Abigayle Brooks, LMSW

Curriculum Vitae
abbrooks2@wisc.edu

Education

Social Welfare PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison May 2029

MSW The University of Texas at Arlington August 2021
Concentration in Community and Administrative Practice

Honors BSW The University of Texas at Arlington May 2020
Minor in Spanish

Research and Career Interests

Poverty Alleviation • Economic Mobility • Social Program and Policy Evaluation • Mixed-Methods
Poverty Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean • Increasing Well-being of Low-Income Workers

Academic Theses

PhD Preliminary Exam

Spring 2027

Understanding the Impact of Work-Conditioned Cash Benefits during Early Adulthood on the Long-Term Well-Being of Low-Income Workers and their Families
Supervising Professor: Dr. Marci Ybarra
Committee Members: Dr. Laura Cuesta, Dr. Sarah Halpern-Meekin

- A cross-national comparison of work-conditioned cash benefits and how economic and social net context moderate the effect of these programs on economic mobility in early adulthood

Master's Thesis

August 2021

How Long-Term Case Management can be Used to Decrease Poverty
Supervising Professor: Dr. Rachel Voth Schrag
Committee Members: Dr. Richard Hoefer, Dr. Marcela Nava

- Interviews and surveys with clients and case managers of long-term case management programs to obtain their opinions on how case management and outside resources can be improved.

Undergraduate Honors Senior Thesis

May 2020

How Social Service Organizations Respond to Barriers to Latino Immigrant Employment
Advisor: Dr. Marcela Nava

- An exploratory survey on what services Dallas- Fort Worth organizations provide that respond to barriers to Latino employment and their opinions on these barriers

Presentations

From Raising Resistance: The Dual of Development Between the Soy State and Paraguayan Campesinos

Nelson Institute's Center for Culture, History, and the Environment (CHE) 2026 Graduate Student Symposium: March 14th, 2026

Abigayle Brooks and Anthony Ippolito

- Can we have agricultural 'development' without pesticide contamination, deforestation, and forced displacement harming the populations we are trying to help the most? We answer this question by comparing the perspectives of campesino farmers, as told through the documentary, Raising Resistance, and the Paraguayan government, as represented through national development and poverty reduction plans.

How Long-Term Case Management Can Decrease Poverty

Oklahoma Social Work Summit: March 28th, 2024

- A presentation of the results of interviews and surveys with clients and case managers of long-term case management programs to obtain their opinions on how effective case management is at decreasing poverty and how it can be improved.

How Social Service Organizations Respond to Barriers to Latino Immigrant Employment

Virtual Honors Research Symposium: May 2020

- An exploratory survey on what services Dallas- Fort Worth organizations provide that respond to barriers to Latino employment and their opinions on these barriers.

Manuscripts in Progress

Freitag, C., Paode, P., Koenig, J., **Brooks, A.**, Jones-Cobb, B., and Turner, N. (2026). "*Life Course Pathways to Supplemental Security Income.*" A Brief Prepared for the Disability Economic Consortium, Sponsored by The Roosevelt Institute and the National Academy of Social Insurance

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Research Experience

Project Assistant *Dr. Marci Ybarra* February 2025- Present

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

- Code interview transcripts, advise on code refinements, and analyze findings to inform recommendations for improving the Wisconsin unemployment insurance process
- Review interview transcripts regarding reasons for nonparticipation in intensive nonprofit social service programs and advise on potential themes for academic papers

Project Assistant *Dr. Callie Freitag* May 2025- August 2025

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

- Coded 11 transcripts describing the lived experiences of SSI recipients
- Participate in the creation of analytic codes, presentation materials, and paper drafts

Teaching and Professional Experience

*Includes 2 years post-MSW practice experience

Teaching Assistant *Dr. David Pate, Dr. Marah Curtis, Dr. Stephanie Robert* August 2025- Present
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

- Design and instruct 2-3 discussion sections per semester for 40 - 75 students taking Introduction to US Social Policy or Introduction to the Field of Social Work
- Grade essays, ensuring adherence to prompts and giving feedback on areas for improvement
- Record attendance and respond to student emails regarding absences and office hour appointments

Therapist November 2023 - April 2024
Daybreak Family Services, Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Provided individual and family mental health counseling for elementary school students

Women's Counselor September 2021- November 2023
Palmer Continuum of Care, Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Served as a substance abuse therapist for pregnant or parenting mothers in a residential setting
- Collaborated with child welfare workers, probation officers, and drug court coordinators to facilitate successful client treatment and child reunification
- Planned and facilitated group sessions covering topics such as trauma, self-esteem, or domestic violence and orchestrated connections with community organizations to lead group sessions

Housing Case Aid July 2020- May 2021
SafeHaven of Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas

- Assisted survivors of domestic violence with finding and applying for permanent housing
- Conducted intake interviews of new clients in both English and Spanish
- Inspected apartments to ensure they met HUD minimum standards

Family Success Assistant January 2021- August 2021
Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Fort Worth, Texas

- Researched and designed a potential housing program to prepare clients for home ownership
- Created informative material and videos to educate on application and tax protesting process

Pregnancy, Parenting, & Adoption Intern January 2020- May 2020
Catholic Charities of Dallas, Dallas, Texas

- Shadowed adoptive parent home visits and wrote supervision reports, home studies, and other documentation
- Registered clients for parenting classes and distributed material assistance during classes

Residential Assistant August 2018- May 2019
The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

- Oversaw 30 freshman honors college students living in a residence hall

University Service and Volunteer Experience

MSW Admissions Committee Reviewer, UW-Madison November 2025 - January 2026

Social Justice Peer Educator, UTA June 2019 - December 2020

- Facilitated classroom activities, in-person and virtually, that teach awareness on how to respond to social issues

Leadership Honors Program, UTA Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

- Multi-year, self-paced leadership development program that emphasized involvement and personal reflection

Student Government, UTA April 2019 - November 2019

Social Work Senator

- Conducted research to gather evidence to support the implementation of resolutions
- Advertised posters of events and volunteered at events that raise awareness of student government services

UTA Volunteers, UTA September 2017- May 2019

Youth and Education Assistant Director

- Volunteered 92 hours total at UTA Volunteer and partner community organizations' events

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Fellowships and Funding

Lois Palmer Shimpa Memorial Scholarship August 2024

$1,000 award for mature students who demonstrated significant community involvement

Letters & Science Community of Graduate Research Scholars Fellowship August 2024

Full tuition and stipend, up to two years

G. Irene and Fernando G. Torgerson Graduate Studies Advancement Fund March 2020

$4,000 per semester, up to four semesters

International Education Fee Scholarship April 2019

$1,250 for summer semester abroad in Cuernavaca, Mexico

UTA Presidential Scholarship August 2017

$10,000 annually, up to four years

Awards and Memberships

IRP Graduate Research Fellow May 2025

Outstanding Student in Spanish Award April 2019

UTA Volunteers Presidential Award April 2018

Given by the president of the organization to recognize two outstanding members of the year

Ron Brown Captain May 2017

Invitation-only professional development program for African American students, awarded to top 5% of applicants