The Department of Social Work and Social Ecology is an interdisciplinary academic unit that supports the institution’s commitment to human wholeness and its belief that one’s fullest development is achieved when all subsystems affecting the individual are understood and in balance. Both conceptually and pragmatically, the programs in the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology are guided by an overarching ecological (bio-psycho-social-spiritual) perspective and methodological framework that supports the use of scientific methods of problem analysis and program design.

A key component in this framework is the importance of interdisciplinary scholarship when studying the interrelated aspects of behavioral, sociopolitical, economic, and environmental problems. The result is an interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and practice environment brought together for the purpose of creating sustainable interventions directed toward improving the functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions, and communities. As such, priority has been given to creating an academic milieu favorable to educating competent, ethical, and compassionate professionals and scholars for advanced practice roles—capable of respecting and addressing the needs of diverse populations.

Academic writing support
Students who need writing support can contact their program director to arrange for individual assistance.

Combined degrees
The department offers three dual degrees: social work with criminal justice (M.S.W / M.S.), social work with gerontology (M.S.W / M.S.), and an M.S.W. with Ph.D in social policy and social research. See the Combined Degrees Programs of the University on the sidebar for additional information regarding our dual degree programs.

A complete list of part-time and voluntary faculty can be viewed on the department web site: <http://www.llu.edu/behavioral-health/socialwork/>.

Chair
Beverly J. Buckles

Executive associate chair
Kimberly Freeman

Primary faculty
Qais Alemi
Beverly J. Buckles
Monte Butler
Kimberly Freeman
G. Victoria Jackson
Sigrid James
Viola Lindsey
Allison Maxwell

Susanne Montgomery
Larry Ortiz

Secondary faculty
Neil Driscoll
Craig R. Jackson
Veronica Kelley
William Murdoch
Martha Parra
Allan Rawland
Sally Richter
Kristen Slagter

Emeritus faculty
Dianna Simon
Ignatius Yacoub

Programs
- Criminal Justice — M.S. (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/criminal-justice-ms)
- Gerontology — M.S. (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/gerontology-ms)
- Play Therapy — Certificate (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/play-therapy-certificate)
- Social Policy and Social Research — Ph.D. (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/social-policy-research-phd)