

# Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work program is designed to prepare students for entry level professional practice in social work. Upon graduation, students are eligible for the License Master of Social Work (LMSW) and they may also pursue further clinical supervision requirements to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). In addition, students interested in becoming a certified addiction counselor have the opportunity to take specialized courses in the area of addictions. The MSW program also offers a specialization in child welfare.

The MSW program is currently in candidacy for full accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). When the accreditation process is completed, all students entering the program while in candidacy will be considered graduates of a CSWE accredited social work program.

Students who satisfy the advanced standing admission requirements may qualify for the advanced standing MSW program.

## General Requirements for Admission

MSW Program admission requires:

1. A 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate upper-division level courses and a 1000 combined score on the GRE.
2. Applicants must possess a liberal arts background, including preferences (not required) for social sciences, psychology, statistics, and content in the physiological basis for human behavior. Humanities courses are also recognized as important.
3. Demonstrated work experience in the human service sector, through volunteer work, employment, or internships is desirable.
4. Applicants must have strong positive recommendations from three sources capable of assessing readiness for graduate work.
5. Demonstrated eagerness to learn and the requisite interpersonal skills and talent for social work practice.

## Advanced Standing Admission Requirements

MSW Advanced Standing admission requires:

1. Applicants must have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a

(Advanced Standing Admission Requirements - cont'd)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited undergraduate program within the last five year. This requirement will not be waived.

2. A minimum 3.2 GPA over the last 60 hours of undergraduate study and a 1000 combined score on the GRE.
3. Demonstrated work experience in the human service sector, through paid, volunteer and internship experiences.
4. Applicants must have positive and strong recommendations from three sources who are capable of assessing the candidate to the effect that the candidate is ready for graduate work, is eager to learn, and has evidenced the requisite interpersonal skills and talent for social work practice.

### Non-Degree Admission

Students classified as non-degree students are not permitted to enroll in the Master of Social Work program.

### Transfer Credit

Students enrolled in the Master of Social Work program will not be given credit for courses taken at other institutions.

### Grades

Expectations for satisfactory graduate level student performance are detailed in Academic Policies section of this catalog.

### Petition to Graduate

MSW candidates must petition to graduate at least one semester prior to completion of their degree requirements. Petition to graduate forms are available in the program director's office.

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## Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work program is made of four areas—foundation courses, advanced clinical practice, specialized areas, elective courses, and the fieldwork component. The following is a brief description of each area:

1. **Foundation Courses (Blocks 1 and 2)** - designed to introduce the student to the field of social work and provide a firm foundation to professional training.
2. **Advanced Clinical Practice (Blocks 2 and 3)** - the sequence of advanced courses assumes mastery of foundation courses and moves the student into more complex issues of human behavior.
3. **Specialization areas (Blocks 3 and 4)** - These consist of two specialized areas - 1) Child Welfare and Advocacy; and 2) Addictions. The Child Welfare and Advocacy specialization prepares students for entry level professional social work practice in the area of child welfare and protective services, and service to families, children, and youth. The Addictions specialization prepares students for entry level practice in the area of substance abuse prevention and intervention.
4. **Elective courses (Block 4)** - a small group of elective courses offered to enrich the student's understanding of particular areas of social work practice and programs.
5. **Fieldwork Component (Blocks 3 and 4)**- placement at a clinical internship site is an integral aspect of the MSW program. Fieldwork offers students direct practice learning in real-world service settings.

