

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Members of the Community Advisory Board

Delpheon Davis, MA, Resident in Counseling | Associate Director of Services, Virginia Supportive Housing

Tanisha Davis '03, MA | Director of Family & Community Support Services, Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation

Brandon Foster '19, MSW, Supervisee in Social Work | Therapist, Virginia Wesleyan University Counseling Services

Terry Kenworthy '07, MSW, LCSW | Licensed Clinician I, Chesapeake Juvenile Services

Faculty Highlights

- In March 2025, Professor Christman and Dr. Dobrin presented their paper, "Meeting the growing mental health demand during times of high crisis and low resource availability, through a public health lens," at the National Association of Social Workers VA/Metro DC 2025 Annual Conference. This presentation was approved by the Association of Social Work Boards to award attendees two CEUs toward clinical license renewal.
- In May 2025, Professor Christman completed NASW training, "Ethics and Best Practices: Artificial Intelligence and Social Work Education".
- In May 2025, Dr. Dobrin worked support for the Law Enforcement United Road for Hope fundraising bike ride from Chesapeake, VA to D.C. LEU gave \$600,000 to charities from money raised.



Student Highlights

- Janae Brown '25, Kyla Robberecht '26, Samantha Silvia '25, Meadow Spears '25, and Samantha Tortorice '25 were inducted into Virginia Wesleyan University's Tau Alpha Chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work on May 8, 2025. Faculty Emeriti Dora Dobrin, LCSW and Sharon Payne, LCSW, whose leadership helped shape VWU's nationally accredited BSW program, attended the ceremony.
- Samantha Silvia '25 and Samantha Tortorice '25 received the Dora H. Dobrin Award for Excellence in Social Work at the 2025 Spring Honors Convocation.
- Meadow Spears '25 received the Sharon L. Payne Award for Excellence in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the 2025 Spring Honors Convocation.
- Samantha Silvia '25 presented, "Social Work in a Free Clinic: Observations of Human Resilience" at VWU's Spring Undergraduate Research Forum.
- Meadow Spears '25 completed Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).
- By March, 100% of seniors were accepted into the graduate program of their choice. Graduates will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University's MSW program, Norfolk State University's MSW program, and Mary Baldwin University's Applied Behavioral Analysis program in the fall.
- By March, 100% of seniors who applied for advanced standing status were accepted with this status.
- By March, 100% of seniors seeking employment were offered employment at the agency of their choice.



Benjamin Dobrin, MSW, PhD
Professor of Social Work
Director, Department of Social Work

April Christman '14, MSW, LCSW, CCTP
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Field Education Coordinator

Sharon Payne, LCSW, CSAC
Professor Emeritus, Social Work