

**SARAH SWORDS, LCSW-S**  
Clinical Associate Professor

The University of Texas at Austin  
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

***CURRICULUM VITAE***

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

May 1982 Simmons College School of Social Work, Boston, MA  
Master of Social Work

May 1978 University of Rochester, Rochester, NY  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Spanish  
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Graduated Summa Cum Laude

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE**

Licensed Clinical Social Worker – State of Texas – License Number 27207, Board-Approved Supervisor

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

University of Texas at Austin Executive Management and Leadership Program – Fall 2017

**AWARDS**

Nominee, University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Lora Lee Pederson Excellence in Teaching Award, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015  
Nominee, Greater Austin Social Workers, Social Worker of the Year, 2015  
Greater Austin Social Workers, Social Worker of the Year for 2016

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE**

September 2017 to Present **University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Austin, TX**

***Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Master's Programs***  
Manage and administer the MSSW and dual degree programs. Responsible for: design and implementation of the curriculum; development, implementation, and evaluation of program recruitment and admissions; monitoring advising and student success in the program; development, implementation, and evaluation of policies; representation of the MSSW program in school committees, university functions, and the professional community; development of databases and reporting systems; evaluation of program activities and accreditation; and management and evaluation of program staff. Teach Direct Practice Field Immersion in summer and fall semesters. Coordinate GRACE (Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education) Program to provide specialized training to MSSW students interested in social work practice with older adults. Chair of Masters Curriculum Committee; member of Academic Affairs

Committee, Community Partnership Development Committee, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Emergency Mobilization Committee, Graduate Studies Committee and International Committee. Co-chair of school's re-affirmation of accreditation process through the Council on Social Work Education. Selected by Provost to serve on Dean's six-year review committee.

August 2010 to  
August 2017

**University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Austin, TX**

***Clinical Assistant Professor***

Teach Practice I & II and Integrative Field Seminar to first-year MSSW students. Teach Summer Practice II to post-BSW MSSW students. Act as faculty liaison to first and second-year MSSW students in agency field placements. Advise students in placement process for advanced concentration internships. Coordinate GRACE (Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education) Program to provide specialized training to MSSW students interested in social work practice with older adults. Provide individualized instruction as *Bridging Disciplines Program* mentor. Chair of Masters Committee. Member of External Relations Committee, Field Education Committee, and Community Partnership Development Committee. Co-chair of school's re-affirmation of accreditation process with the Council on Social Work Education.

November 2009 to  
August 2010

**University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Austin, TX**

***Member - Community Partnership Development Committee***

Attended committee meetings focused on building and improving relationships with prospective field agencies. Performed site visits to agencies to ensure quality of field experience for SSW students.

September 2009 to  
December 2009

**University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Austin, TX**

***Field Instructor***

Supervised a Bachelor of Social Work student in field placement.

**GRANTS**

Program Coordinator, St. David's Foundation GRACE (Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education) Fellows Program; wrote original grant, re-write grant for annual re-submission, administered grant and allocated student funds each year, developed programming to support workforce development in geriatric social work with student fellowship funding; received increasing funding each year to provide fellowships and transformational educational enrichment experiences to MSSW students in geriatric social work internships as follows:

\$345,711 – 2022  
\$221,500 – 2021  
\$221,500 – 2020  
\$212,000 – 2019  
\$206,000 – 2018  
\$206,000 – 2017  
\$175,000 – 2016

\$125,000 – 2015

\$50,000 – 2014 (additional funding to bridge change in fiscal year for grant awards)

\$100,000 – 2013-2014

\$50,000 – 2012-2013

Contributor, development and implementation team for UT Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (UT-HEALS) program, \$110,000 over five years, awarded 2015

## **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Swords, S. (January-February 2017). Heeding the call: How can we attract young professionals to aging services? *Aging Today*, pp. 5, 15.

