

USC | School of Social Work

Research Sequence Faculty Initiated Research Projects

Approved FIRP electives for 2007 - 2008

Spaces are limited. Send a note to the faculty researcher if you are interested so that they can advise you when interviews are taking place. Faculty researchers will interview interested students and make their final decision. You will enroll in SOWK 695 for 2 units and SOWK 697 for 1 unit.

Determinants of Health & Community Service Utilization Among African American Female Caregivers: Testing the Anderson Behavioral Model
Drawing from a random sample of 521 African American female caregivers in rural and urban U.S. community settings, the research study will test the Anderson Behavioral Model of service utilization.
Faculty researcher: Dr. Maria Aranda
aranda@usc.edu
Concentration: Health/Mental Health/COPA
Number of Students: 1

Enhanced Geriatric Depression Treatment in Adult Day Health Care
This project is a start-up to a subsequent randomized clinical trial of depression care for low-income, predominantly Latinos with depression and significant comorbid medical illnesses in adult day health care (ADHC).
Faculty researchers: Dr. Maria Aranda and Dr. Kathleen Eil
aranda@usc.edu
Concentration: Health/Mental Health/COPA
Number of Students: 1-2

Photovoice Project: Families of Childhood Cancer Survivor
The purpose of this project is to enable young adult survivors of childhood cancer and select family members to (1) document the impact of cultural, physical, social, economic, and psychological factors on their cancer experience; (2) identify barriers, enabling services and programs associated with appropriate long-term health care and healthful survivorship; and (3) communicate recommendations and insights to local service providers.
Faculty researchers: Dr. Leopoldo Cabassa and Dr. Brad Zebrack
cabassa@usc.edu
Concentration: Health/COPA
Number of Students: 1-2

Tai Chi and Depression
The purpose of this research is to conduct a systematic review on the studies which use Tai Chi as an intervention for reducing or eliminating depression.
Faculty researchers: Dr. Iris Chi, Dr. Bin Xie and Dr. Maryalice Jordan-Marsh
ichi@usc.edu or bxie@usc.edu or jordanma@usc.edu
Concentration: Health/Mental Health
Number of Students: 2-3

Evaluation of the "Point of Engagement" Service Delivery System
Staff from the Children and Families Research Consortium (a new partnership between DCFS and the five universities in LA County with graduate schools of social work) have begun a multi-stage process of evaluating both the outcomes of and the changing service delivery processes associated with DCFS's new reform initiative, Point of Engagement (POE).
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
mccroske@usc.edu
Concentrations: Families and Children/COPA
Number of Students: 6-7

The ABC Project: About Building Connections with Infants and Their Families
This project will allow students to work on a new community intervention targeting seriously emotional disturbed infants and young children (Birth to Five) and their families in SPA 4.
Faculty Researchers: Dr. Ferol Mennen and Dr. Tara Rose
Mennen@usc.edu or trose@usc.edu or call Dr. Tara Rose at 213-440-1001
Concentrations: Mental Health
Number of Students: 2-3

Exploring Cultural and Psychosocial Factors Which May Contribute to Nativity-related Differences in Black Women's Birth Outcomes
The purpose of this pilot study is to explore cultural and psychosocial factors that may contribute to nativity differentials in black women's birth outcomes.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Tyan Parker Dominguez
tyanpark@usc.edu
Concentration: Families and Children/Health/Mental Health
Number of Students: 1-2

Assessing Spanish Acquisition by Social Work Students and Alumni
This pilot study will assess the effectiveness of Spanish video-case study and accompanying audio-script designed to enhance language proficiency.
Faculty Researcher: Ramon Salcido
salcido@usc.edu
Concentration: Families and Children/Health/COPA
Number of Students: 2

Neighborhood Case Study
The purpose of the study is to examine and access social service networks in the USC University Park neighborhood north of the University.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Ramon Salcido
salcido@usc.edu
Concentration: COPA
Number of Students: 4

Management Study
The purpose of the study is to examine social work managers' use of planning in non-profits.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Ramon Salcido
salcido@usc.edu
Concentration: COPA
Number of Students: 2

Child Welfare Caregivers: Exploring How Caseworkers Can Improve Access to Pediatric Healthcare
This research project is based on a completed cross-sectional survey of a convenience sample of 237 caregivers at a Foster Care Pediatric Clinic at LAC+USC.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Janet Schneiderman
juschnei@usc.edu
Concentration: Families and Children
Number of Students: 1

Behavioral Health Promotion Among Adolescents
This research project focuses on the impact of community and family factors in determining the mental health outcomes and health risk-taking of urban adolescents.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Dorian Traube
traube@usc.edu
Concentration: Health/Mental Health
Number of Students: 1

The Impact of Cancer for Young Adults Age 18-35 Years Old
This is a longitudinal study of young adults diagnosed with cancer between the ages of 18-35 years. The purpose of the study is to examine the natural progression of psychosocial adaptation and coping with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer over time.
Faculty Researcher: Dr. Brad Zebrack
Students interested in the project should send an email to zebrack@usc.edu indicating why they are interested.
Concentration: Health
Number of Students: 1-2