

MASTER'S DEGREE IN

HEALTH ADVOCACY

SARAH
LAWRENCE
COLLEGE

GRADUATE
STUDIES

Students can pursue a Dual Degree in Health Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College and Social Work at NYU School of Social Work. This program combines the theoretical knowledge of health advocacy and clinical social work. It prepares health advocates and social workers for both clinical practice with patients and families in diverse health care settings and community and policy practice aimed at reducing structural barriers to health such as poverty and racism. Both programs emphasize the importance of understanding the impact of culture, race, and gender on the development of individuals and social systems.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Health Advocacy graduates work in a field characterized by extraordinary breadth and opportunity. Advocacy careers span the spectrum from patient advocacy in case-based direct service to individuals, to community advocacy initiatives on behalf of geographic or disease-specific populations, to system-level policy-based advocacy activities.

Graduates function in direct care as patient advocates, ombudsmen, educators, health advisers, and navigators, facilitating access to health care services and assisting individuals to negotiate an increasingly complex and fragmented health care infrastructure.

As health policy advocates, graduates work in legislative and organizational areas. They advocate for patients and populations from positions in government agencies, nonprofit organizations, grassroots and national health policy organizations, and the media. They are often agents of positive change in the health care system.

The field of health advocacy also encompasses careers not directly associated with the provision of clinical health care services, including initiatives to dismantle structural barriers to health that are caused by poverty, environmental destruction, illiteracy, and violence.

THE PROGRAM

The MA in Health Advocacy degree requires 48 course credits (graduate seminars), 12 fieldwork credits (three 200-hour internships), and a Capstone Project. The program may be taken on a part- or full-time basis. All courses meet once a week and are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Courses include:

- Models of Advocacy: Theory and Practice (2 semesters)
- Economics of Health
- Ethics and Advocacy
- Program Design and Evaluation
- Health Care Policy
- Health Law
- History of Health Care in the United States
- Illness and Disability Narratives
- Physiology and Disease
- Research Methods for Health Advocacy
- Fieldwork Pro Seminar
- Capstone Pro Seminar

DUAL DEGREE IN HEALTH ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL WORK

ADMISSION

Applicants for the Health Advocacy graduate program must have received a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university. Previous college work is expected to be at 3.0 or higher and should reflect advanced course study.

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students are welcome to apply for financial aid. All aid is awarded on the basis of need. Non-teaching internships are available.

THE FACULTY

An outstanding faculty is drawn from the College and the New York area. Nationally recognized guest lecturers in the New York medical and academic communities further expand the program offerings.

The Sarah Lawrence faculty has been consistently recognized among the best in the country by The Princeton Review.

ABOUT SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Sarah Lawrence is located on a wooded suburban campus just 30 minutes north of Midtown Manhattan. Offering both graduate and undergraduate degrees, the College is nationally known for academic rigor and commitment to developing students as individuals. Sarah Lawrence College is also noted for cross-disciplinary study and integrated learning, making it an ideal academic setting for the Health Advocacy Program.

GRADUATE STUDIES

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LEARN MORE

We invite you to visit
sarahlawrence.edu/public-health-advocacy
for more information.

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