**SEQUENCE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

|                |  |   |           |
|----------------|--|---|-----------|
| <b>BLOCK 1</b> |  |   | <b>15</b> |
| SW 8705        | Advanced Practice within an Ethical Framework          | 3 |           |
| SW 7702        | Social Work Practice I                                 | 3 |           |
| SW 7704        | Human Behavior in a Social Environment I               | 3 |           |
| SW 7706        | Practice Focused Research Methods I                    | 3 |           |
| SW 7708        | Foundation Internship I                                | 3 |           |
| <b>BLOCK 2</b> |  |   | <b>15</b> |
| SW 7701        | Social Welfare Policy and Services                     | 3 |           |
| W 7703         | Social Work Practice II                                | 3 |           |
| SW 7705        | Human Behavior in a Social Environment II              | 3 |           |
| SW 7709        | Foundation Internship II                               | 3 |           |
| SW 8702        | Advanced Clinical Practice with Groups                 | 3 |           |
| <b>BLOCK 3</b> |  |   | <b>15</b> |
| SW 8701        | Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals & Families | 3 |           |
| SW 8710        | Psychopathology  | 3 |           |
| SW 8711        | Practice Focused Research Methods II                   | 3 |           |
| SW 8712        | Advanced Internship III                                | 3 |           |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3 |           |
| <b>BLOCK 4</b> |  |   | <b>15</b> |
| SW 8707        | Crisis Intervention                                    | 3 |           |
| SW 8713        | Advanced Internship IV                                 | 3 |           |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3 |           |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3 |           |
|                | Elective   | 3 |           |

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 60**

**Advanced Standing**

Advanced standing is available to applicants who have graduated from an undergraduate social work program that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education within the past five years. Applicants with two years of human service work who graduated within the last three years will be considered. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.2 over the last 60 graded hours of study. The program accepts a cohort of 10 qualified candidates for advanced standing. The cohort begins the program in June and is completed in one calendar year or 39 hours of study.

**SEQUENCE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

|                       |   |   |          |
|-----------------------|---|---|----------|
| <b>BLOCK 1—Summer</b> |   |   | <b>9</b> |
| SW 8705               | Advanced Practice within an Ethical Framework | 3 |          |
| SW 7703               | Social Work Practice II                       | 3 |          |
| SW 8702               | Advanced Clinical Practice with Groups        | 3 |          |

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(Master of Social Work - Advanced Standing Curriculum - cont'd)

|                |  |           |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| <b>BLOCK 2</b> |  | <b>15</b> |
| SW 8701        | Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals & Families | 3         |
| SW 8710        | Psychopathology  | 3         |
| SW 8711        | Practice Focused Research Methods II                   | 3         |
| SW 8712        | Advanced Internship III                                | 3         |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3         |
| <b>BLOCK 3</b> |  | <b>15</b> |
| SW 8707        | Crisis Intervention                                    | 3         |
| SW 8713        | Advanced Internship IV                                 | 3         |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3         |
|                | Concentration Course                                   | 3         |
|                | Elective   | 3         |

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 39**

## Master of Social Work Course Descriptions

### SW 7701. Social Welfare Policy and Services. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.*

This course provides the historical foundations of the social work profession and the social welfare system in the U.S., as well as an overview of the structure of the current system. In addition, the role of social welfare policy in service delivery, social work practice and attainment of individual and social well-being is examined. The course provides students with the background to understand current national, state and local social policies, their formulation and operation. A model for policy analysis is introduced.

Recognizing the fundamental duty of the social work profession to promote social equity and justice, this course looks at the values, which underlie various policy approaches, and identifies policy shifts rooted in recurring tensions or controversies. Consequences of different policy approaches are examined in light of their impact on racial and ethnic minorities, gay men and lesbians, women, the poor, and persons with mental and/or physical challenges.

### SW 7702. Social Work Practice I. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: SW 7702.*

This foundation practice course provides a beginning base of practice knowledge, values, and skills for work with individuals, families, and groups in a variety of community and agency contexts. The course helps students learn the beginning phase of practice: to engage clients, assess them, and plan for intervention. The effects of clients' ethnic, racial, and gender differences on practice are emphasized throughout the course.

### SW 7703. Social Work Practice II. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.*

This second practice course in the foundation year emphasizes the on-going phase of work with individuals, families, and groups. The concepts in this course build upon and apply concepts learned in SW 7702. The textbooks are the same for both courses. Students develop their skills in purposeful intervention and further their ability to analyze their own practice methods, with particular attention to cultural and gender differences.

### SW 7704. Human Behavior in a Social Environment I. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.*

This course focuses on the physical, social and emotional development and mastery of growth crises from birth to mid-adolescence. Included in the course are current theories and research about the early years of the life cycle, with particular emphasis on the ways in which culture, ethnicity, and community influence and shape development

### SW 7705. Human Behavior in a Social Environment II. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: SW 7704.*

This course continues the study of the individual and the family from adolescence through old age to death. The socio-cultural and ethnic factors that shape adult development continue to be highlighted. This course also introduces students to the study of organizations..

