Building Your Professional Community Through NACSW

Professional identity • Faith-practice integration • Lifelong learning

Why this matters: Your development as a social worker begins before graduation. Professional involvement can help you connect classroom learning with the broader community of practice you are preparing to enter.

In addition to developing knowledge and skills through coursework and field experiences, students can begin building a professional identity by connecting with organizations that support continued learning, professional relationships, and engagement with the broader social work community.

The North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) is a nonprofit Christian social work organization whose mission is to equip members to integrate Christian faith with professional social work practice. The organization welcomes Christian social workers from a variety of denominations and traditions.

Why Join NACSW?

NACSW exists for social workers who believe faith and professional practice belong together. Membership can offer:

- **A professional home grounded in shared faith.** NACSW provides a setting where students and practitioners can consider how following Christ shapes service, advocacy, and care for vulnerable people without separating calling from profession.
- **Tools for integrating faith and practice.** Resources include the peer-reviewed journal Social Work & Christianity, books, and webinars that engage ethical questions from a Christian perspective while emphasizing competent, ethical practice.
- **Community and mentoring.** Students can connect with Christian social workers, educators, and leaders through chapters and the annual convention, building relationships that may support them through school, licensure, and their careers.
- **Professional growth.** Continuing education, conference participation, leadership opportunities, and networking can begin while you are still a student.
- **A voice for Christian social workers.** Membership connects you with a community seeking to represent Christians within the profession with grace and integrity.

Student membership can be an accessible way to begin building professional connections and habits of lifelong learning.

How Professional Membership Can Support Your Growth

- Begin developing your identity as a social work professional.
- Connect with social workers beyond your university and immediate community.
- Engage with emerging issues, ideas, and resources in the profession.
- Develop habits of lifelong learning and professional involvement.

- Explore how Christian faith may thoughtfully inform ethical and competent social work practice.
- Identify opportunities for continued education, professional networking, and future employment.

For students interested in the relationship between Christian faith and social work, NACSW provides a professional community in which questions of faith, ethics, calling, and practice can be considered together.

Explore NACSW

Visit the official North American Association of Christians in Social Work website to explore its mission, resources, and membership opportunities:

Explore the North American Association of Christians in Social Work

Learn About NACSW Membership

As You Explore, Consider

1. How might participation in a professional organization contribute to your development as a social worker?
2. Which NACSW resource or opportunity appears most relevant to your current professional goals?
3. How could engagement with a professional community help you think more deeply about the integration of Christian faith, social work ethics, and professional practice?