Twin Cities Campus

Social Work M.S.W.

School of Social Work

College of Education and Human Development

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
School of Social Work
105 Peters Hall
1404 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-1220
Email: swadmis@umn.edu
Website: http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/Graduate/msw.html

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Length of program in credits: 34 to 53
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Social Work

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The MSW prepares students for advanced social work practice. A 53-credit program and a 34-credit advanced standing program are available. The curriculum offers concentrations in clinical mental health; community practice; families and children; and health, disabilities and aging.

Accreditation

This program is accredited by Council on Social Work Education.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Other requirements to be completed before admission:
A foundation in the liberal arts and one year of work experience in human services is preferred. Work experience may include paid, volunteer, and intern positions.

Special Application Requirements:
In order to apply, applicants are required to submit a specified personal statement, writing sample, resume, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. All application instructions are posted on the School of Social Work website.

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 34 to 53 major credits and up to null credits outside the major.The is no final exam.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 1 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

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Information current as of March 29, 2024

The MSW requires 53 credits; a 34-credit advanced standing program is available to graduates of undergraduate social work programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. All credits for the MSW can be completed in two years of full-time study, or three years to four years of part-time study, and must be completed within five years of the date of the earliest coursework taken for the degree.

The 53-credit program includes a set of required foundation courses (19 cr), courses from a selected concentration, two field internships, and social work electives.

A maximum of 26 credits may be transferred from the following sources with School of Social Work approval: up to 8 credits as a non-degree-seeking student registered for social work graduate credit at the University of Minnesota; up to 26 credits from another regionally and professionally accredited school of social work if the student was registered as a graduate student in the program.

The 34-credit advanced standing program includes courses from a selected concentration, one field internship, and social work electives. A maximum of 14 credits may be transferred from the following sources with School of Social Work approval: 14 credits completed as a graduate student in another accredited MSW program; up to 6 credits as a non-degree-seeking student registered for social work graduate credit at the University of Minnesota.

Foundation Curriculum for Full Program Students

The 19-cr foundation curriculum is required for full program students. The foundation curriculum is waived for advanced standing students, unless required in a student's conditions of admission. Advanced standing students who receive a grade of B- or less in a BSW class that is comparable to one of our foundation classes may be asked to repeat that content in our MSW program. Students should take 8010 for 3 cr in fall; 3 cr in spring or 6 cr in summer.

Take exactly 19 credit(s) from the following:

- SW 5051 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment (2.0 cr)
- SW 5101 - Historical Origins and Contemporary Policies in Social Welfare (3.0 cr)
- SW 8151 - Social Work Methods: Practice With Individuals and Systems (2.0 cr)
- SW 8152 - Social Work Practice Methods: Families and Groups (2.0 cr)
- SW 8153 - Social Work Practice Methods: Macro Practice and Organizations (2.0 cr)
- SW 8841 - Social Work Research Methods (2.0 cr)
- SW 8010 - Seminar: Field Practicum I (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Concentration Areas

Clinical Mental Health Concentration

Prepares students for advanced clinical social work practice with children, adults and families across diverse settings and populations. Students learn contextually based approaches to mental health diagnostic assessment, treatment and practice evaluation, with a strong focus on client systems experiencing significant mental health risk.

Anchor and Boost

SW 8451 - Assessment and Engagement in Clinical Social Work Practice (3.0 cr)
SW 8452 - Core Concepts in Clinical Social Work Practice (3.0 cr)

Concentration Electives

Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- SW 8352 - Intervention Methods with Families (3.0 cr)
- SW 8461 - Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice with Adults (3.0 cr)
- SW 8462 - Advanced Clinical Practice With Children and Adolescents (3.0 cr)
- SW 8463 - Practice Interventions with Persons Who Experience Serious Mental Illness (3.0 cr)

Diversity

SW 8821 - Social Work and Difference, Diversity and Privilege (2.0 cr)

Advanced Policy

SW 8806 - Health and Mental Health Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8807 - International and Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)

2nd Focus Anchor

Students must choose one course from this list. Dual degree students may substitute a course from their other degree program with approval from the MSW program director.

