

What it means to be a BC Eagle and School of Social Work candidate

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During my undergraduate experience at Northwestern University, I learned that I wanted to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. While studying Human Development and Psychological Services, with a minor in Sociology, I was continually drawn to the ways in which people engage in community. With compounding experiences working with older adults, my passion for supporting the aging experience grew as well. Specifically, I knew that I wanted to craft more innovative this support. I wanted to focus on creating new programs, services, and experiences that would benefit the physical and mental health of older adults. As I searched for programs, I came across Boston College's School of Social Work. The BC School of Social Work prioritizes educating future social workers to "address the world's most pressing social problems in innovative and effective ways" through collaboration with "communities embedded in social dilemmas to design enduring solutions and prioritize equity, justice, and inclusion". My passion for strengthening our systems around older adults has thrived at Boston College. While at Boston college, I am specializing in macro-practice with a concentration in health, and interest in older adults and aging populations through my field placements. I am also a Fellow in the Spier Fellowship in Aging which aims to "foster excellence in geriatric social work education and to build a workforce of trained social work professionals who can support the health and well-being of our rapidly aging population". Through education centered on innovative approaches to social work, I am eager to develop new approaches to work supporting older adults.

One important challenge facing our aging populations is Climate Change. Climate Change and ever-worsening environmental factors deeply impact the health of older adults. Older adults are particularly vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather shifts and air pollution. Working in the Office of Sustainability allows me to positively impact the Boston College community, engage in work around combatting these effects and expand my experience working in sustainable arenas as I connect my education to real-world involvement. Practical experiences in the Office of Sustainability have offered insights into sustainable efforts within organizations and how this learning can be applied in future organizational structures. I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in efforts to improve Boston College's impact on our environment and beyond.