# <u>Proposal for a Domestic Violence Concentration within the Mental Health and Human Services Program</u>

The foundation of the Mental Health and Human Services Program is to provide the educational background and professional skills necessary to pursue a career in the human services field. One of the most valuable components of our program is the two semester internship experience. It has been our experience that these placements often lead to employment, as recent graduates are now employed in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, institutes for the developmentally disabled, domestic violence shelters, community agencies and nonprofit groups. We are proposing that a new concentration in domestic violence be added to build in our past successes and to maximize student's opportunities for employment in the area of domestic violence prevention.

For the past four years, the Mental Health and Human Services Program has incorporated a community advocacy internship in domestic violence prevention into its curriculum. Prior to this, our students have participated as interns in two domestic violence shelters and were part of the first group of interns to participate at the Family Justice Center at the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. Through our associations with three Domestic Violence organizations: Day One, Safe Horizons and the Urban Research Institute, our students have been trained and educated to go out to the community and educate people in domestic violence prevention and intervention. Our unique community internship program has been given accolades by the National Organization for Human Services, where our faculty and students have presented on many panels and received awards. In addition to academic and professional recognition, many agencies have demonstrated an interest in hiring our students. Both they and we feel that the specific education, training and expertise that a domestic violence concentration will provide will greatly enhance the employability of our students. It would provide the perfect compliment to our present community partnerships. These agencies have expressed eagerness to offer our students positions such as assistant counselors in domestic violence shelters, domestic violence hot line crisis intervention specialists, and communitypartnership workers with the NYPD. Domestic violence specialists are also hired on-site at Child Welfare offices. In addition, a concentration that combines the classroom education and background with the internship skills would be unique in New York City and would greatly enhance the competitive edge that our students need. Also, the cultural diversity of our students parallels the cultural and ethnic mix in Brooklyn and the greater community. The students in our program would be uniquely able to provide the sensitivity and understanding that would make them effective advocates across many ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious groups.

There are many career opportunities available to graduates with and expertise in domestic violence prevention. The proposed concentration will expand the education and training, provide a skills base and empower our students seeking positions within the field of domestic violence as well as related fields such as substance abuse counseling and education.



## KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE The City University of New York

#### A.S. MENTAL HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES •

Total credits: 60 Requirements for Matriculants **COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS** Successful completion of CUNY/ACT Tests in Reading and Writing and the COMPASS Math Skills Test with passing examination scores or developmental courses may be required. ENG 01200 4 credits ENG 02400 3 HPE 01200 3 If Required ENG 00400, 09100, 09200 &/or 09300 0 MAT 0M100 & 0M200 or MAT 0R300 proficiency 0 **DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS §** All Majors MUST TAKE: General Psychology (PSY 01100) 3 credits Human Growth and Development (PSY 03200) 3 Abnormal Psychology (PSY 03600) 3 Introduction to Sociology (SOC 03100) 3 Introduction to Human Services (MH 01100) 3 Human Services Organizations (MH 03000) 3 Principles of Interviewing and Group Leadership (MH 03100) 3 Supervised Instructional Experience in Mental Health (MH 09801- MH 09802) PLUS, FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MAJORS Any Sociology elective or Anthropology 03700 or ANT 03900 or SAC 02000 3 Mental Health Practices with Vulnerable Populations (MH 03400) 3 Introduction to Gerontology (MH 03500) PLUS, FOR MAJORS WITH CONCENTRATION IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING Introduction to Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counseling (SAC 02000) Basic Counseling Techniques in Substance Abuse Field I (SAC 02200) Confidentiality, Ethics and the Counselor/Client Relationship in Substance Abuse Counseling (SAC 02600) GROUP REQUIREMENTS \*\* 12 credits A minimum of three credits each from two different groups - I thru III - must be Basic Courses. credits Performing and Visual Arts I. (Excluded are Art & Music Studio, Theatre Production & Technique Courses) Art - Music - Speech - Theatre Arts II. Language and Literature Foreign Language - Literature - Philosophy III. Social Sciences Economics - History - Political Science IV. Behavioral Sciences--Satisfied by Department Requirements Anthropology - Psychology - Sociology V. Mathematics and Sciences credits Biological Sciences - Mathematics & Computer Science - Physical Science ELECTIVES - 2 credits sufficient to meet required total of 60 credits • This program is within the Behavioral Sciences and Human Services Department. § Consultation with the Department Advisor is required.



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