### SW 7706. Practice Focused Research Methods I. 3-0-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to graduate study.*

The objective of this course is to apply research concepts and principles to the actual conduct of studies addressing questions relevant to direct practice with individuals, families, and groups. The course prepares students for active roles in practice and program evaluation. An introduction to the use of computers in statistical analysis is included.

Provides a beginning understanding and appreciation of the principles and techniques of social work research and statistics and their application to social work practice. Highlighted are techniques which are used to study organizations and communities.

### SW 7708. Foundation Internship I. 0-16-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSW program.*

A supervised educational experience with specified educational objectives in an agency setting, completing the required hours per week for the duration of the field placement. Field placement I requires a minimum total of 240 hours.

### SW 7709. Foundation Internship II. 0-16-3.

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSW program.*

A supervised educational experience with specified educational objectives in an agency setting, completing the required hours per week for the duration of the field placement. Field placement I requires a minimum total of 240 hours. Foundation Internship II continues to build on skills introduced in Foundation Internship I. Students build upon knowledge/experience learned in

SW7708 and apply new knowledge learned in academic coursework being completed in conjunction with the internship experience.

**SW 8701. Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7705.

This concentration course emphasizes the differential assessment and treatment of individuals, families, and family subsystems with problems representative in the areas of child welfare and addictions. Students develop knowledge and skills in three areas: ethnic-sensitive practice, the psychosocial approach to practice, and crisis intervention. The course includes a focus on the influence of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, and other socio-cultural factors as they are encountered in the practice process in select problem areas.

**SW 8702. Advanced Clinical Practice with Groups. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* Admission to the MSW program.

This concentration course emphasizes differential practice with groups as related to problems in the focus areas of health, mental health, children, and families. Students develop an understanding of the knowledge, skills, and values in three models of group practice. Attention is given to understanding differential group practice under conditions of diversity.

**SW 8705. Advanced Practice Within An Ethical Framework. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 8712.

This course provides a framework of values and ethical standards to evaluate practice related ethical dilemmas in a systematic way. Supplementary readings, handouts, and cases provide students with an opportunity to explore ethical issues and understand the importance of ethics and values in social work practice. Students will examine how personal and professional values affect their practice and will learn models for ethical decision-making. By exploring ethical issues and cases, students will struggle with the relativity of values, the standards of their own professions, and the thinking of experts in the field.

**SW 8707. Crisis Intervention. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 8701.

The course begins by establishing a foundation of theoretical knowledge of the human response to crisis and psychological trauma. Sociological, psychological, and neuro-biological paradigms are reviewed to form a comprehensive model of the human response to hazardous events. Focusing on the unique meaning of the crisis event for

the individual, family, or community, the course explores differential methods of practice, setting treatment goals, and identifying the focus of therapeutic interventions.

**SW 8708. Family Therapy. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This course is designed for students to gain a family-systems perspective through understanding of selected theoretical approaches, therapeutic techniques, and their own personal demographics. Focus is on the assessment of family roles, communication patterns, and family dysfunction. Factors leading to family systems change, goal setting, treatment applicability, the structure of the therapy process, the therapist's role, and techniques of marital / family therapy, are taught.

**SW 8710. Psychopathology. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7705.

Students may engage in individual study in selected curriculum areas under special circumstances. The independent work is approved if the student furnishes evidence of mastery of the basic content in the social work area selected. The work done by the student in this course is carried out with the guidance of a member of the full-time faculty.

**SW 8711. Practice Focused Research Methods II. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7706 or admission to advanced standing.

This course provides advanced knowledge and skills in research methods, with particular emphasis on process and outcome practice research methods. It is the second research course in the MSW curriculum. It builds on Research I and is a study of practice-outcome research. The course focuses on single case designs, needs assessment and program evaluation; recording methods; behavioral and standardized measures; applications to individuals, families, groups, programs, communities.

**SW 8712. Advanced Internship III. 0-16-3.**

*Prerequisite:* Admission to advanced standing MSW program or SW 7709.

A supervised educational experience with specified educational objectives in an agency setting, completing the required hours per week for the duration of the field placement. Advanced Internship III requires a minimum total of 240 hours. Advanced Internship III continues to build on skills introduced in Foundation Internships I & II.

