



MSW Program at West Chester University

Continuing excellence in a new year

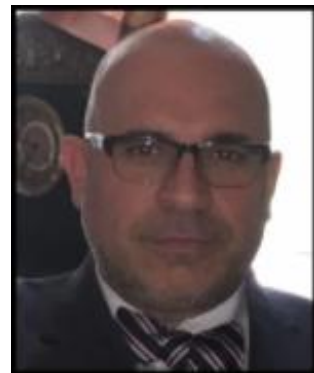
The MSW Program at West Chester University is beginning a new school year by welcoming two new full-time faculty members and about 120 new students. We are excited about collaborating with the social work community as we encourage their education inside and outside of the classroom.

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Pablo Arriaza, MSW, PhD, LCSW *Associate Professor*

[Dr. Pablo Arriaza](#) is the newest Associate Professor in the MSW Program. He has more than two decades of experience as a social work faculty member, practitioner, researcher, and consultant. He most recently taught for Walden University and advised several students in its Doctor of Social Work program. Dr. Arriaza has also been a social work faculty member at the University of New Hampshire and University of Alabama.

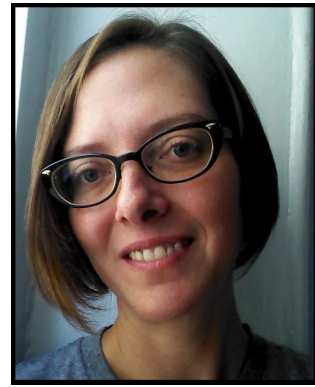


He has extensive experience working with military systems in direct care and program management, and has worked with diverse individuals, groups, and organizations in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Dr. Arriaza is also a reviewer for various professional peer-reviewed journals.

His MSW is from Florida State University, and he was the first Latino to earn a PhD in social work from the University of Alabama. Dr. Arriaza's research interests include bilingual social work practice, clinical social work supervision, and end-of-life and bereavement services with people identified as linguistically isolated.

Mia Ocean, MSW, PhD, LCSW, LMFT

Assistant Professor



Dr. Mia Ocean is joining the MSW Program as an Assistant Professor. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including university and community college counseling centers, sexual assault treatment centers, psychiatric and medical hospitals, and juvenile justice facilities. She has a strong commitment to an anti-oppressive practice working to empower individuals from all walks of life.

She earned her MSW at the University of Michigan and her PhD at Boston University. Her research interests include investigating the strengths and structural obstacles faced by low-income community college students, perceptions of higher education institutions that have open-door and selective admissions policies, and the intersection of social work practice and community colleges.

Dr. Ocean has taught social work, sociology and human services courses at Boston University, Palm Beach State College, and Broward College.

Students design client education resources

Projects are part of Community Prevention course

For the past two summers, Dr. Gwenelle O'Neal has taught an elective course called Community Prevention, which examines the role of socialization in the health of individuals, families, and communities.

"Prevention is providing research-informed information to a population to help them develop goals to reduce their potential to have problems," Dr. O'Neal explained. Another important component, she added, is to encourage individuals' participation in the future of their communities.

This summer students in the class developed tools that community agencies could use as educational resources for their clients. These included videos, fact sheets and electronic presentations. These two videos are on YouTube:

- [Using mindfulness after being released from prison](#)
- [Why college students should vote](#)

MSW Program website shares guidance on planning careers in social work

In response to suggestions from alumni and faculty, the MSW Program is doing more to give students and new graduates guidance on how to start their careers in social work.

One piece of this is a new [Career Resources page](#) on the MSW Program website. This page is a portal to information including:

- The MSW Program [Job Blog](#)
- Instructions on how to apply for licensure in different states
- Directories of online job boards and professional associations for social workers
- Search engines of evidence-based practices for different client populations

This website is part of the MSW Program's efforts to give students more information about career planning, which includes inviting staff from the university's [career center](#) to speak in each Advanced Policy and Community Practice class.

[Learn more](#)



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