

ILLINOIS STATE
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DATE: February 5, 2010

TO: Academic Affairs Committee

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Executive Summary – Child and Family Practice Sequence

The proposed Child and Family Practice Sequence in the Master of Social Work prepares professionals to provide social work services to at-risk children and families in an agency setting with special attention to the problems of poverty, family violence, substance abuse and mental illness. The social need for such assistance is acute and increasing. All courses for this sequence, which requires 33 hours for applicants who already possess a BSW from an accredited program, are already offered in the MSW program, where approximately 30 students are pursuing this area. However, the set of courses is currently described in the catalog only as a "concentration," which is purely advisory and not noted on the students' transcripts. The program is asking only to reclassify the existing concentration as a sequence. It will continue to serve the same number of students with the same number of classes, and will incur no new costs. The one change will be the recognition of Child and Family Practice as a distinct sequence for the degree with notation on the transcript.