student**. Waiver students must be placed in a UNC-PrimeCare Field Placement, and be able to fulfill all of the UNC-PrimeCare requirements.

Who is the contact person if I have additional questions?
Meryl Kanfer ([mkanfer@unc.edu](mailto:mkanfer@unc.edu)), Dr. Lisa Zerden ([lzerden@email.unc.edu](mailto:lzerden@email.unc.edu))