Swords, S. & Smiley, S. (2016). Innovating with GRACE: Workforce development in geriatric social work. *The Field Educator*

Swords, S. (2016, accepted). *Supporting older adults and their families through geriatric care management* (Video). (Available from VAST: Academic Video Online, 3212 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314)

Crosbie, S. & Swords, S. (2015, March 27). Commentary: Conference brings focus to trauma and childhood adversity. *The Austin American Statesman*

Swords, S. (2014). The GRACE program: Gerontology resources and the aging community in education. *Happenings, the Hartford Partnership Program in Aging Education's Newsletter*. Winter 2014, Vol.6, #1

Swords, S. (2013). Did you know about ....The DSM V (original submitted title: A brief introduction to the DSM 5: Useful information for adult protective services staff). *State of Texas Adult Protective Services Region 7 Newsletter*

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PLANNING**

### **Conference Planning**

The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, GRACE Program, GRACE Gerontology Symposium: Palliative Care in Social Work Practice with Older Adults; November 2022. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, GRACE Program, GRACE Gerontology Symposium: Supporting the Health, Housing, and Social Needs of Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness; and Helping Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Austin and Beyond; October 2021. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Dispelling the Myth: Older Adults and Substance Use; and Older Adults and Substance Use: Ethical and Clinical Challenges; September-October 2020. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: The Unique Strengths of and Challenges Facing Older LGBT Adults; and Clinical and Ethical Practice with Older LGBT Adults, Austin, TX, April 2019. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Challenges and Opportunities in Health Policy and Aging; Ethics in Health

Policy: Ethical Health Policy and Using Technology with Older Adults, Austin, TX, April 2018. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Neurobiological Issues Involved in Assessing Issues in Older Adults, Austin, TX, April 2017. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Aging and Sexuality, Austin, TX, April 2016. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Key Cultural Considerations in the Delivery of Services to Latino Older Adults, Austin, TX, April 2015. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Depression and Anxiety in Late Life: Advancing Emotional Well-Being of a Diverse Aging Population, Austin, TX, April 2015. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Normal Grief in Aging Populations: Complications of Dementia & Cognitive Challenges, Austin, TX, April 2013. Role: Planning Committee Chair

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, GRACE Program, Gerontology Resources Symposium: Sustainable Family Caregiving, Austin, TX, April 2012. Role: Planning Committee Co-Chair

#### **National Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

April 2023 – American Society on Aging, 2023 On Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA  
*Addressing Health Equity in Aging through Social Work Field Education*

July 2022 – USAging Annual Conference, Austin TX  
*Invited Panel Moderator: Intersection of Homelessness and Aging*

April 2022 – American Society on Aging, 2022 On Aging Conference, New Orleans, LA  
*Facilitator: Social Work Peer Network*

November 2021 – Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL  
*Infusing the Lens of Critical Race Theory into Social Work Education*

April 2021 – American Society on Aging, 2021 On Aging Conference, virtual conference via Zoom  
*Social Work Practice With and on Behalf of Older People During Three Concurrent National Crises*

October 2020 – Grantmakers in Aging, virtual conference via Zoom  
*The GRACE Program: Workforce Development in Social Work in Aging*

April 2019 – American Society on Aging, 2019 Aging in America Conference, New Orleans, LA  
*Workforce Development in Geriatric Social Work*

April 2019 – American Society on Aging, 2019 Aging in America Conference, New Orleans, LA  
*Facilitator: Social Work Peer Network*

August 2018 – American Association of Service Coordinators National Conference, Austin, TX  
*Social Work Interns and Service Coordination: A Win-Win Proposition*

March 2018 – American Society on Aging, 2018 Aging in America Conference, San Francisco, CA  
*Training the Next Generation of Gerontological Social Workers: Two Graduate Program Models*

March 2018 – American Society on Aging, 2018 Aging in America Conference, San Francisco, CA  
*Facilitator: Social Work Peer Network*

March 2017 - American Society on Aging, 2017 Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL  
*Training the Next Generation of Geriatric Social Workers: Two Graduate Program Models*

October 2015 – Council on Social Work Education, Denver, CO  
*Foundation Funding for Field Fellowships in Gerontology: Leveraging Community Collaborations*

