

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK - STANDARD

Standard Program

The MSW curriculum for the Standard degree option consists of 60 credit hours, which includes credit for generalist practice and specialized internships. The first year of study provides the student with knowledge, skills, and values for generalist social work practice as well as the foundation for advanced or specialized social work practice. Students enroll in internships in the fall and spring of the first (Generalist) year of the standard program and must complete the field application process according to a designated timeline prior to the fall semester. In the second year, the students choose one of two areas of specialized practice, community practice and clinical practice. The clinical specialization is the best fit for those who are interested in direct practice with individuals, families, and groups. The community specialization is the best fit for those interested in practice with groups, organizations, and communities. After completing a second internship during the final semester, students participate in a one-week capstone seminar before graduating.

Foundation (Generalist) Year First Year in the Standard Degree Option

The foundation year provides a generalist education in social work at an advanced level and is required of every student in the standard degree option (2-Year Degree option).

The standard curriculum is organized around these five curriculum content areas:

- Human Behavior and the Social Environment (SWO 5561 Professional Practice with Individuals and Families and SWO 5463 Professional Practice with Communities and Organizations)
- Social Welfare Policy and Services (SWO 5221 Introduction to the Profession; SWO 5322 Social Policy For Social Work Practice),
- Social Work Practice (SWO 5561 Professional Practice with Individuals and Families; SWO 5362 Professional Practice with Groups; SWO 5463 Professional Practice with Communities and Organizations)
- Research (SWO 5381 Research for Social Work Practice)
- Field Practicum (SWO 5491 Foundation Internship I and SWO 5492 Foundation Internship II)

Students begin the generalist year with a fall pre-term class, SWO 5221 Introduction to the Profession. During their first full-time semester, students will take classes and have their first Field Internship. Students must earn at least a "B" in Foundation Internship I, Practice with Individuals & Families and Practice with Groups in order to enroll for Foundation Internship II. Required Field orientation must be completed before enrolling in the internship. Foundation Internship I & II consist of professional preparation for practice in an approved setting, generally 16 hours weekly for 15 weeks, for a minimum of 240 clock hours in addition to a weekly integrative seminar. Foundation Internship II consists of an additional minimum of 240 clock hours of training practice in the agency. Students will apply the foundations of knowledge, values, and skills they have learned in the standard courses in Foundation Internship I & II. Students must earn at least a B in Foundation Internship II and Practice with Communities & Organizations in order to enroll in practice and

internship courses for the specialized year. Students should pay careful attention to requirements for prerequisites and enrollment in courses concurrently, following the appropriate course sequence options on the following pages.

Specialized Year

Second Year of Standard Degree Option

Curriculum Content

The program offers two areas of specialized practice. In each specialization, students acquire advanced practice skills and knowledge that build on the standard curriculum. The program's areas of specialized practice are defined by fields of practice: Clinical Practice and Community Practice. Students complete the Advanced Internship in a setting that allows them the opportunity for preparation for practice in these areas. Students are expected to expand their learning further by the use of electives.

Each area of specialized practice consists of a combination of courses taken exclusively with others in the specialization. In addition, students in all specializations take the Administrative Practice in Social Work, a Capstone course and the Evaluation of Practice courses. These combined courses allow students an opportunity to learn from each other and gain exposure to the other areas of specialized practice.

Students must have completed all standard requirements before enrolling in the advanced social work practice courses. These courses are designed to provide an intensive experience of applying learning in the standard curriculum and advanced practice methods and principles in the specialization to actual practice situations. Students will learn the skills for advanced practice in the area of their specialization and to assess their own practice and establish ongoing professional development.

Students follow a concurrent format for internship and will enroll both semesters in a two-hour seminar course, while also completing 16-20 hours weekly for a minimum of 225-275 hours in the fall, and 20-24 hours weekly for a minimum of 275-325 hours in the Spring, for a minimum total of 550 hours across the two semesters. Students must have completed all other pre- or co-requisite coursework before enrolling in the Advanced Internship. Advanced Internship consists of social work preparatory practice in a setting appropriate to the student's specialization.

During the final week of this semester, students engage in a capstone experience, during which they present a practice-oriented workshop to colleagues and professional social workers, including a faculty evaluator.

