

The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education is founded on the belief that the community and the University must work together to recruit and train social workers to work with older adults.

No one knows better than the University of Maine Center on Aging (CoA) about the sense of optimism and fulfillment that older adults can experience as they enjoy the benefit of a seasoned perspective on life.



The program already has made a difference!

More students entering the University of Maine School of Social Work are showing an interest in aging as a field of practice, and there are more well-qualified geriatric social workers in the community.

“The educational events and speakers added a whole new element because you got to meet others in the field and create a professional network. And, the rotations supplemented our overall learning and were a really valuable part of the program. On my rotation with Hancock County Homecare and Hospice I shadowed a social worker and got a real feel for what she did. It helped me figure out that I wanted to work with older citizens on end-of-life issues. It’s something I wouldn’t have known if I hadn’t done that particular rotation.” -HPPAE graduate Michele Garrity, MSW

How you can help!

The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education was started with time-limited funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation in partnership with the Social Work Leadership Institute and the New York Academy of Medicine.

Your support will insure the program continues into the future enabling the offering of new and innovative learning opportunities for students. Individuals and organizations like you that believe in the value of geriatric social work can make the difference. Your donation will make possible the necessary scholarships, professional mentorship, and educational experiences to make this program a success into the future.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts please indicate it on the attached response form or contact the UMaine Center on Aging Director Dr. Lenard Kaye at 207-262-7920 or len.kaye@umit.maine.edu.

Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education

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The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education at the University of Maine

Preparing the next generation of social work professionals to assist Maine’s older adults and their families to age in a healthy and successful way.



“Aging is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength.”

Betty Friedan



Preparing Maine's Future Geriatric Social Workers

Over the years, the **University of Maine Center on Aging (CoA)** has played a key role in maximizing the well-being of older adults and helping them lead meaningful and productive lives.

By conducting research; educating students and professionals; and delivering consultative and community services, the CoA has responded to the opportunities and challenges that have arisen with the aging of Maine's citizenry.

Today this work is more important than ever.

With one of the oldest populations in the country, **Maine is facing a shortage of professionals to work with older adults and their families.**

"Our students don't have stereotypic views of what old age is about, they see that aging is not just struggling with issues of illness, disability and loss – it's also about remaining active and involved in the community." – **Dr. Lenard Kaye, CoA Director**

Thousands more geriatric social workers are needed to provide services like counseling; finding placements in assisted living and long term care facilities; offering therapy as part of hospice; and advocating for policies and programs that benefit the elderly.

To raise interest in aging as a field of practice and to increase the number of students pursuing careers in gerontology, **the CoA has developed the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE)**, a unique field experience for master's degree social work students who plan to work with older adults.

The HPPAE program **enables aspiring social workers to spend time at a wide variety of agencies and community programs** so they can get a broad understanding of how aging issues affect older adults and their family members

and caregivers, as well as professionals and organizations.

In addition to working two days a week at their primary practicum, students take a third day to rotate among up to a dozen specialized agencies working with older adults. Rotations are tailored to the individual student's needs and interests.

By working at **nursing homes, veterans' centers, assisted care facilities, hospitals and hospices**, students are exposed to older adults who are facing challenges involving legal, physical, and mental health issues. By spending time at **senior centers, wellness programs and health promotion projects**, students see energetic older adults who are making the most out of life and staying busy and active. Their learning is then supplemented by seminars, workshops and educational events that are part of the program.

"The rotations give you an enormous breadth and depth of experience. They broadened my horizons. At Senior Spectrum I sat in on a meeting about how bird flu could impact the geriatric community. I spent a day at a geriatric/psychiatric unit at Maine Medical Center in Portland. I talked about PTSD at the Bangor Veterans Center, and I shadowed discharge planners at Waldo County Hospital." – **HPPAE graduate Ken Gates, MSW**

We Want To Hear From You!

From Students

- I am a current UMaine MSW student and would like to apply to be a student in the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.
- I would like information about how to apply to the University of Maine School of Social Work.

From Agencies

- I would like more information about becoming a Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education Primary Practicum site.
- I would like more information about becoming a Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education Rotation Practicum site.

From Supporters

- I am interested in supporting the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education through a tax-deductible financial donation.
- I am interested in supporting the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education by providing money for student stipends.
- I would like to speak to a University Development Officer about establishing a giving program to help sustain the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Mail to: **Hartford Partnership Program
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