March 2014 – American Society on Aging, 2014 Aging in America Conference, San Diego, CA  
*A University-Community Workforce Development Collaboration in Gerontological Social Work: The GRACE Program*

March 2013 – American Society on Aging, 2013 Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL  
*Professional Caregiving While Personally Caregiving: Complex Issues for Ethical Practice*, with Annette Juba, LCSW

October 2011- Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA  
*Collaborating with Community Volunteers: Innovations in the Field Placement Development Process*, with Hannah Gibson, Field Education Associate, and Mary Mulvaney, Clinical Professor

#### **Statewide and Local Presentations and Invited Lectures**

December 2022 – 2022 HIV & Aging Conference, Austin, TX  
*Engaging Clients to be Active Advocates*

November 2022 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto's Doctoral Pedagogy Class, Austin, TX  
*Preparation for Teaching Students at the Masters Level – Gatekeeping and Resources for Student Success*

November 2021 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto's Doctoral Pedagogy Class, Austin, TX  
*Useful Information for Teaching Students at the Masters Level – Resources for Student Support*

October 2021 – Adult Protective Services Annual Statewide Conference, Austin, TX  
*Social Workers and Adult Protective Services: A Winning Combination*

November 2020 – Capital City Village, Austin, TX, Invited Lecture for Agency Volunteers  
*Building Connections During COVID-19*

October 2020 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto's Doctoral Pedagogy Class, Austin, TX  
*Supporting Student Success in Social Work Education*

October 2019 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto's Doctoral Pedagogy Class, Austin, TX  
*Gatekeeping Processes: How to Support Students Entering the Social Work Field*

October 2019 – University of Texas at Austin, Invited Lecture by Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Seminar on Retirement, Austin, TX  
*Risk and Rewards in Retirement: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*

May 2019 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Cynthia Franklin’s PhD Colloquium, Austin, TX  
*Trends in Social Work Education*

November 2018 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto’s Doctoral Pedagogy Class, Austin, TX  
*Gatekeeping Processes: How to Support Students Entering the Social Work Field*

October 2018 – University of Texas at Austin, Invited Lecture by Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Seminar on Retirement, Austin, TX  
*Risk and Rewards in Retirement: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*

March 2018 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited Lecture for Dr. Cynthia Franklin’s PhD Colloquium, Austin, TX  
*Trends in Social Work Education*

November 2017 – University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Invited lecture for Dr. Diana DiNitto’s PhD Pedagogy Class, Austin TX  
*Tools for Increasing Student Success and Accountability*

October 2017 – University of Texas at Austin, Invited Lecture by Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Seminar on Retirement, Austin, TX  
*Risk and Rewards in Retirement: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*

July 2017 - Eating Recovery Center, Austin, TX  
*Professional Use of Self: Core Concepts in Practice*

May 2017 – Northside Independent School District Counseling Department, San Antonio, TX  
*Following your Compass: Ethics and Technology in the School Setting*

April 2017 – Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Office of the Area Agency on Aging, Austin, TX  
*Workforce Development in Geriatric Social Work*

February 2017 – University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, Invited Lecture for Dr. Holly Temple, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Considerations in Aging*

February 2017 – Texas School Social Workers Conference, Austin, TX  
*Following Your Compass: Social Work Ethics in Schools in the New Technology Environment*

February 2017 – Aging Texas Well Statewide Advisory Board, Austin, TX  
*Workforce Development in Geriatric Social Work*

January 2017 – OneStar Foundation, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence: Core Concepts and Application*

January 2017 - University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Field Instructor Development Institute, Austin, TX  
*Field Instruction 101: The Fundamentals of Teaching UT Austin School of Social Work Students in Field*

October 2016 – Eating Recovery Center, Austin, TX  
*Professional Use of Self: Core Concepts in Practice*

September 2016 – Greater Austin Social Workers, Austin, TX  
*Following Your Compass: Social Work Ethics in the New Technology Environment*

