

Altaf Husain, Ph.D., is an associate professor and associate dean for academic and student advancement in the Howard University School of Social Work. He was appointed by Dean Sheara Jennings as associate dean for academic and student advancement in January 2025. Upon his appointment, Husain said, “It is the honor of a lifetime to serve my alma mater through this appointment as associate dean for academic and student advancement. I owe much to Howard University and to the School of Social Work, specifically, and hope to serve the school with excellence as we mark the 90th anniversary of our founding.”

A son of Howard, Husain received his Ph.D. from the Howard University School of Social Work while serving in the Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer under Richard A. English. English served as dean of the School of Social Work from 1985 to 2003, when he was appointed provost. Husain first served as special assistant to the provost before being promoted to executive assistant for academic affairs. He continued serving as executive assistant during the tenure of the late Provost Jim Wyche. While working in the Office of the Provost, Husain also taught research methods as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Social Work.

Husain credits several mentors for his academic journey. He received his Master of Social Work degree from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. During his time there, Dean Darlyne Bailey wrote his recommendation letter for admission to Howard University. Husain also was encouraged to apply to Howard by Delores Lynch, executive director of his placement site, Senior Outreach Services, and Patricia Britt, his field supervisor and a Howard School of Social Work alumna. His doctoral dissertation committee at Howard included Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, then director of the Doctoral Program and his adviser; Richard A. English, chair; Soleman Abu-Bader, Ph.D., methodologist; the late Sulayman Shehu Nyang, a former Gambian ambassador to Saudi Arabia and professor in the Department of African Studies; and Zahid Bukhari, Ph.D., then director of the Muslim Americans in the Public Square project at Georgetown University, who served as external examiner.

In 2010, Husain was appointed by Dean Cudore L. Snell, D.S.W. as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. In 2012, he was appointed co-chair of the Human Behavior and the Social Environment Sequence. In 2014, Dean Sandra Edmonds Crewe, Ph.D. appointed him chair of the Community, Administration and Policy Practice Concentration, while he continued to co-chair the Human Behavior and the Social Environment macro sequence.

During his tenure as chair of the Community, Administration and Policy Practice Concentration, the number of students selecting the macro concentration grew. Students from both Community, Administration and Policy Practice and Direct Practice also participated annually in Student Advocacy Day on the Hill, organized by the Congressional Research Institute for Social Policy, and in Campaign School, organized by the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. The latter program trains social workers to run for public office.

In spring 2015, Husain was promoted to associate professor with tenure. That semester, he received the Faculty of the Year Award from the District of Columbia chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. At the recommendation of Crewe, Husain was appointed chair of the Curriculum Committee, a position he held from 2016 to 2021. During his tenure, the Curriculum Committee worked closely with Associate Dean Tracy Whitaker to develop and

implement major program innovations, including the MSW/MBA, MSW/MDiv and MSW/MPH dual-degree programs; the Advanced Standing Accelerated Program, which reduced the time to degree completion for eligible students from 1½ years to one year; and the Generalist Curriculum, which provides students with balanced exposure to macro and micro social work practice.

Husain's research interests include the intersection of religion and spirituality in the lives of displaced populations, the emerging nonprofit infrastructure supporting immigrant and refugee youth and families, and the development and funding of that infrastructure. He is concluding a two-year study as principal investigator funded by the Templeton Religion Trust that explores faith trends among Muslim American youth. He teaches in the master's and Ph.D. programs. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work* and as an assistant editor of *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*.

Since 2016, Husain has served as adviser to the Eta Eta Chapter of the Phi Alpha National Honor Society. He coordinates two induction ceremonies each academic year with support from student officers and graduate assistants. Husain also has represented the Howard University School of Social Work through his service to the social work profession. He was selected as a fellow of the Society for Social Work and Research in 2020. The late President Mildred "Mitt" Joyner appointed Husain to the National Ethics Committee of the National Association of Social Workers for a 2020-23 term. He was appointed by the Council on Social Work Education as the 2024-25 faculty scholar for the Center for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice. For nearly 15 years, Husain has maintained an ongoing collaboration with Utrecht University in the Netherlands, serving as a guest lecturer and adviser to graduate students focusing on the adaptation of immigrants and refugees.

Husain's service and leadership on university wide initiatives include serving as a staff member on the Presidential Commission for Academic Renewal and as a faculty site visitor on the Program Prioritization Task Force. He currently serves as a Hilltop Architect as part of the University's efforts to develop a new strategic plan under the leadership of President Ben Vinson III. Since 2010, Husain has served as a member of the Howard University Interfaith Advisory Council under the leadership of the dean of the Chapel, Bernard Richardson.

Husain's community involvement includes serving as president and founder of the National Association of Muslims in Social Work, founding vice president of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, a founding board member of The Conscious Kid Library, former vice president and two-term national president of the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada, and vice president of the Islamic Society of North America. He also serves as an advisory board member of the Peaceful Families Project, an organization dedicated to preventing domestic violence.