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## Simmons to soon offer master of social work degree online

Posted by Matt Rocheleau February 19, 2014 03:01 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

Simmons College will soon offer its master of social work degree online.

The SocialWork@Simmons program will debut in July, offering the same curriculum as the college's on-campus program, school officials announced this week.

Simmons faculty will teach the online platform, which will combine "live, weekly, face-to-face sessions with self-paced, interactive coursework," the college said. Like the on-campus program, the online venture will have its students conduct field training at approved placements in or near their own communities.

Technology assistance, library access, and advising services will also be provided to online students, school officials said.

Classes will be limited to 15 students per session, and online applicants will need to meet the same admissions requirements as those who apply to the on-campus program.

The college is accepting applications for the first online class. Simmons said it has partnered with 2U Inc., an online education software service company, to develop the program.

"The combination of a unique online learning platform, small class sizes and top-notch field placements will provide a truly comprehensive academic experience, in keeping with the standards established for our highly regarded campus-based clinical program," said a statement from Stefan Krug, dean of Simmons School of Social Work. "This innovative program will position our graduates to advance in an industry where the need for highly skilled professionals is growing rapidly."

The college cited [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projections which say that employment of social workers – driven by increased demand for health care and social services – is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, which is faster than the average growth rate of 11 percent for all occupations.

For more information, visit [socialwork.simmons.edu](http://socialwork.simmons.edu).

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our [Your Campus pages](#).

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