



Department of Children & Youth

University Partnership Program

The University Partnership Title IV - E Child Welfare Training Program (UPP) is Ohio's commitment to improving outcomes for children and families by strengthening its child welfare workforce. It is a unique and beneficial partnership among the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY), accredited social work programs at private and public universities around Ohio, Ohio's University Consortium for Child and Adult Services (OUCCAS), the Public Children's Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), and Ohio's 85 Public Children's Service Agencies (PCSAs).

Program Benefits:

- \$5,000 per year employment incentive for those who complete the UPP program (up to 2 years) and successfully gain employment in Ohio public child welfare.
- Specialized coursework and training in child welfare.
- "Fast Tracking" to full-time employment in child welfare upon graduation.
- Individualized attention and mentoring by UPP campus coordinator and field instructors.
- Early exposure to and networking in the field of child welfare.

"The University Partnership Program helped me prepare for my job in a specific and detailed way. I was able to practice the systems and learn important perspectives of my area while doing my internships in Southeastern Ohio. I was then able to apply these new skills to my internships and further my understanding of not only the jobs I was observing, but the struggles of the families and children. UPP prepared me and set me ahead to be the best possible child welfare worker I can be to contribute as much as possible to my area!"

~Emma Shamblin 2023-24 UPP Student



"Participating in the University Partnership Program at the University of Rio Grande was a great experience. While in this program I received engaging coursework and guidance from people passionate in the field of Child Protective Services. The program provided me with a deep understanding of Child Welfare and of the many challenges children and families face in our area. The University of Rio Grande taught me how to protect, advocate, and find community support for Gallia County residents. I am grateful for the confidence this opportunity has given me, allowing me to approach my work with a stronger sense of purpose and the ability to make meaningful contributions to the families I serve."

~ Rebecca Vaughn 2023-24 UPP Student

Eligibility:

You can participate in UPP as a BSW student who has been admitted to the social work program at the University of Rio Grande. Junior UPP students participate in monthly meetings to discuss the child welfare field, including case work and the rewards and challenges of serving children and families. During the senior year, UPP students take the elective courses Child Welfare I and II and complete their field practicum at a public children's services agency. You will receive an employment incentive of \$5,000 per year (for up to 2 years) after earning a social work degree, committing to work for at least two years in an Ohio public children service agency, and obtaining employment at a public children services agency in Ohio.

Course Requirements:

In addition to being motivated and enthusiastic to serve vulnerable families from diverse backgrounds, you will need:

- Two child welfare courses: SWK 38803 Child Welfare I-Fall and SWK 38803 Child Welfare II-Spring
- Weekly child welfare field placement seminars for BSW students (SWK 48101).
- Field placement in a public children service agency in Ohio (SWK 48605 and SWK 38705)



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RIO GRANDE
AND RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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Visit: <https://www.rio.edu/academics/find-your-program/social-work> or

Contact: Tarin Mink at tmink@rio.edu for additional information