

# ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR

*KU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE*

## ***POSITION DESCRIPTION***

The review of applications begins on October 16, 2019

<http://www.employment.ku.edu/academic/15578BR>

[socwel.ku.edu](http://socwel.ku.edu)

**KU**  
SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL WELFARE  

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The University of Kansas

# OUR VISION & MISSION

**All individuals, families, & communities utilize their power to achieve justice, equity, & well-being.**

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, rooted in the Strengths Perspective, aims to transform lives and social contexts and promote social, economic, and environmental justice in Kansas, the nation and the world. We do so by educating students to practice with integrity and competence; advancing the science and knowledge base of social work through scholarship and research; and participating in community-engaged service.

## Guiding Principles & Values

**Relationship Building:** We engage in relationship building that fosters creativity, collaboration, and mutual learning. Relationship building is essential across practice, scholarship, education and service. We take a strengths approach as we serve our local, state, national, and global communities.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** We embrace the inherent worth of all people. By taking the position of cultural humility and applying the lens of intersectionality, we seek to develop and promote modes of anti-oppressive social work and dismantle structures of exclusion.

**Practice with Integrity:** We demonstrate our integrity and trustworthiness as scholars, educators, practitioners, and community members by promoting social work values, ethical practice, and the process of critical reflection.

**Multisystem Competency:** We recognize that social, economic, and environmental injustices are the root causes of inequities and multiple strategies are necessary to address these. Our work integrates micro/macro social work and builds collaboration across systems and disciplines to create multi-level change.

**Critical Perspective:** We engage in deliberate and continuing examination of social conditions and solutions. We use critical inquiry to analyze and challenge existing structures and systems in order to advance the field and promote social, economic, and environmental justice.

**Empirically Informed Social Work:** We rigorously advance empirical research that impacts the social work knowledge base. By translating and applying evidence, we continually transform practice and policy across multiple systems.

## Goals

To **prepare BSW, MSW and PhD students** to practice with integrity and attain multi-level competency while working to promote well-being and build community.

To **conduct, disseminate, and translate** theoretical and empirically informed **scholarship and research** that impacts the social work knowledge base and transforms practice and policy.

To **promote social, economic, and environmental justice** through service at local, state, national, and international levels.

**ONLY COMPREHENSIVE  
SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM**  
in Kansas, awarding professional degrees at  
all levels, BSW, MSW and PhD

**RANKED IN TOP 12%**  
of public institution social work graduate  
programs by *U.S. News and World Report*,  
making it the top ranked program and  
longest running program in Kansas

**PRESTIGIOUS AAU UNIVERSITY**  
KU is one of only 34 public members  
of the prestigious Association of  
American Universities

**STRONG RESEARCH**  
in seven research cluster areas of  
strengths, child and family well-being, social  
and economic justice, health equity,  
mental/behavioral health, older adults,  
and global social work

**YOU'LL FEEL THE LEGACY  
IN THE LANDSCAPE.**



## *OVERVIEW*

The University of Kansas (KU) School of Social Welfare is seeking dynamic candidates for a 12 month, non-tenure track Associate Research Professor position, to begin Fall/Winter 2019 or Spring 2020. Candidates should have research expertise and experience in the area of child and family services and child and family well-being. Expertise and experience in child welfare is preferred but experience in other social systems, including behavioral health, schools and early childhood, is also welcome. The successful candidate will contribute to the School's mission to promote social, economic, and environmental justice in an environment dedicated to enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Associate Research Professor is responsible for developing, leading, and supporting new and current community-based research initiatives that focus on family-serving systems and the well-being of children and families. The Associate Research Professor will join other KUSSW researchers that work closely with federal, state and community agencies to implement effective services, evaluate outcomes, and improve the quality of systems and services for children and families in Kansas and beyond.

The School is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment for students, faculty and staff engaged in racial and other forms of social justice. The successful candidate will have a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in social work practice and research; have been involved in community-engaged research and service; and be able to demonstrate a commitment to deliberate and continuing examination of social conditions and solutions.

The KU School of Social Welfare is housed on the University of Kansas Lawrence campus which offers BSW, MSW, and PhD programs. BSW and MSW programs are also offered at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, as well as the Western Kansas MSW program on the Fort Hays State University and Garden City Community College campuses.

