

Social Work

Master of Social Work (MSW)

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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. Have a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale over the last 60 hours of study, as indicated on official college or university transcript received directly from the degree-granting institution. Course work from all two and four year institutions should be submitted directly by the institutions.
2. A minimum combined score of 800 on Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years prior to application for admission. Please note: You can receive a waiver if you already have a graduate degree from an accredited US institution.
3. Hold a baccalaureate degree that reflects a broad liberal arts base in the social, behavioral or psychological sciences, human biology, the humanities or statistics. The baccalaureate degree should be from an institution accredited in a manner accepted by Kennesaw State University.
4. Three letters of recommendation
 - At least one from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic work;
 - Two from a former employer, field supervisor or someone else with expertise in social work
5. An autobiographical statement, maximum 750 words, double-spaced, that includes the following:

- Your experience in social work, including volunteer experience.
 - The life experiences impacted your interest in social work.
 - Your personal qualities that will be useful in serving others as a social work professional.
 - Your values that will be useful in serving others as a social worker
 - Your career goals and how social work education will help you realize these goals.
6. International applicants are subject to the MSW admissions requirements and the University's requirements including the TOEFL examination, financial statements, and acceptance of baccalaureate degrees.

Advanced Standing Admission Requirements

MSW Advanced Standing admission requires:

1. Have been granted a BSW degree, within five years from the date of anticipated enrollment in the advanced MSW program, from a school of social work, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), as indicated by official college or university transcript received directly from the degree-granting institution.
2. Have a GPA of 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale over the last 60 hours within five years from the date of anticipated enrollment in the advanced MSW program at Kennesaw State University, as indicated by official college or university transcript received directly from the degree-granting institution.
3. Three letters of recommendation
 - At least one from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic work;
 - Two from a former employer, field supervisor or someone else with expertise in social work
4. An autobiographical statement, maximum 750 words, double-spaced, that includes the following:
 - Your experience in social work, including volunteer experience.

- The life experiences impacted your interest in social work?
 - Your personal qualities that will be useful in serving others as a social work professional?
 - Your values that will be useful in serving others as a social worker
 - Your career goals and how social work education will help you realize these goals?
5. A minimum of 800 combined score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years prior to application for admission. Please note: You can receive a waiver if you already have a graduate degree from an accredited US institution.
 6. International applicants are subject to the MSW advanced status admission requirements, and the University's requirements including the TOEFL examination, financial statements, and acceptance of baccalaureate degrees.

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 may be given credit for up to two courses taken at other institutions, although certain restrictions apply. Each request for transfer credit will be handled on a case by case basis.

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.

Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work program is made of five 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 Course Sequence (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 and advanced clinical practice in areas of specialization.
3. **Specialization areas (Blocks 3 and 4)** - These consist of two specialized areas - 1) Children, Youth and

Families; and 2) Substance Abuse. The Children, Youth and Families 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 substance abuse services 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. Under the supervision of an LCSW, students are placed in practicum settings which is an integral part of the MSW Program.

