

CHANGING LIVES IN THE  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

2026

*Student Awards  
Ceremony*

**APRIL 23**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Commerce Street Building, C100**

**UHD**

University of Houston-Downtown.  
**College of Public Service**



University of Houston-Downtown.  
**College of Public Service**

# *Mission*

The University of Houston-Downtown College of Public Service educates and develops public servants, advocates, and leaders in criminal justice, education, and social work.

# *Vision*

The College of Public Service is a nexus of community-driven engagement, empowering tomorrow's leaders to create a just and equitable society through public policy, collaborative action, and educational practice.

# The College of Public Service Honors Our **2026 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

## **Criminal Justice**

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*Outstanding Master of Science in Criminal Justice Student*  
**Christopher Sierra**

*Outstanding Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Student*  
**Yalda Hamidi**

*Outstanding Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences  
in Criminal Justice Student*  
**Johanna Reyes Lopez**

*Outstanding Service Award*  
**Gabriela Salinas**

*Outstanding Criminal Justice Internship Award*  
**Jocelyne De Leon**

# **Social Work**

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*Social Work Academic Excellence Award - Senior*

**Esther Malone**  
**Lydia Frimpong**

**Rebeca Lopez**  
**Jocelyn Zapata**

*Social Work Academic Excellence Award - Junior*

**Lilyette Mendoza**

**Shawanda Jones**

*Excellence in Social Work Field Practica*

**Nathalia Mendoza**  
**Jennifer Orellana**

**German Hernandez**  
**Pricella Alanis**

*Social Work Excellence in Leadership Award*

**Crystal Hernandez**

**Pamila Laam**

*Spirit of Social Work Award*

**Basilia Zezatti**  
**Fatima Avila**  
**Sharon De Leon**

**Lesli Puente**  
**Cory Fullerton**  
**Max Von Rettberg**

*Social Work, Social Justice, and Change Agent*

**Sarai Navarrete**

**Yansy Vasquez-Rodriguez**

*Mariposa Award for Social Work Innovation*

**Lizzie Aguilera**

**Yeawa Sesay**

**Rianna Sarmiento**

*Social Work Students of the Year*

**Stephanie Jones**

**Sandra Ayinbode**

**Adriana Martinez**

*Social Work: Elbert E. & Anne M. Goins Scholarship in Gerontology*

**Alicia Mitchell**

*Social Work: Carolyn Sue Smith and Ann Parham Memorial  
Scholarship*

**Alex Herrera**

# Urban Education

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*EC-6 Bilingual Education Outstanding Student*  
**Zenaida Farais**

*E-6 ESL Outstanding Student*  
**Tonia Procenka**

*7-12 Outstanding Student*  
**Sean Rhea**

*Special Education Outstanding Student*  
**Ty'Rell Edwards**

*Master of Arts in Teaching*  
**Chelsi Johnston**

*Master of Educational Leadership Outstanding Student*  
**Erin Walker**



Interested in continuing your education?

**Consider one of our graduate programs within the College of Public Service.**

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Master of Educational Leadership (MEDL)

Master of Arts in Teaching in Curriculum and Instruction (MAT)

Master of Arts in Teaching with Certification (Alternative Certification Program)

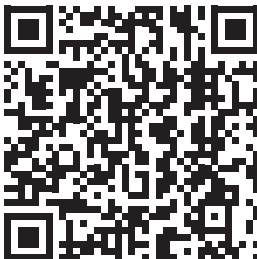
Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ)

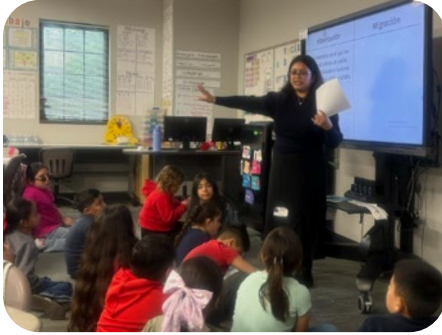
Master of Social Work (MSW)

*New for Fall 2026!*

*Learn more about our graduate programs via our website.*

*Scan the QR code below for more information.*







**University of Houston  
DOWNTOWN**

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713-221-8194**