*ASSOCIATE*

*RESEARCH*

*PROFESSOR*

Situated in the beautiful, historic, and culturally vibrant city of Lawrence, a thriving community 40 minutes from the Kansas City metropolitan area, the School of Social Welfare plays a central role in the life of the University of Kansas. Founded in 1865, KU is a designated Carnegie comprehensive research university and one of only 34 public members of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). The University enrolls more than 28,000 students and offers students and faculty opportunities to collaborate in its graduate and professional programs which include education, public health, medicine, law, and a number of allied social science disciplines.

In a continuing effort to enrich its academic environment and provide equal educational and employment opportunities, the university actively encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups in higher education.

The successful candidates must be eligible to work in the U.S. prior to the start of the position.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience. Funding for this position has been secured through June 2022 with additional streams of funding being pursued.



**92,000:**  
the population of  
Lawrence, Kansas.  
Not too big, not too small.



**KANSAS CITY,**  
just 40 minutes east, offers an  
international airport, shopping  
and entertainment.

**ON & OFF CAMPUS**





*Social work education began at KU in 1937. The Master of Social Work program, established in Lawrence and in Kansas City in 1946, has been continuously accredited since 1948. The Bachelor of Social Work degree, awarded since 1971, was one of the first in the nation to receive accredited status.*

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

## //// JOB DESCRIPTION

**95% Research** – Establish a community-engaged research program in the area of child and family services and well-being leading to scholarly activity and publications

**5% Service** – Participate in school, university and community service activities.

### Required Qualifications

- A doctorate in social work or a closely aligned applied social science field.
- Demonstrated ability to develop an innovative body of research and scholarship as evidenced by scholarly publications, presentations, and other scholarly activities.
- Demonstrated experience in securing external research funding individually or as part of a research team.
- Demonstrated skills and experience in designing and implementing research studies; collecting, managing, and analyzing data; and writing evaluation or research reports.
- Knowledge of and experience working with systems and organizations that provide services for children, youth, and families is required. Subject matter expertise and experience specifically in child welfare is preferred.
- Demonstrated skills and experience in collaborating with and leading a range of internal and external partners and stakeholders.
- Demonstrated strong written and oral communication skills as demonstrated by application materials and interview process

### Preferred Qualifications

- Abilities to track, manage multiple tasks, set priorities, and work with a wide range of people are essential.
- Strong organizational and problem-solving skills.



**BSW PROGRAM**  
offered on two campuses in Kansas

**MSW PROGRAM**  
offered on five campuses in Kansas

**DOCTORAL PROGRAM**  
94% of PhD graduates obtained  
university faculty or research  
positions after graduation

# APPLICATION

## A complete application package includes:

- Online application
- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Research and scholarship statement which addresses: candidate's area of expertise; community-engaged nature of the candidate's work; leadership philosophy and experience; and commitment to and experience incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion in social work research and practice
- Research products (up to 3 but at least 1 is required) - may include grant proposals, evaluation reports, published articles, community dissemination products, etc
- List of three professional references

Only complete application packages submitted online will be considered. In addition to the materials above, learning about each applicant's contribution and engagement in areas of diversity is an important part of KU's mission. As a result, applicants will be presented the following question at the time of application:

- In your current and/or previous role, please provide an example outlining how you demonstrate your ongoing commitment in working with diverse groups/populations.

## Apply online at:

<http://www.employment.ku.edu/academic/15578BR>

# REVIEW DATE

Review of applications will begin on **October 16, 2019** and will continue as needed to collect a pool of qualified applicants. First round interviews are tentatively scheduled to occur during mid-October. To ensure consideration, applicants should apply before application review begins on October 16th. Applications will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

## Contact Information for Applicants

Amy Mendenhall, MSW PhD  
Associate Dean of Research and Associate Professor  
Director, Center for Community Engagement & Collaboration  
[amendenhall@ku.edu](mailto:amendenhall@ku.edu)  
785-864-4792



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The University of Kansas is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action institution.

[connect.ku.edu](http://connect.ku.edu)