FOUNDATION COURSE SEQUENCE			Credit Hours
			30
Semester 1			15
SW 7700	Social Work Foundations: Diversity, Social Justice, & Ethics	3	
SW 7701	Social Work Practice I	3	
SW 7704	Human Behavior in a Social Environment I	3	
SW 7706	Introduction to Social Work Research	3	
SW 7708	Foundation Internship / Integrative Seminar I	3	
Semester 2			15
SW 7702	Social Welfare Policy and Services	3	
SW 7703	Social Work Practice II	3	
SW 7705	Human Behavior in a Social Environment II	3	
SW 7707	Practice Focused Research Methods	3	
SW 7709	Foundation Internship / Integrative Seminar II	3	
CONCENTRATION SEQUENCE			30
Substance Abuse			
Semester 3			15
SW 8701	Individual and Group Practice in Addictions	3	
SW 8714	Addiction Policy in the United States	3	
SW 8707	Bio-Psycho-Social Theories of Addiction	3	
SW 8712	Advanced Field Placement III	3	
	Elective	3	
Semester 4			15
SW 8814	Seminar in Substance Abuse	3	
SW 8815	Prevention Theory in ATOD Abuse	3	
SW 8816	Practice with Addicted Families	3	
SW 8713	Advanced Field Placement IV	3	
	Elective	3	
Children Youth and Families			
Semester 3			15
SW 8703	Social Work Practice with Children and Youth	3	
SW 8704	Child Welfare Policy Affecting Children, Youth, & Their Families	3	
SW 8715	Children and Youth Mental Health	3	
SW 8712	Advanced Field Placement III	3	
	Elective	3	
Semester 4			15
SW 8801	Seminar on Clinical Practice in Child Welfare	3	
SW 8802	Clinical Practice with Abused and Neglected Children and Families: Child Protective Services	3	
SW 8803	Family Therapy	3	
SW 8713	Advanced Field Placement IV	3	
	Elective	3	
PROGRAM TOTAL:			60

ADVANCED STANDING COURSE SEQUENCE**39****Semester 1 - Summer****9**

SW 7720	Bridge to Practice I: Diversity, Social Justice, and Ethics	3
SW 7730	Bridge to Practice II: Psychopathology and Assessment	3
SW 7740	Bridge to Practice III: Practiced Focused Research Methods	3

CONCENTRATION CURRICULUM**Substance Abuse****Semester 3 - Fall****15**

SW 8701	Individual and Group Practice in Additions	3
SW 8714	Addiction Policy in the United States	3
SW 8707	Bio-Psycho-Social Theories of Addiction	3
SW 8712	Advanced Field Placement III	3
	Elective	3

Semester 4 - Spring**15**

SW 8814	Seminar in Substance Abuse	3
SW 8815	Prevention Theory in ATOD Abuse	3
SW 8816	Practice with Addicted Families	3
SW 8713	Advanced Field Placement IV	3
	Elective	3

Children Youth and Families**Semester 3****15**

SW 8703	Social Work Practice with Children and Youth	3
SW 8704	Child Welfare Policy Affecting Children, Youth, & Their Families	3
SW 8715	Children and Youth Mental Health	3
SW 8712	Advanced Field Placement III	3
	Elective	3

Semester 4**15**

SW 8801	Seminar on Clinical Practice in Child Welfare	3
SW 8812	Clinical Practice with Abused and Neglected Children and Families: Child Protective Services	3
SW 8816	Practice with Addicted Families	3
SW 8713	Advanced Field Placement IV	3
	Elective	3

PROGRAM TOTAL: 39**Master of Social Work Course Descriptions****SW 7700. Social Work Foundations: Diversity, Social Justice and Ethics.****3-0-3. Prerequisite: None.**

This course is organized around the following assumptions:

1. Membership in a population-at-risk substantially affects the person's life experiences, world view.
2. Membership in a population-at-risk group increases risk factors for exposure to discrimination and economic stress.
3. Professional social work practice requires a solid knowledge of ethical standards.
4. Culturally sensitive practice is essential to

intervention and,

5. Practitioners must learn to apply social justice approaches to influence assessment, planning, access to resources, intervention, and research.

This course provides a framework of values and ethical standards to evaluate practice related to ethical dilemmas in a systematic way. Supplementary readings, handouts, and cases provide students with an opportunity to explore diversity and understand the importance of culturally competent practice. Students will examine how personal and professional values affect their practice and will learn models for ethical decision-making and intervention planning. By exploring these issues and cases, students will learn about the relativity of values, the standards of their own professions, and

the thinking of experts in the field.

SW 7701. Social Work Practice I. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: SW 7702.

