

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping, curved bands in shades of red, teal, and light green, arching across the top of the page.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
STUDENT LIAISON MANUAL

Prepared by Hannah Pittman, UNC-Chapel Hill MSW Student Liaison, NASW-NC Intern

Dear NASW-NC Student Liaison,

Congratulations and welcome to NASW-NC's Student Liaison Initiative!

We are grateful for your participation in this important Initiative. You are filling an important role for the association, your school, and the entire profession.

While belonging to your profession's association is a great step toward your future career in social work, it's an even better one to volunteer your time and efforts as a Student Liaison.

We hope you will enjoy the many benefits of being a Liaison. Past Student Liaisons were able to connect with other social work students and professionals from around the state during their tenure as Liaisons.

While we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and reap the benefits of your position, we trust that you will also take it seriously. It takes a highly motivated and accountable social worker to fill the position of Student Liaison. The Initiative will not function without four core competencies from all Student Liaisons: *communication, accountability, motivation, and collaboration.*

Again, we look forward to working with you and hope this will be a mutually beneficial experience.

Warm Regards,

Seth Maid, MSW

Director of Membership and Communication

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

The NASW-NC Student Liaison Initiative aims to identify students from each level of social work education in North Carolina who will serve as a link between their respective program and NASW-NC. It is our hope that through this liaison initiative a stronger working relationship will be created between the universities and the NASW-NC Chapter and students will in turn become advocates for the Social Work profession.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Student Liaison **MUST** be a member of the National Association of Social Workers, (NASW).
- 2) Liaisons will represent their school for both Fall and Spring semesters.
- 3) Liaisons may serve longer terms and must select their replacement when graduating.
- 4) Liaisons must notify NASW-NC if they are unable to continue as a liaison and assist in locating a replacement.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Student Liaisons will be selected from each school of Social Work throughout the state.
- 2) Liaisons will represent students from each level of Social Work education: BSW, MSW, and PhD.
- 3) Liaisons will be a voice for NASW in their respective schools and will distribute information from NASW-NC to both classmates and faculty.
- 4) Liaisons will be responsible for contacting NASW-NC **once a month** to confirm information was received and will have two weeks to distribute the information. Liaisons must communicate with NASW-NC about how information was shared (include photos!!). Communication includes being added to the NASW-NC Student Liaison Google Group.
- 5) Promote Student Center section of the NASW-NC website by informing fellow students about NASW-NC resources for students.
- 6) Offer suggestions and feedback on Student Center content and layout to NASW-NC interns and staff.
- 7) Inform NASW-NC of current events going on at your school. Example: What are social work students doing in your local community? What events are going on at your school of social work?

BENEFITS:

- 1) Free registration fee for NASW-NC Annual Fall Conference in November **OR** NASW-NC Ethics Conference in March.
- 2) Recognition of liaisons in NASW-NC newsletter and webpage.
- 3) Liaison status can be used on students' résumé.
- 4) Leadership and networking opportunities with Social Work students and professionals across the state.

Student Liaison Core Competencies

Communication

Accountability

Motivation

Collaboration

Communication:

One basic requirement for all Student Liaisons is to give an update to the group at least once each month. Additionally, Liaisons are expected to reply to the chapter's monthly email within two weeks. It's easy for something like this to slip your mind, so make it a habit to respond as soon as possible and update the group on the first day or week of each month. This is a good habit to make for your post-graduation professional career.

Accountability:

Becoming an accountable person requires self-awareness, the ability to recognize one's own strengths and areas for improvement, and willingness to take responsibility for meaningful contributions as well as mistakes. By signing the agreement to be a Student Liaison, you are agreeing to help the Initiative create a culture of accountability.

Motivation:

The motivation to serve your professional association and the profession of social work must come from within. Despite the fact that the Liaison status is a resume-builder, this shouldn't be the only motivator for holding the position. While NASW-NC will provide you with support and resources to aid you, **it is up to you to distribute this information and come up with creative ways to engage students from your program.**

Collaboration:

You have dozens of fellow Liaisons to call on for advice, share ideas with, and be inspired by. The reverse is also true: other Liaisons will also be counting on you for support and guidance.