SW 8251 - Social Work Practice in Health, Disabilities, and Aging (3.0 cr)
or SW 8351 - Assessment and Engagement with Families and Children (3.0 cr)
or SW 8551 - Advanced Community Practice: Assessment, Organizing, and Advocacy (3.0 cr)

Concentration Field Practicum and Seminar

Students complete 6 credits of SW 8020. The credits are either split between fall and spring semesters, or 6 credits are taken during summer. Advanced Standing students take SW 8030.

Take exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:

- SW 8020 - Field Practicum II (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Advanced Research

Students must complete 3 credits of SW 8842. The credits are split between fall and spring semesters, or 3 credits are taken during the summer. Dual degree program students may substitute PA 5311 or PUBH 6034. This course must be taken concurrently with SW 8020 or 8030.

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Take exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8842 - Advanced Social Work Evaluation (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•PA 5311 - Program Evaluation (3.0 cr)
•PUBH 6034 - Evaluation I: Concepts (3.0 cr)

Free Electives

Students must complete at least 5 credits of 5000-level or 8000-level courses not used for another program requirement.

-OR-

Community Practice Concentration

Concentration prepares students to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of human service systems to mobilize groups for social change, and to serve as catalysts for sustainable development and social justice. Students are prepared to fill a variety of community practice roles-leaders, planners, policy advocates, community organizers, mediators, evaluators and agency administrators in a range of settings.

Anchor and Boost

SW 8551 - Advanced Community Practice: Assessment, Organizing, and Advocacy (3.0 cr)
SW 8552 - Advanced Community Practice: Leadership, Planning, and Program Development (3.0 cr)

Concentration Electives

Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•PA 5101 - Management and Governance of Nonprofit Organizations (3.0 cr)
•SW 5562 - Global Social Work and Social Development (3.0 cr)
•SW 8563 - Advanced Policy Advocacy (3.0 cr)

Diversity

SW 8821 - Social Work and Difference, Diversity and Privilege (2.0 cr)

Advanced Policy

SW 8804 - Child Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8805 - Aging and Disability Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8806 - Health and Mental Health Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8807 - International and Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)

2nd Focus Anchor

Students must choose one course from this list. Dual degree students may substitute a course from their other program with approval of the MSW Program Director.
SW 8251 - Social Work Practice in Health, Disabilities, and Aging (3.0 cr)
or SW 8351 - Assessment and Engagement with Families and Children (3.0 cr)
or SW 8451 - Assessment and Engagement in Clinical Social Work Practice (3.0 cr)

Concentration Field Practicum and Seminar

Students complete 6 credits of SW 8020. The credits are split between fall and spring semesters, or 6 credits are taken during summer. Advanced standing students take SW 8030.
Take exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8020 - Field Practicum II (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Advanced Research

Students must complete 3 cr of SW 8843. The credits are split between fall and spring semesters. Dual degree students may substitute PA 5311 or PUBH 6034.
Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8843 - Social Work Program Evaluation (1.0 - 2.0 cr)
•PA 5311 - Program Evaluation (3.0 cr)
•PUBH 6034 - Evaluation I: Concepts (3.0 cr)

Free Electives

Students must complete at least 5 credits of 5000-level or 8000-level courses not used for another program requirement.

-OR-

Families and Children Concentration

Prepares students to work with families and children in a range of settings and organizations, as well as influence relevant organizational structures and policies. Students will be able to identify protective supports and develop interventions that mediate risk and promote resilience.

