

Dawn Brown is the Chair of the Online MSW Program and an Instructor at the University of South Florida School of Social Work. Dawn received her BA in Human Development from Boston College and her MSW from the University of South Florida. Prior to entering the field of Social Work, she spent 11 years working in Student Affairs at Wesleyan University in CT. In this capacity, she worked in Residential Life and supported cultural programmatic efforts of Residential Staff to support the social and educational experience outside of the classroom.

Dawn has worked with the Kinship Care Program at the Children's Home Network. While at the Children's Home Network she provided in home counseling to caregivers and children and also facilitated Kinship support groups. Dawn has also worked as an Oncology Social Worker at Moffitt Cancer Center. While at Moffitt Cancer Center she was a part of the interdisciplinary team providing Patient and Family Centered Care.

Although Dawn recognizes the importance of skilled practice and insight at the micro and mezzo level, her true passion resides in her love of advocacy and supporting individuals, families and communities to feel empowered to advocate at the macro level. Her passion is evident through her active involvement in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Dawn currently serves as the NASW-FL Legislative Committee Chair. In this role, she works with the local Legislative Chairs from the 18 units around the state of Florida. She also works with the Chairs of Child Welfare, Veterans and Military Families, the Social Work Licensure and the recently formed Immigration Justice Task Force to help educate and inform social workers of legislative issues that impact both the social work profession and the clients we serve. In her role as NASW-FL Legislative Committee Chair, she helps coordinate the annual Legislative Education Advocacy Day (LEAD) with the 14 Schools of Social Work in Florida. Dawn also serves on the NASW-FL PACE (Political Action for Candidate Election) Committee. The PACE Committee votes on endorsements of candidates who are running for office at the local, state and national level. Dawn is also a member of the NASW National Florida Chapter Delegate Assembly, which helps develop the official NASW Policy Statements. Dawn received the 2020 NASW Tampa Bay Unit Social Work Educator of the Year Award.