Strategic Plan

Please answer the following questions. In the social work profession, most nonprofits and organizations write a strategic plan. This document helps them to stay on track with their mission, vision, and values. A similar exercise may help you in your position as Student Liaison.

1. In your tenure as Student Liaison, how do you plan on creating a culture of open and effective communication for you and your fellow Liaisons?
2. Please provide three examples of how you intend to convey and present the membership benefits to your peers.
3. What is the NASW-NC member benefit you value the most?
 - a. What do you feel the most valuable benefits are to fellow students?
4. Articulate in your own words the mission and purpose of the National Association of Social Worker, North Carolina Chapter, and why it is important for students to be members.
5. What do you recognize as some of your own personal assets that make you an accountable person? What personal characteristics would you like to improve upon as a Liaison?
6. Which part of the Student Liaison Initiative mission inspires you?
7. How would you like to benefit from being a Student Liaison and how will representing your social work program benefit your fellow students?

Next Steps: Implementing Your Strategic Plan as a Student Liaison

As a Liaison, you will be a voice for NASW in your school and will distribute information from NASW-NC to both classmates and faculty.

Some of this information will include:

- NASW Membership and Benefits for Students
- Scholarships and Awards
- Social Work Month Updates (March is Social Work Month!)
- North Carolina Advocacy Updates
- BSW State Certification Information/LCSW information
- Local Program Unit, continuing education and networking opportunities for Social Work Students around the state
- Career information and resume review

Examples of how you can distribute this information include:

- Sending emails out to your classmates/student listserv
- Speaking about NASW-NC in your classes
- Giving a report at your Social Work Student Group meetings
- Speaking to your faculty about presenting at orientations or seminars
- Posting flyers on student bulletin boards

Here are a few websites that have valuable information for social work students:

- Student Liaison Program <http://www.naswnc.org/?293>
- Student Center <http://www.naswnc.org/general/custom.asp?page=289>
- NASW Student Toolkit <http://www.socialworkers.org/students/starterKit.asp>
- NASW-NC Student Facebook group
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/NASWNCStudents/>
- NASW-NC Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/NCsocialwork>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NASWNC>
- NASW-NC Linked Group
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=139446&trk=hb_side_g
- NASW-NC Blog <http://ncsocialwork.org/>

STUDENT LIAISON AGREEMENT

This agreement is between NASW-NC and _____

- I will act in the best interest of NASW-NC and represent the association with diligence and prudence.
- I will read and review the NASW-NC Student Liaison Manual.
- I will respond to all emails from NASW-NC regarding Student Liaison duties and updates ***within two weeks.***
- I will actively communicate with fellow liaisons and NASW-NC through the Liaison listserv to give updates about the specific ways in which I have fulfilled my duties as Student Liaison for the month.
- I will promote the Student Center section of the NASW-NC website and offer suggestions and feedback on Student Center content and layout to staff.
- I will uphold my duties as Student Liaison by exemplifying the four core competencies: communication, accountability, motivation, and collaboration.
- I will promote the good name and interests of the Association outside the organization and seek to have others hold it in high esteem.
- I will inform NASW-NC when I am no longer able to perform my duties as Student Liaison or need additional assistance from NASW-NC.
- I will maintain my NASW membership. If unable to do so, I will communicate this with the NASW-NC Chapter and understand that I will no longer be eligible to serve as NASW-NC Student Liaison.

I recognize that the NASW-NC Student Liaison Initiative aims to create a stronger working relationship will be created between the universities and the NASW-NC Chapter and students will in turn become advocates for the Social Work profession. I will actively encourage membership among non-members and communicate the benefits of joining NASW.

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms above.

Student Liaison Signature: _____ Date: _____

***If you are completing this form electronically, please respond via email with the following statement:

"I, (name), agree to carry out the duties of Student Liaison to the best of my ability for the current academic year. (Name), (Date)"