Anchor and Boost

SW 8351 - Assessment and Engagement with Families and Children (3.0 cr)
SW 8352 - Intervention Methods with Families (3.0 cr)

Concentration Electives

Students must take two courses (6 cr) from the list of concentration electives.
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8361 - Identification and Assessment of Family Violence (3.0 cr)
•SW 8363 - Social Work in Child Welfare (3.0 cr)
•SW 8462 - Advanced Clinical Practice With Children and Adolescents (3.0 cr)

Diversity

SW 8821 - Social Work and Difference, Diversity and Privilege (2.0 cr)

Advanced Policy

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SW 8804 - Child Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8805 - Aging and Disability Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8806 - Health and Mental Health Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8807 - International and Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)

2nd Focus Anchor

Students must complete one course from this list. Dual degree students may substitute a course from their other degree program with approval from the MSW program director.
SW 8251 - Social Work Practice in Health, Disabilities, and Aging (3.0 cr)
or SW 8451 - Assessment and Engagement in Clinical Social Work Practice (3.0 cr)
or SW 8551 - Advanced Community Practice: Assessment, Organizing, and Advocacy (3.0 cr)

Concentration Field Practicum and Seminar

Students complete 6 credits of 8020. The credits are either split between fall and spring semesters or 6 credits are taken during summer. Advanced standing students take SW 8030
Take exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8020 - Field Practicum II (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Advanced Research

Students must complete 3 credits of SW 8842. The credits are split between fall and spring semesters, or all 3 credits are taken during summer. Dual degree program students may substitute PA 5311 or PUBH 6034. This course must be taken concurrently with SW 8020 or 8030.
Take exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8842 - Advanced Social Work Evaluation (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•PA 5311 - Program Evaluation (3.0 cr)
•PUBH 6034 - Evaluation I: Concepts (3.0 cr)

Free Electives

Students must take at least 5 credits of 5000-level or 8000-level courses not used for another program requirement.

-OR-

Health, Disability and Aging Concentration

Prepares students to work with people affected by distinct and interconnected issues related to health, disability and aging. Students are prepared to work in a variety of settings such as hospitals, primary care clinics, residential care facilities, hospice, community-based programs, and in policy and advocacy organizations.

Anchor and Boost

SW 8251 - Social Work Practice in Health, Disabilities, and Aging (3.0 cr)
SW 8261 - Advanced Social Work Practice in Health Care (3.0 cr)

Concentration Electives

Students must take two courses (6 cr) from this list.
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8262 - Empowerment Practice With Persons With Disabilities (3.0 cr)
•SW 8263 - Essential Skills and Perspectives for Working with Older Adults (3.0 cr)
•SW 8463 - Practice Interventions with Persons Who Experience Serious Mental Illness (3.0 cr)

Diversity

SW 8821 - Social Work and Difference, Diversity and Privilege (2.0 cr)

Advanced Policy

SW 8805 - Aging and Disability Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8806 - Health and Mental Health Policy (3.0 cr)
or SW 8807 - International and Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3.0 cr)

2nd Focus Anchor

Students should choose one course from this list. Dual degree students may substitute a course from their other degree program with approval from the MSW program director.
SW 8351 - Assessment and Engagement with Families and Children (3.0 cr)
or SW 8451 - Assessment and Engagement in Clinical Social Work Practice (3.0 cr)
or SW 8551 - Advanced Community Practice: Assessment, Organizing, and Advocacy (3.0 cr)

Concentration Field Practicum and Seminar

Students complete 6 credits of SW 8020. These credits are either split between fall and spring, or 6 credits are taken during summer.

Advanced Standing students will take SW 8030.
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8020 - Field Practicum II (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Advanced Research

Students must complete 3 credits of SW 8842. The credits are split between fall and spring, or all 3 credits are taken during summer. Dual degree students may substitute PA 5311 or PUBH 6034.

This course must be taken concurrently with SW 8020 or 8030.
Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•SW 8842 - Advanced Social Work Evaluation (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•PA 5311 - Program Evaluation (3.0 cr)

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•PUBH 6034 - Evaluation I: Concepts (3.0 cr)

Free Electives

Students must complete at least 5 credits of 5000-level or 8000-level courses not used for another degree requirement.

Joint- or Dual-degree Coursework:MSW/MPH, MSW/MPP, and MSW/MURPStudent may take a total of 22 credits in common among the academic programs.

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