This course provides an introduction to direct social work practice with an emphasis on work with individual clients based on an ecological/systemic theoretical perspective. The problem solving process including problem definition, assessment, goal planning, intervention, termination and outcome evaluation is examined. The task centered approach and crisis interventions are included as examples of the problem solving process in direct social work practice. The strengths perspective is emphasized in the content on assessment and problem solving processes. Mutuality in relationship building, communication skills, such as empathic and active listening, and the professional use of self are also included.

SW 7702. Social Welfare Policy and Services I. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.

This course provides the historical foundation and current overview of social welfare policy in the U.S. and the role of the social work profession. In addition, the course introduces major human service programs designed to increase the quality of life of individuals, families, and communities. The course provides students with the background to understand current social welfare policy and services, the formulation, operations and impact on vulnerable populations. Different models for policy analysis are also presented.

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. 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. The course focuses on generalist social work with families and small groups. It incorporates content on care coordination (case management) and participation in teams in relation to direct practice. Specifically, the course emphasizes assessment and intervention with clients/client systems inclusive of their risk, protective factors and strengths in the context of the supports and demands of their environment.

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

Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.

This course designed to provide students with an understanding of human behavior in the context of social environment. The course uses a strengths perspective to develop awareness of diversity and ways of understanding behavior and problem solv-

ing. Specifically, the course focuses on the physical, social, and emotional development and mastery of growth crises from birth to death. Included in the course are current theories and research about 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 human behavior course builds upon the learning begun in HBSE I. Whereas HBSE I focused on normal development, this course focuses on psychosocial dysfunction. Health and dysfunction of individuals and families are viewed within a framework that emphasizes the multiple determinants of human behavior. Content is selected and organized based on the view that healthy emotional and social development are related to biological, psychological, social and environmental factors. The course is premised on the assumption that knowledge of etiology of psychosocial function and dysfunction provides the basis for effective prevention and intervention.

SW 7706. Introduction to Social Work Research. 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. The course 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 7707. Practice Focused Research Methods. 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.

SW 7708. Foundation Internship/Integrative Seminar 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 Instruc-

tion I and II require a minimum of 560 hours.

SW 7709. Foundation Internship/Integrative Seminar 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 Instruction I and II require a minimum of 560 hours.

ADVANCED STANDING BRIDGE COURSES

SW 7720. Bridge to Practice I: Diversity, Social Justice, and Ethics. 0-16-3.

Prerequisite: None.

As an introductory course, Bridge to Social Work Practice I: Diversity, Social Justice and Ethics provides a conceptual framework for the social work student by addressing the foundation knowledge, values and skills associated with the profession, and the ethical standards and principles according to the Social Work Code of Ethics. It builds on the generalist foundation curriculum and provides knowledge relative to the concepts of discrimination, oppression, social and economic justice are explored relative to the role of the social worker as an advocate for empowerment of marginalized groups and oppressed persons based on race, gender, age, religion, social class, sexual orientation, religion, and mental and physical capabilities; and how group affiliation places one at risk for discrimination and oppression. This course provides avenues of learning that explore the value base of the profession to develop and enhance sensitivity to and appreciation for diversity. Students will be afforded opportunities to engage in in-class and out of class activities and assignments to develop skills associated with cultural and ethnic sensitive practice.

SW 7730. Bridge to Practice II: Psychology and Assessment. 0-16-3.

Prerequisite: None.

This human behavior course builds upon the content gained in the BSW program. To lay a foundation for study in the clinical specialization, this course focuses on psychosocial dysfunction. Health and dysfunction of individuals and families are viewed within a framework that emphasizes the multiple determinants of human behavior. Content is selected and organized based on the view that healthy emotional and social development are related to biological, psychological, social and environmental factors. The course is premised on the assumption that knowledge of etiology of psychosocial function and dysfunction provides the basis for effective

prevention and intervention.

SW 7740. Bridge to Practice III: Practiced Focuses Research Methods. 0-16-3.

Prerequisite: None.

