



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Office of Communications and Public Relations**

**Press Release**

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## **Ramapo College's Bachelor of Social Work Ranked Among Top Programs in the Nation**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey has been ranked as one of the nation's Best Bachelor's in Social Work by College Choice. Ramapo, ranked Number 22, also is one of only two New Jersey institutions to make the prestigious list.

"The Social Work program at Ramapo College continues, as it has since its inception in the 1970s, to provide students the skills necessary to work in settings where social justice and respect for human diversity are paramount," said Aaron Lorenz, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Human Studies at Ramapo College. "To be mentioned with some of the other schools in the nation shows that the dedication our faculty have to our students does not go unnoticed."

Ramapo College's Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) provides undergraduate students with a degree that will prepare them to become social workers in any field they choose. The BSW program holds accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

Students in the social work program at Ramapo are exposed to an integrative and hands-on learning experience. Courses are taught in a variety of ways, including lectures, team projects and simulated exercises. Faculty also teach from case studies and invite guest lecturers who are current industry professionals for special presentations and seminars. Students are required to fulfill 600 hours of field work experience which are supervised by licensed and certified social work professionals.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the social work profession will experience a faster than average growth rate at 10 percent between the years 2014 and 2024.

“We will continue with our mission to teach students how to be culturally competent social workers and advocate vociferously on behalf of their clients,” said Dean Lorenz.

To meet the increasing need for social work services, Ramapo College has recently established and now offers a Masters in Social Work, which builds on the strong undergraduate reputation and further prepares students for advanced professional practice.

The College Choice rankings are derived from different sources, including data taken from a nationwide survey published by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA where students evaluated academic reputation as well as school costs and post-graduate achievements on the job market. The data are weighted with information from other public sources, including U.S. News & World Report, the National Center for Education Statistics, and PayScale.com.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.