

The Worden School of Social Work

In 1942 at the urging of Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, Our Lady of the Lake College opened a one year program for training Professional Social Workers. It was believed that many social ills were caused by a lack of social workers. Soon a two year program leading to a Masters in Social Work was offered. The School was the first School of Social Work to be accredited in Texas and the only Catholic School of Social Work between the Mississippi River and California and between the Mexican border and St. Louis and Denver. It is out of the Worden School that Madonna Center and Centro del Barrio found their beginnings and ongoing collaboration. It is through Professor Gomez's work that the School restated its mission to serve the oppressed, disenfranchised, and mentally ill. The curriculum for both undergraduate and graduate programs includes courses on understanding and serving Mexican Americans and African Americans. Today graduates of Worden School are serving all over the United States. It provides both classroom and online delivery of its programs.