

SOCIAL WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE NORTH

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The University College of the North was officially opened on the 2nd of March, 1960.

The emergence of this College has made University Education more accessible to our people in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. From that historic day, a pioneer group of students, lecturers and professors has put its academic machinery in motion.

The department of Sociology and Social Work is one of the first departments to be established at this University College. Two groups of Social Workers are trained in this department. The one group follows a course which leads to the attainment of a Diploma in Social Work whilst another group is prepared for the B.A. degree in Social Science.

The Diploma Course in Social Work extends over two years. Students are, however, required to spend another year of practical work in the field before Diplomas can be awarded to them. During

their first two years of study, students do at least one month of practical work a year. The following subjects are offered for the Diploma in Social Work:

Sociology, Social Work, Criminology, Native Law, Economics, Anthropology, Scripture and Arts and Crafts.

Both the degree and the diploma students are encouraged to indulge in sports and cultural activities such as football, basketball, music and drama.

Students who study for the B.A. (S.S.) follow the syllabus of the University of South Africa as prescribed for the B.A. (S.S.). This Course is spread over three years. During these three years, students are required to devote a month to practical work each year. In addition to this, weekly practical work is carried out with the municipality of Pietersburg and the Department of Bantu Administration and Development.

Entrance Qualifications

Social Work is an occupation which places particularly exacting demands on the personality and the correct attitude of the individual. If the correct attitude is lacking, Social Work can be most frustrating.

A student who decides to follow either a degree or diploma course in Social Work should therefore possess the basic desire to demonstrate Christian love and charity.

Our prospectus for 1961 prescribes J.C. as an entrance qualification. As from 1962, however, the entrance qualification will be J.C. plus a professional certificate, a School Leaving Certificate or a Senior Certificate (General Group).

Students who enrol for the B.A. degree course in Social Science, must be in possession of the Joint Matriculation Board or an equivalent certificate (Senior Certificate, Matriculation Exemption).

Applications for admission to either a degree or diploma course in Social Work

are carefully scrutinised. Successful applicants are those, who, while they comply with the academic requirements, also possess good testimonials. The Department of Social Work at the University College of the North aims at the type of social worker, who, by his *appearance, knowledge and conduct* will command high respect among the people he is going to serve.

The Field of the Social Worker

The present day social worker is confronted with a vast field of social problems — emanating from the complexity of our modern society. Although the field of the social worker cannot be demarcated into watertight compartments, it includes the following:

Individual care e.g. the care of cripples, the deaf and the blind.

Family care work e.g. marriage guidance, child care, youth care and house welfare.

We are in need of Bantu Social Scientists, because it would be unrealistic, to say the least of it, to assume that European experts, who have done a fine job within their own culture, would be able to function smoothly and effectively within the Bantu culture. They will be faced there with people who think and act differently, who speak another language, who have taboos on certain items and acts, and whose religion, family and other institutions are different from their Western counterparts.

The Bantu Social Worker understands and talks the language of his or her people; knows by acquaintance the outstanding attitudes and behaviour patterns of his or her groups; its institutions and community organisation; its class structure and means of communication; the ways and conditions of daily living — thus a thorough scientific training would enable the Bantu Social Worker to organise social projects which would not only be really acceptable to the people, but which would aim at the individual well-being and general development and progress of the group as a whole.

We therefore invite prospective students who have the necessary idealism to work for the common advancement and general progress of their people, to follow the course in social work so that they can join the team of professional social scientists in this particular field.

—Prof. H. L. Crause

Community Organization.

Group Work e.g. club organisation for youth. Sociopathological phenomena are increasing alarmingly in both rural and urban areas. The breaking down of customs, traditions, mores and folkways are largely responsible for these socio-pathological phenomena.

The process of urbanization is threatening to destroy the harmonious social setting in the rural areas. To counteract this evil process, the emerging Territorial Authorities should include Social Welfare in their administrative programmes.

Enrolment

The Department of Social Work started in 1960 with three students for the Diploma in Social Work and none for the B.A. (S.S.). At the beginning of this year, twenty-six students enrolled for the Diploma in Social Work and three for the B.A. (S.S.).

A staff of six men, including the head of the department, Prof. H. L. Crause, have devoted themselves to the lecturing and training of these students.

With the exception of the University College of Zululand, the University College of the North is the only University College in the Republic which trains Bantu Social Workers. The services of Social Workers are, however, in great demand all over South Africa; both in urban and rural areas. This demand can only be met if more students train as social workers.

The assistance being offered to us by our co-departments, the Rector and through him, by the Department of Bantu Education and the Department of Bantu Administration and Development has filled us with high hopes for the future.

For many years, our progress has been rather one-sided. Many of our people trained as doctors, nurses and teachers, but few trained as social workers. In order to develop fully we need balanced leadership. Young men and women with the desired qualities, who thirst to serve their people as social workers, are welcome in the Department of Social Work at the University College of the North.