Brief Description of Master of Social Work Areas of Specialized Practice

Clinical Practice

The clinical practice specialization prepares students for advanced, direct practice with individuals, families, and groups in a variety of clinical settings. Students learn to apply evidence-based practice theories and methods of intervention that reflect a person-environment orientation and a strengths perspective. Specific philosophical frameworks include humanism, positivism, and evidence-based methods. The program is based on the development of an eclectic method that offers the opportunity to investigate more specific practice models. Some examples include cognitive behavioral therapy, solution-focused therapy, motivational interviewing, narrative approaches, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), structural family therapy, therapeutic use of play, and dialectical behavior therapy. Assessment

tools and techniques, especially focusing on DSM-5, are critical to the program.

Common professional opportunities for social workers in clinical practice include practice in health settings and practice with children and families. Students in the clinical practice specialization will take a practice course focused on health settings (SWO 5376 Advanced Clinical Practice: Health Settings) and/or children and families (SWO 5377 Advanced Clinical Practice: Children and Families). Students must take one of these options but may also take the other as an elective if they wish to do so and enrollment allows.

Community Practice

The community practice specialization prepares students for advanced practice with public and/or nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods, communities, congregations, and religiously affiliated agencies. Students learn a variety of professional community practice models that serve to strengthen and enrich communities in local and global settings. Communities can be defined as both geographic (e.g., neighborhoods) and relational (e.g., ethnic communities). The central models are rooted in professional literature and research, and they include advanced skills in community development, community organizing, and community planning.

The advanced model of development is asset-based community development, which recognizes community struggles but responds most centrally to community assets. Asset mapping is a key skill learned when studying this model.

The advanced model of organizing is consensus-based. Consensual organizing is rooted in consensus-building rather than building on the potential conflict. Negotiation and facilitation are key skills learned with regard to this model.

The advanced model of planning is emergent-based. While most planning requires a rational approach to planning (e.g. the logic model), the emergent model allows for greater flexibility and adaptability when working in diverse contexts. The engagement of stakeholders is a key skill here.

MSW Degree: Part-Time Degree Option

Students may choose to take fewer courses each semester because of life circumstances and extend their time in the program accordingly. Since courses are designed to build on one another, and all courses are not offered every semester, students should seek consultation from the MSW Program Manager in planning their individual program of study. All Field Education courses must be completed in the standard fall-spring sequence.

MSW Standard Degree Plan

Minimum 60 semester hours including the following:

Generalist Year: 28 hours (not including 3 hours of elective credit)

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall Pre-Term		
SWO 5221	Introduction to the Profession	2
Hours		2

Fall Semester		
SWO 5561	Professional Practice with Individuals and Families	5
SWO 5362	Professional Practice with Groups	3
SWO 5491	Foundation Internship I	4
Hours		12
Spring Semester		
SWO 5381	Research for Social Work Practice	3
SWO 5463	Professional Practice with Communities and Organizations	4
SWO 5322	Social Policy For Social Work Practice	3
SWO 5492	Foundation Internship II	4
Hours		14
Total Hours		28

Electives: 6 hours

Six (6) hours of Special Topics courses/seminars (SWO 4V80 Special Topics, SWO 5V80 Advanced Special Topics, SWO 5V70 Independent Study in Social Work) and/or other courses as approved by the MSW Program Director may be taken to fulfill the elective requirement for standard degree students. The elective requirement for Standard Students is 6 hours.

Course Requirements: Clinical Practice

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester		
SWO 5337	Advanced Clinical Theories and Models	3
SWO 5379	Advanced Clinical Practice: Individuals, Families, and Groups	3
SWO 5323	Administrative Practice in Social Work	3
SWO 5494	Part I Advanced Internship	4
SWO 5282	Evaluation of Practice I	2
Spring Semester		
SWO 5377	Advanced Clinical Practice: Children and Families	3
or SWO 5376	Advanced Clinical Practice: Health Settings	
SWO 5490	Part II Advanced Internship	4
SWO 5283	Evaluation of Practice II	2
SWO 5298	Capstone	2
Total Hours		26

Please note, that this does not include the required elective credits.

Course Requirements: Community Practice

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester		
SWO 5335	Frameworks and Perspectives for Community Practice	3
SWO 5375	Advanced Practice I: Community Practice	3
SWO 5323	Administrative Practice in Social Work	3
SWO 5494	Part I Advanced Internship	4
SWO 5282	Evaluation of Practice I	2
Spring Semester		
SWO 5378	Advanced Practice II: Community Practice	3
SWO 5490	Part II Advanced Internship	4

SWO 5283	Evaluation of Practice II	2
SWO 5298	Capstone	2
Total Hours		26

Please note, that this does not include the required elective credits.