SOCIAL WORK, M.S.W.

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Application Deadline

Applications to the Master of Social Work program must be submitted by no later than December 15 for admission in the following year.

Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work program, which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), provides students with specific knowledge and skill for advanced clinical practice of social work. The graduate will be prepared for leadership roles in clinical social work practice. Graduates will be qualified for employment by both public and private agencies on local, state and national levels. The curriculum is designed to encourage innovative responses to human and social need.

The Master of Social Work curriculum is a sixty-credit program, with a concentration in Clinical Practice. The first year is structured to provide the student with a generalist base of practice. The student is required to demonstrate beginning skills and competence in the foundations of social work practice with individuals, families, small groups, communities, and organizations.

The second year is structured around a specialization in one of the following fields of practice: Children and Families (C&F); Elders and Families (ELD); Mental Health and Substance Use; Co-Occurring Disorders (MHSU-COD); and Social Work in School Settings (EDU). Two and three year plans of study are available, but students must complete the program within a maximum of four years.

Applications

Applicants for the MSW program complete all admissions materials required by both the Office of Graduate Admissions and the Social Work Department. All application materials must be received by the Office of Graduate Admissions by December 15 for admission in the following year.

Plan of Study

The program is designed to be completed in two years or three years of full-time study. Students who work full time must enroll in the three year program in which three courses are completed each semester (9 –12 credits) instead of five courses (15 credits). All students follow the same curriculum structure and course sequence, but three year students take fewer courses per semester. Students are required to be enrolled as full-time students (9 credits per semester) for at least one academic year during their period of study.
Class Schedules

The Social Work department offers courses during the weekdays, and on weeknights. We also offer some weekend classes. Many classes are in hybrid format which meet in the classroom "on the ground" for a limited number of times during the semester with up to half of the work completed online through SCSU's course management system.

COD Cohort Program

The Social Work Department offers a three year cohort program with a focus on the co-occurring disorders (COD) of mental illness and substance use. This program is designed for persons working in the mental health and addictions field. The goal of the cohort program is to allow bachelor's level professionals the opportunity to complete their MSW degree while maintaining their employment. The format involves classes at least three days per month (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and field placement throughout the calendar year. This COD cohort program emphasizes an adult learning paradigm, in which courses are taken sequentially, a supportive learning community is created, and self-discipline and self-directed learning are key skills for success.

The admissions criteria for the COD Cohort Program are as follows:

1. Applicants must meet all SCSU Graduate School and MSW Program admissions requirements.
2. Applicants must have an interest in working with clients who have the co-occurring disorders of mental health and substance use. Interest in working with COD clients may be demonstrated by having worked in the field of mental health and substance abuse/addictions.
3. Qualified applicants from the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) or its contract agencies are highly encouraged to apply.
4. The application process for the COD cohort program is the same as the process for all MSW applicants.

Advanced Standing Policy

An applicant is eligible for admission with advanced standing who has graduated from a CSWE accredited Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW) program within the past six (6) years. The department may, upon evaluation, waive the following courses for a student who has been admitted with advanced standing: SWK 510, 532, 533, 534, 550, 570, and 571. Courses may be considered for waiver if the student earned a minimum grade of "A-" in the comparable BSW course or a minimum grade of "A" in the BSW field practicum. The minimum number of credits required of an advanced standing MSW student is 39.

Non-Matriculated and Post-Graduate Students

Courses open to non-matriculated Social Work students are SWK 510, 550, and 551. Social workers who hold an MSW degree are welcome to enroll in any social work course except field practicum on a space-available basis with permission of the instructor.
Program Sequence-60 Credits

*It is highly recommended that students meet with their program advisor to review their plan of student and their progress toward completing requirements for graduation.*

Student continuance in the social work program is contingent upon positive ongoing faculty evaluation of academic performance in classes and/or simulated professional training situations, and on the appropriateness of responses, attitudes and behaviors consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics and the standards of acceptable social work practice.

The first year of the program prepares students for generalist social work practice. Social work ethics, values, foundation knowledge, professional roles, skills and tasks are emphasized. The second year prepares students for advanced clinical practice in an area of specialization. Client growth, development, rehabilitation and coping will be addressed.

Students select one of the following specializations.

**Program Requirements (Social Work in School Settings Specialization)**

- SWK 510 - Social Welfare Policies and Delivery Systems - 3 credits
- SWK 521 - Contemporary Issues in Working with Alcoholic and Chemistry Dependent Individuals and Families - 3 credits
- SWK 532 - Theory and Practice I - Individuals - 3 credits
- SWK 533 - Theory and Practice II - Groups - 3 credits
- SWK 534 - Theory and Practice III - Organizations and Communities - 3 credits
- SWK 548 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Families - 3 credits
- Or
- SWK 549 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Later Life Families - 3 credits

- SWK 550 - Human Behavior and Social Environment - 3 credits
- SWK 551 - Diversity, Oppression, and Social Functioning - 3 credits
- SWK 552 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - Psychopathology - 3 credits
- SWK 561 - Social Work Research Methods - 3 credits
- SWK 570 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum I - 3 credits
- SWK 571 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum II - 3 credits

