

Practicum Partners

Strategic Questions Themes

Participants participated in a focus group-style session where the following themes emerged for each question.

1

Key issues to address over the next 5 years

- Focus on racial and health equity in St. Louis region. Students need a greater understanding of St Louis region historical context and inequities. They need to have a deeper understanding of: local policy and politics, gerrymandering, living wages, gentrification, health disparities, racial marginalization, distribution of resources, and education inequities.
- Focus on the community engagement and connection. Establishing partnerships to advocate for building resilient communities and addressing the inequitable distribution of resources and gentrification. Challenge corporations to invest in communities as opposed to providing charity. Shift funding from federal to private source.
- Expand behavioral health services for individuals and care for behavioral health providers.
- Provide more leadership opportunities for youth within their communities and support for social emotional health. There is also a need for schools to incorporate restorative practices.
- Continue to advocate for Missouri social work students to be able to become school certified social workers in Illinois.
- Provide more training for students on disability-friendly practices and communities.

2

Changes in our school culture

- The academic programs should:
 - Have an increased emphasis on local needs and context and a greater number of students focused on the STL region.
 - Consider emphasizing the generalist social work practice over specialization so students have a reference point for other types of practice.
 - Consider adding a bachelor's of social work.
 - Continue to have instructors who are also practitioners.
 - Continue to focus on transdisciplinary work.
- Continue to focus on diversifying student body and providing effective supports for our students of color.
- Ensure that our research will have a direct impact on the community – be more strategic about what we are doing the community.
- Provide students with more opportunity to engage in the community especially during times of crisis.
- Provide opportunities for Brown School students to be more influential on Wash U's decisions that impact the surrounding community.

3

Opportunities we must take advantage of

- Increase the number of local students attending WUSTL by intentionally nurturing local talent and targeted marketing of WUSTL.
- Continue to have skill-based courses because they are useful in real world.
- School needs to have greater engagement in the St Louis region by:
 - Increasing our involvement in the regional collective impact initiatives so students could get a yearlong real world experience.
 - Establishing additional collaborations with organizations in the region and ensuring these collaborations have high visibility.
- Greater focus on addressing racial equity and culture within the school. It needs to be documented (e.g., demographics, processes) and not just verbally communicated.
 - Provide a diversity, equity & inclusion class that has roleplaying for practicum students so they understand what is appropriate and how to handle inappropriate situations at their practicum organizations.
 - Create a board of WUSTL students to help students address real world community issues and challenges as a group.