This course assumes a basic knowledge of social research concepts and methodology. It adds to this fund of information by providing advanced knowledge and skills in research methods, with particular emphasis on process and outcome practice research methods. The course is basically 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.

**ADVANCED PRACTICE COURSES
Children and Family Services**

SW 8702. Social Work Practice with Children and Youth. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: None.

This advanced course will build upon basic skills covered in the foundational year practice sequence. It is designed to increase knowledge and understanding essential for effective therapeutic interventions in the psychological and behavioral disorders of children and youth. It will allow the student an opportunity to develop special skills in selected intervention techniques and modalities in working with children and youth in a variety of professional roles.

SW 8705. Child Welfare: Policy Affecting Children, Youth, and Their Families. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: None.

Social Welfare Policy Affecting Children, Youth and Their Families builds on foundation policy courses and challenges students to think critically about how to best accomplish policy initiatives that focus on the needs of children and their families, that are in keeping with social work values and ethics, and that promote economic, political and social justice. Students will observe hearings and legislative sessions on state and local levels, and within agencies and organizations that are directed toward the living conditions of children, youth and their families. Particular attention will be given to policy affecting responses to the poor.

SW 8712. Advanced Field Placement III. 0-16-3.

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

Students will build on their foundation knowledge and experience from the first year internship as they begin advanced placements in their concentration area, either the development of advanced clinical skills in Children and Family Services or

Substance Abuse. Students in the second year of learning will complete 480 hours of supervised internship (240 clock hours per semester) dedicating 2 full days per week (Mondays and Tuesdays) for the duration of the academic year.

SW 8713. Advanced Field Placement IV. 0-16-3.

Prerequisite: SW 8712.

Students will build on their foundation knowledge and experience from the first year internship and their first advanced field placement (fall semester) as they culminate their field experiences. Students will continue refining their clinical skills completing 480 hours of supervised internship (240 clock hours per semester) dedicating 2 full days per week (Mondays and Tuesdays) for the duration of the academic year.

SW 8715. Children and Youth Mental Health. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.

This course is designed to provide students with additional knowledge and skills related to the theory, research, and implications of child and adolescent maltreatment for child development and psychopathology. Course content will be presented within the context of child welfare practice and social work with children and adolescents in public agencies and programs. Particular attention will be given to common psychological disorders that result from maltreatment and accompanying treatment issues. Issues related to individuals, families, groups, and communities are covered and attention is given to working with ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, and persons with disabilities.

SW 8801. Seminar on Clinical Practice in Child Welfare. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: SW 7702.

This integrative seminar will allow students the opportunity to explore a variety of issues and problems in the area of child welfare and treatment. Emphasis will be placed upon sharing experiences gained during the field internship and application of the course content to assessment or problem solving.

SW 8802. Clinical Practice with Abused and Neglected Children and Their Families: Child Protective Services. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: SW 7702.

This course begins with a review of key psycho-social theories that guide assessment and intervention. Focus will be given to both the sequelae and the impact of child abuse and neglect. The course will also provide content on best practices in prevention and family preservation.

SW 8803. Family Therapy. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: SW 7702.

Building upon the generalist base developed in the foundation year Social Work Practice sequence, MSW program graduates in the substance abuse concentration will synthesize a broad range of knowledge and skills related to practice with addicted clients individually and in groups. The course presents techniques and skills needed to assess for and diagnose all categories of substance abuse and dependence. Additionally, instruction will be given on treatment planning and the continuum of care in substance abuse services.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

SW 8701. Individual and Group Practice in Addictions. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: None.

Building upon the generalist base developed in the foundation year Social Work Practice sequence, MSW program graduates in the substance abuse concentration will synthesize a broad range of knowledge and skills related to practice with addicted clients individually and in groups. The course presents techniques and skills needed to assess for and diagnose all categories of substance abuse and dependence. Additionally, instruction will be given on treatment planning and the continuum of care in substance abuse services.

SW 8707. Bio-Psycho-Social Theories of Addiction. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: None.

