

MASTER'S DEGREE IN

HEALTH ADVOCACY

SARAH
LAWRENCE
COLLEGE

GRADUATE
STUDIES

AN 18-MONTH ACCELERATED LOW-RESIDENCY MA PROGRAM

Advocacy is one of the best and most enduring ways to affect positive change in society. At this point in history, where access to health care, safe and healthful environments, food security, reproductive and family planning care, and social service safety net programs are under threat, the need for educated health advocates has never been greater.

Established in 1980, the Sarah Lawrence College Health Advocacy program is the nation's first master's degree program in the field, and continues to lead in defining this discipline and in the development of professionals who are intellectually flexible, creative, and possess advocacy skills to improve health and health care.

The program is offered in an 18-month accelerated low residency format designed to meet the needs of adult students. Students come together for two week-long onsite intensive sessions followed by online courses. At the same time, students complete a yearlong capstone project through which they engage in a professional advocacy affiliation with a partner organization of their choosing.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Health Advocacy graduates work in a field characterized by extraordinary breadth and opportunity. Careers span the spectrum from patient advocacy in case-based direct service to individuals, to community advocacy initiatives on behalf of geographic or disease-specific populations, to system-level policy-based advocacy.

Graduates work in health policy advocating for patients and populations from positions in government agencies, nonprofit organizations, grassroots and national health policy organizations, and the media.

The field of health advocacy also encompasses careers not directly associated with the provision of clinical health care services, including initiatives to dismantle structural barriers to health that are caused by poverty, environmental destruction, illiteracy, and violence.

THE PROGRAM

The MA in Health Advocacy is a multidisciplinary curriculum that supports students in the development and implementation of a culminating capstone project. The capstone encompasses 600 hours of fieldwork with a partner organization of the students' choosing, and which could be their place of employment, if appropriate.

Courses include:

- Capstone Seminar
- Economics of Health
- Ethics and Advocacy
- Health Care Policy
- Health Law
- History of Health Care in the United States
- Illness and Disability Narratives
- Models of Advocacy: Theory and Practice
- Physiology and Disease
- Program Design and Evaluation
- Research Methods for Health Advocacy

ADMISSION

Applicants for the Health Advocacy graduate program must have received a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university. Previous college work is expected to be at 3.0 or higher and should reflect advanced course study.

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students are welcome to apply for financial aid. All aid is awarded on the basis of need.

THE FACULTY

An outstanding faculty is drawn from the College and the New York area. Nationally recognized guest lecturers in the New York medical and academic communities further expand the program offerings.

The Sarah Lawrence faculty has been consistently recognized among the best in the country by The Princeton Review.

ABOUT SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Sarah Lawrence is located on a wooded suburban campus just 30 minutes north of Midtown Manhattan. Offering both graduate and undergraduate degrees, the College is nationally known for academic rigor and commitment to developing students as individuals. Sarah Lawrence is also noted for cross-disciplinary study and integrated learning, making it an ideal academic setting for the Health Advocacy Program.

GRADUATE STUDIES

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sarahlawrence.edu/health-advocacy

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