

Dr. Margaret Reed

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moorhead state college

information service

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Moorhead, Minnesota -- A new academic department - the Department of Social Services - will be in operation at Moorhead State College fall quarter. MSC thus will be the first of Minnesota's six state colleges to have developed departmental status for this program.

The new departmental program, which gives MSC 27 degree-granting departments has been approved by the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting agency in this field for colleges and universities.

After a presentation by Dr. Charles E.P. Simmons, dean of the MSC Faculties of the Social and Behavioral Sciences last April, the program gained authorization by the State College Board and the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Dr. Margaret Reed, who has headed efforts in this discipline since MSC first established a degree program in Social Work in 1964, says the department name "Social Services" was specifically chosen because the intent, from the beginning of its formation, has been to offer a broader program than preparation only for Social Work. The development, knowledge, understanding and skill in the broad area of human services is the basic aim of the department.

When the bachelor or arts degree program started in 1964, 12 students registered for the three courses offered. Today, there are over 200 students who are working for their B.A. degree in the Social Services.

The formulative years have found the Social Work Program at MSC developing a strong community and regional base, with extensive internship arrangements offering many opportunities for students to gain practical on-the-job training and insight.

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Local and state agencies have been helpful in building the MSC program and have given strong endorsement to the new department. At the state level, the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, the Minnesota Resource Center for Social Work Education and the Minnesota Conference on Social Work Education have given encouragement and endorsement to the program. Representatives from these agencies as well as from local and regional programs serves the MSC program as field supervisors through the internship program.

The new department will offer a 2-track program: one preparing students for graduate work in the Social Services and the other preparing those who intend to enter Social Work practice directly after graduation. Each track will require 62 credit hours of work in the social and behavioral sciences and the pursuit of elective credits in the fields of corrections, minority group problems and social legislation.

Those students pursuing the graduate work track will be required to take a minor program in one of the other behavioral sciences. Those intending to work after earning their bachelor's degree will follow a program which includes 42 credit hours of work in the Social Service discipline, with particular emphasis on direct work in the field.

All majors in the new department will have the opportunity of earning from 4 to 16 college credit hours for satisfactory work in an approved social agency, under the supervision of a faculty member as well as agency personnel. The MSC program currently has some 30 approved agencies throughout Northwestern Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota cooperating in the internship program and offering experience in such varied fields as corrections, juvenile work, children's homes, welfare offices, church social service agencies, rehabilitation projects and maternity homes.

Dr. Reed expresses the keen appreciation of past, current and future students and staff for the cooperation and aid provided by these agencies in the department's formulative years.

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New seminars in the department will include one for returning interns to re-think and review with one another and with an instructor what they learned and experienced during their work in the field. Other seminars on the multi-problem family and on social work practice are offered along with a requirement for research under an independent studies program.

The new department faculty will include fall quarter two full-time persons besides Dr. Reed.

Augustus D'Aloise came to MSC in the fall of 1970. He is an assistant professor who holds a master's degree from the Adelphi University School of Social Work in New York. He has worked as a probation officer for a New York City court, a probation agent for the State of Wisconsin and a probation officer for a U.S. District Court in Wisconsin. In addition, he served for seven years as assistant professor and field supervisor at the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work in Norman.

Mrs. Wendell (Jackie) Gorum, who holds a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver and who is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, will begin teaching at MSC this fall. She has worked in child welfare, public welfare and psychiatric social work as well as two years with the Peace Corps in Chile, South America.

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