Building upon the generalist base developed in the foundation year Human Behavior in the Social Environment sequence, MSW program graduates in the substance abuse concentration will synthesize a broad range of knowledge related to the theories regarding the etiology of addiction, and of the historical and current treatment approaches to working with substance abuse. Additionally, this course will present the pharmacological affects of the various substances of abuse.

SW 8712. Advanced Field Placement III. 0-16-3.

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

Students will build on their foundation knowledge and experience from the first year internship as they begin advanced placements in their concentration area, either the development of advanced clinical skills in Children and Family Services or Substance Abuse. Students in the second year of learning will complete 480 hours of supervised internship (240 clock hours per semester) dedicating 2 full days per week (Mondays and Tuesdays) for the duration of the academic year.

SW 8713. Advanced Field Placement IV. 0-16-3.*Prerequisite:* SW 8712.

Students will build on their foundation knowledge and experience from the first year internship and their first advanced field placement (fall semester) as they culminate their field experiences. Students will continue refining their clinical skills completing 480 hours of supervised internship (240 clock hours per semester) dedicating 2 full days per week (Mondays and Tuesdays) for the duration of the academic year.

SW 8714. Addiction Policy in the U.S.*Prerequisite:* SW 8712.

This course will explore the historic policies regarding substance abuse in the U.S., as well as looking at the current policies and policy questions affecting the field today. Students will utilize the policy analysis skills learned in the Introductory Policy course to look at addiction policies and be able to place the history of addiction within the overall social welfare history introduced in the earlier course. Additionally, this course will present the student with theory regarding the implementation of policy on an agency level, specifically as it relates to clinical supervision in addictions agencies.

SW 8804. Seminar in Substance Abuse. 3-0-3.*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

This course will cover various areas of discussion, including such topics as; HIV / AIDS, co-existing disorders, sexual orientation, and racial and cultural issues, among others. This seminar will give students the chance to help direct their learning experience by using their skills in researching topics for discussion, and communication and presentation skills, as they take a leadership role in the classroom.

SW 8805. Theories of Addiction and Prevention. 3-0-3.*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

Building upon the generalist base developed in the foundation year Human Behavior in the Social Environment sequence, MSW program graduates in the substance abuse concentration will synthesize a broad range of knowledge related to theories regarding the etiology and epidemiology of addiction, the historical and current treatment approaches to working with substance abuse, and historical and current prevention approaches to working with adolescent substance abuse, in all relevant domains, including schools, families, and communities. Additionally, this course will present the pharmacological affects of the various substances of abuse.

SW 8806. Social Work Practice with Addicted Families. 3-0-3.*Prerequisite:* SW 7702.

Building upon the generalist base developed in the foundation year Social Work Practice sequence, MSW program graduates in the substance abuse concentration will synthesize a broad range of knowledge and skills related to practice with addicted families. The course presents techniques and skills needed to work with families of addicts, as a primary means of treatment. Additionally, instruction will be given on the theory and techniques of working with individuals raised in addicted families.

ELECTIVES**SW 8721. Social Work Practice and the Law. 3-0-3.***Prerequisite:* None.

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:* None.

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 8727. Forensic Social Work and Family Related Issues. 3-0-3.*Prerequisite:* None.

This elective addresses the intersection of social work and the law as it relates to the protection of children, their rights to fair and equal education relative to "no child left behind", adoption, custody and child support, divorce and the family, domestic violence, juvenile law and youths, and guardianship. The role of the clinical social worker relative to the rights of children, youth and their families is explored.

SW 8729. Crisis Intervention. 3-0-3.*Prerequisite:* None.

This course applies crisis theory to intervention services for suicide, rape, natural disasters, and other crises. A base of crisis theory will be developed and then applied to various types of crises including suicide; sexual assault / rape; natural and manmade disasters; personal loss; basic needs attainment; terminal illness; and life cycle crises.