September 2016 – Feeding Texas, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence: Core Concepts and Application*

February 2016 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Office of Professional Development Webinar, Austin, TX  
*Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll: Aging and the Boomers*

January 2016 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Field Instructor Development Institute, Austin, TX  
*Field Instruction 101: The Fundamentals of Teaching UT Austin School of Social Work Students in Field*

November 2015 – Feeding Texas, Austin, TX  
*Demonstrating Cultural Competence in Interviewing: Core Concepts and Application*

August 2015 – Feeding Texas, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence: What is it and Why is it Important?*

April 2015 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work Advisory Council, Austin, TX  
*Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll: Aging with the Boomers*

February 2015 – Feeding Texas, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence and Interviewing Skills – Opportunities for Skill Development*

February 2015 – Texas School Social Workers Conference, Austin, TX  
*Working with Grandparent Caregivers: Issues and Strategies*

January 2015 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Field Instructor Development Institute, Austin, TX  
*Laying the Groundwork: Conceptualizing the Internship*, with Barbara Anderson, LCSW, Kathy Armenta, LCSW, and Mary Mulvaney, LCSW

November 2014 – Feeding Texas, Austin, TX  
*Introduction to Cultural Competence and Interviewing Skills*

July 2014 – Texas Food Bank Network, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence: What is it and Why is it Important?*

February 2014 – St. David's Foundation Board of Directors, Austin, TX  
*Meeting the Needs of Austin's Aging Population*

November 2013 – Adult Protective Services Annual Statewide Conference, San Antonio, TX  
*Caregiving at Work While Caregiving at Home: Complex Issues for Ethical Practice*, with Annette Juba, LCSW

September 2013 – Helping the Needy, Aging and Disabled, Austin, TX  
*Cultural Competence: Application of Core Concepts to Enhance Service Delivery*

September 2013 – Austin Area Medical Social Workers Group, Austin, TX  
*Professional Caregiving While Personally Caregiving: Complex Issues for Ethical Practice*, with Annette Juba, LCSW

June 2013 - University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Austin, TX  
*Field Instruction 101: The Fundamentals of Teaching Social Work Students in the Field*, with Robin Smith, Clinical Assistant Professor

September 2012 – National Association of Social Workers, Austin Chapter, Austin, TX  
*Aging in Place in Austin*

September 2012 – 36th Annual National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference, Houston, TX  
*Educational Enrichment in Gerontology for Social Work Students*

September 2012 - 36th Annual National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference, Houston, TX  
*Professional Caregiving While Personally Caregiving: Complex Issues for Ethical Practice*, with Annette Juba, LCSW

July 2012 – YWCA of Greater Austin, Austin, TX  
*Professional Caregiving While Personally Caregiving: Complex Issues for Ethical Practice*, with Annette Juba, LCSW

May 2012 – Alaska Island Community Services Clinical Staff In-Service Training, Wrangell, AK  
*Intimate Partner Violence: Approaches to Intervention and Treatment*

February 2012 – Texas School Social Workers Conference, Austin, TX  
*Eating Disorders in the Schools: What Social Workers Should Know and How They Can Help*, with Teresa Granillo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

April 2011 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work Advisory Council, Austin, TX  
*The GRACE Program: Gerontology Resources and the Aging Community in Education*

January 2011 – University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Field Instructor Development Institute, Austin, TX  
*Process Recording Break-out Session*, with Vicki Packheiser, Clinical Associate Professor

## **SERVICE**

### **National Service**

August 2020 External Reviewer for Faculty Promotion, University of Michigan School of Social Work

May 2019 External Reviewer for Faculty Promotion, University of Buffalo School of Social Work

### **Local Board and Committee Positions**

January 2005 to  
Present

#### **Impact Austin, Austin, TX**

##### ***Chair – Community Partners Committee***

Supervise liaisons to Community Partners.

##### ***Grants Committee Advisor***

Trained members of Focus Area Committees on grant review process.

##### ***Chair – Education Focus Area Committee***

Led committee through five-month process of grant application evaluation.