**Advanced Requirements**

- SWK 530 - Social Work Policies in Educational Settings - 3 credits

**Advanced Requirements: Choose Two**

- SWK 523 - Clinical Social Work Practice for Children - 3 credits
- Or
- SWK 539 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Adolescents - 3 credits
- Or
- SWK 545 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Children and Adults - 3 credits
- Or
- SWK 568 - Addictive Behaviors: Intervention Strategies for Clinical Practice - 3 credits
Additional Requirements

SWK 572 - Practicum III and Capstone Proposal - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
SWK 573 - Practicum IV and Capstone - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
SED 481 - Teaching Exceptional Students in Elementary Education Classrooms - 3 credits
or
SED 482 - Teaching Exceptional Students in Secondary Education Classrooms - 3 credits

Program Requirements: (Children and Families Specialization)

SWK 510 - Social Welfare Policies and Delivery Systems - 3 credits
SWK 521 - Contemporary Issues in Working with Alcoholic and Chemistry Dependent Individuals and Families - 3 credits
SWK 532 - Theory and Practice I - Individuals - 3 credits
SWK 533 - Theory and Practice II - Groups - 3 credits
SWK 534 - Theory and Practice III - Organizations and Communities - 3 credits
SWK 548 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Families - 3 credits
Or
SWK 549 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Later Life Families - 3 credits
SWK 550 - Human Behavior and Social Environment - 3 credits
SWK 551 - Diversity, Oppression, and Social Functioning - 3 credits
SWK 552 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - Psychopathology - 3 credits
SWK 561 - Social Work Research Methods - 3 credits
SWK 570 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum I - 3 credits
SWK 571 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum II - 3 credits

Advanced Requirements

SWK 512 - Child Welfare Policies and Practice - 3 credits

Advanced Requirements: Choose Two

SWK 523 - Clinical Social Work Practice for Children - 3 credits
Or
SWK 539 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Adolescents - 3 credits
Or
SWK 545 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Children and Adults - 3 credits

Additional Requirements

SWK 572 - Practicum III and Capstone Proposal - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
SWK 573 - Practicum IV and Capstone - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
One 3 credit elective in any subject. This course must be at the graduate level.

Program Requirements: (Mental Health and Substance Use Co-occurring Disorders Specialization)
SWK 510 - Social Welfare Policies and Delivery Systems - 3 credits
SWK 521 - Contemporary Issues in Working with Alcoholic and Chemistry Dependent Individuals and Families - 3 credits
SWK 532 - Theory and Practice I - Individuals - 3 credits
SWK 533 - Theory and Practice II - Groups - 3 credits
SWK 534 - Theory and Practice III - Organizations and Communities - 3 credits
SWK 549 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Later Life Families - 3 credits
SWK 550 - Human Behavior and Social Environment - 3 credits
SWK 551 - Diversity, Oppression, and Social Functioning - 3 credits
SWK 552 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - Psychopathology - 3 credits
SWK 561 - Social Work Research Methods - 3 credits
SWK 570 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum I - 3 credits
SWK 571 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum II - 3 credits

**Advanced Requirements**

SWK 518 - Social Welfare Policy: Mental Health and Substance Abuse - 3 credits
SWK 556 - Advanced Clinical Practice in Mental Health and Substance Abuse - 3 credits
SWK 568 - Addictive Behaviors: Intervention Strategies for Clinical Practice - 3 credits
SWK 572 - Practicum III and Capstone Proposal - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
SWK 573 - Practicum IV and Capstone - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
One 3 credit elective in any subject. This course must be at the graduate level.

**Program Requirements: (Elders and Families Specialization)**

SWK 510 - Social Welfare Policies and Delivery Systems - 3 credits
SWK 521 - Contemporary Issues in Working with Alcoholic and Chemistry Dependent Individuals and Families - 3 credits
SWK 532 - Theory and Practice I - Individuals - 3 credits
SWK 533 - Theory and Practice II - Groups - 3 credits
SWK 534 - Theory and Practice III - Organizations and Communities - 3 credits
SWK 549 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Later Life Families - 3 credits
SWK 550 - Human Behavior and Social Environment - 3 credits
SWK 551 - Diversity, Oppression, and Social Functioning - 3 credits
SWK 552 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - Psychopathology - 3 credits
SWK 561 - Social Work Research Methods - 3 credits
SWK 570 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum I - 3 credits
SWK 571 - Generalist Social Work Field Practicum II - 3 credits

**Advanced Requirements**

SWK 516 - Social Welfare Policy: The Aged - 3 credits
SWK 540 - Advanced Clinical Practice with Elders - 3 credits
SWK 556 - Advanced Clinical Practice in Mental Health and Substance Abuse - 3 credits
SWK 572 - Practicum III and Capstone Proposal - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
SWK 573 - Practicum IV and Capstone - 6 credits (must earn a grade of "B-" or higher)
One 3 credit elective in any subject. Must be at the graduate level