**SW 8713. Advanced Internship IV. 0-16-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 8712.

A supervised educational experience with specified educational objectives in an agency setting, completing the required hours per week for the duration of the field placement. Advanced Internship IV requires a minimum total of 240 hours. Advanced Internship IV continues to build on skills introduced in Advanced Internship III.

**SW 8721. Social Work Practice and the Law. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* Admission to the MSW program.

This course familiarizes social work students with the legal rights of individuals, pertinent laws, and the legal process and clinical practice issues (e.g., confidentiality), thereby enhancing their ability to help their clients. Legal issues relating to HIV/AIDS, juvenile justice, child welfare, the mentally ill, and entitlement benefits are covered.

**SW 8725. Social Work Practice with Domestic Violence. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* Admission to the MSW program.

This elective examines the effects of oppression and violence on individuals, groups, and our society. The course focuses on helping practitioners recognize, assess, and intervene with persons affected by violence.

**SW 8726. Social Work Practice with Adolescents. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This elective teaches the skills and strategies used in work with adolescents. Emphasis is placed on helping adolescents with health issues, mental health issues, juvenile delinquency, and school-related problems using several social work modalities. The impact of gender and culture on teenagers and their families is stressed.

**SW 8727. Social Work Practice with Children. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This course builds on students' knowledge of theory of child development. The course begins with construction of a foundation of current neuro-biological and developmental theory. From this information base, students explore skills necessary to assess and treat children and their parents using psychodynamic, cognitive, and systems theory.

**SW 8802. Social Work Practice in Child Welfare. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7703.

This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive overview of child welfare

as a societal concern. It is the first of three clinical specialization courses for the child welfare/advocacy track. It is also designed as an elective to support the other specializations area (addictions) or the generalist track. Students will become aware of the historical development of children's problems, services, and the issues facing children today. They will also become familiar with child protective, adoptions, foster care, kinship care, and family preservation services.

**SW 8803. Clinical Practice with Abused and Neglected Children and Their Families. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 8802.

Drawing on bio-psychosocial perspective for understanding the multiplicity of causes of child maltreatment, this course focuses on the special interventive needs of the victims of physical and sexual abuse and neglect and of those who commit such acts. It provides students with the skills essential to a variety of social work roles and practice modalities with this population. Selected research findings and social policy, legal, and service delivery issues are considered.

**SW 8804. Introduction to Addictions Counseling. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This course presents an introduction to alcohol and other drug abuse counseling and processes. It focuses on assessment and diagnosis, the core functions of an alcohol and other drug abuse counselor, and basic counseling skills. It provides information on career opportunities, counselor certification requirements and procedures. This course also provides an overview of specific modalities of service, federal rules and regulations, and relationships with various systems (eg EAP, criminal justice, schools) through which intervention takes place. Additional topics include case management, service linkage, client empowerment, and access to treatment.

**SW 8805. Alcohol and Alcoholism. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7704.

This course provides intensive instruction about alcohol and alcoholism, with emphasis on the stages of alcohol abuse, causes of alcoholism, prevention of alcohol abuse, and treatment of alcoholism. Practice topics include assessment, treatment planning, case management, documentation, confrontation, support, and family involvement.

**SW 8806. Introduction to Addictions Counseling. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This course is an introduction to alcohol and other drug abuse counseling and processes. It focuses on assessment and diagnosis, the core functions of an alcohol and other drug abuse counselor, and basic counseling skills and provides information on career opportunities, counselor certification requirements and procedures. This course also provides an overview of specific modalities of service, federal rules and regulations, and relationships with various systems (eg EAP, criminal justice, schools) through which intervention takes place. Additional topics include case management, service linkage, client empowerment, and access to treatment.

**SW 8807. Child Welfare—In Home and Substitutive Services. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* SW 8802.

Family assessment theory/skills are reviewed. Families at risk and the effects of abuse and neglect on child development are discussed. The generalist approach to child protection and case planning skills is considered. The course concludes with a look at the separation of children from abusive/neglectful families and the placement process. It also provides focus on services available to assist families with maintain custody. Family preservation services are highlighted as the primary focus of in-home services.