##### ***Member – Grants Innovation Committee***

Participate in creating recommendations for Impact Austin board on future directions in granting-making.



August 2006 to December 2007	<b>Literacy Austin</b> <b>Board Member</b>
August 2011 to Present	<b>Austin Child Guidance Center, Austin, TX</b> <b>Board Member</b> <b>Board Secretary</b> 2013 to 2015 <b>Board Vice President</b> 2015 to 2017 <b>Board President</b> 2017 to 2019 <b>Program Committee Chair</b> 2016 to 2019 <b>Program Committee Member</b> 2019 to Present
February 2020 to Present	<b>Urban Roots</b> <b>Transition Committee Member</b>

**Academic Committee Positions**  
**School of Social Work**

2009 to Present	<b>Community Partnership Development Committee</b>
2010 to 2017	<b>Field Education Committee</b>
2010 to Present	<b>Masters Committee</b>
2017 to Present	<b>Chair, Masters Committee</b>
2011 to 2012	<b>Gerontology Faculty Search Committee</b>
2012 to 2017	<b>External Relations Committee</b>
2017 to Present	<b>Graduate Studies Committee</b>
2019 to 2020	<b>Chair, Graduate Studies Committee</b>
2019 to Present	<b>Child Welfare and Gerontology Faculty Search Committee</b>

**University of Texas at Austin**

2012 to Present	<b>Aging Network</b>
2015 to Present	<b>Dell Medical School</b> – Admissions Interviewer
2018	<b>Dean’s Review Committee</b> – Selected by Provost as member
2019 to 2020	<b>UT System Faculty Awards Selection Committee</b> – Nominated by Provost
2020-Present	<b>Dell Medical School Design Institute for Health</b> – Appointed to Steering Committee of Nursing Home Re-Design Project

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- October 1996 to  
December 2005      **YWCA of Greater Austin, Austin, TX**  
*Therapist – Women’s Counseling and Referral Center*  
Provided short-term focused individual counseling to adult women.  
Trained agency staff and community professionals on mental health issues.  
Supervised social work students in field placement.
- January 1990 to  
December 1994      **Brandywine Psychotherapy Center, Wilmington, DE**  
*Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Private Psychotherapy Practice*  
Provided individual, group, and couples therapy, with a special focus on women’s issues. Co-led group for adult survivors of child sexual abuse.  
Provided supervision and consultation to mental health professionals.  
Presented workshops and lectures to professional and community groups.
- April 1986 to  
June 1991      **Child, Inc., Wilmington, DE**  
*Therapist*  
Provided individual and group therapy to female survivors of relationship violence. Provided consultation and training to professional and community groups. Supervised staff and social work interns.
- February 1985 to  
March 1986      **Child, Inc., Wilmington, DE**  
*Aftercare/Volunteer Coordinator*  
Provided crisis intervention and short-term therapy to runaway youth and their families. Responsible for recruitment, training, placement, and evaluation of program volunteers. Supervised social work interns. Gave presentations to community, school, and professional groups.
- October 1982 to  
September 1984      **Denver Catholic Community Services, Denver, CO**  
*Counselor*  
Member of inter-disciplinary social services team. Provided individual, family, and couples therapy. Consulted with community groups on mental health issues. Supervised social work intern.
- September 1981 to  
May 1982      **Cambridge Guidance Center, Cambridge, MA**  
*Social Work Intern*  
Provided individual child and adolescent therapy as member of multi-disciplinary child guidance team. Learned family therapy and play therapy techniques.
- September 1980 to  
August 1981      **Mount Auburn Hospital, Cambridge, MA**  
*Social Work Intern*

Assessed needs of medical in-patients, coordinated discharge planning, and led support group for cancer patients' families. Maintained caseload in out-patient psychiatric clinic. Provided crisis intervention in emergency room.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Member, American Society on Aging  
Member, Council on Social Work Education  
Member, Greater Austin Social Workers  
Member, National Association of Social Workers