

SOCIAL WORK

Introduction

Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, 2011-2032.

The mission of the Master of Social Work program is to advance human rights and social, economic, racial, and environmental justice by preparing students for competent, empowering clinical practice with vulnerable children, adults, and families of diverse backgrounds. In its efforts to enhance the dignity and rights of all people, particularly of historically oppressed populations, the MSW Program seeks to partner with diverse individuals, groups, and organizations at university, local, state, national and international levels.

Our fully online MSW program is designed to prepare students for responsible, professional social work practice with children and families across the lifespan. Coursework prepares students to assume practice and leadership roles and responsibilities in clinical social work practice, public child and family welfare programs, the protection of abused and neglected children, home-based services, foster care, adoption, school-based services, group and residential care settings, child guidance, parent education, family courts, family violence programs, military social work, adult protective services, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, child and family advocacy, as well as in major social service systems that include mental health, physical health, and corrections. Upon graduation, the MSW student will be able to demonstrate the following generalist practice behaviors:

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1. Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics within the profession as appropriate to the context.
2. Demonstrate professional behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.
3. Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.
4. Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.
5. Advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.
6. Engage in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
7. Demonstrate anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, community, research, and policy levels.
8. Demonstrate cultural humility by applying critical reflection, self-awareness, and self-regulation to manage the influence of bias, power, privilege, and values in working with clients and constituencies, acknowledging them as experts of their own lived experiences.
9. Apply research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and programs.
10. Identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases for use in quantitative and qualitative research methods to advance the purposes of social work.

11. Use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services.
12. Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
13. Apply knowledge of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as interprofessional conceptual frameworks, to engage with clients and constituencies.
14. Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to engage in culturally responsive practice with clients and constituencies.
15. Apply theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as other culturally responsive and interprofessional conceptual frameworks, when assessing clients and constituencies.
16. Demonstrate respect for client self-determination during the assessment process by collaborating with clients and constituencies in developing a mutually agreed-upon plan.
17. Engage with clients and constituencies to critically choose and implement culturally responsive, evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals.
18. Incorporate culturally responsive methods to negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of clients and constituencies.
19. Select and use culturally responsive methods for evaluation of outcomes.
20. Critically analyze outcomes and apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Upon graduation, the MSW student will be able to demonstrate the following specialized clinical social work practice behaviors:

1. Demonstrate the ability to make ethical decisions in clinical social work practice by applying relevant policies, laws and regulations, models to practice with children, families, and vulnerable adults.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how personal experiences, biases, and affective reactions may impact professional clinical judgment and behavior, along with strategies to effectively manage them.
3. Demonstrate the ability to effectively advance human rights, and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in practice with children, families and vulnerable adults.
4. Demonstrate the ability to engage in anti-racist practice with diverse child, family, and vulnerable adult populations in a manner that advances equity and inclusion.
5. Demonstrate the ability to effectively translate culturally informed research findings into effective anti-racist and anti-oppressive strategies with children, families, and vulnerable adults.
6. Demonstrate the ability to advocate with, and on behalf of, clients and constituencies to inform and influence agency, local, state, federal or global policies in order to advance human rights and social, racial, economic and environmental justice for children, families, and vulnerable adults.
7. Demonstrate the ability to develop a culturally responsive professional relationship with diverse children, families and vulnerable adult clients.
8. Demonstrate the ability to effectively use culturally responsive assessment frameworks and tools to collaboratively assess and develop mutually agreed upon plans with children, families, and vulnerable adults.

9. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate, select, and apply culturally responsive, evidence-informed interventions with children, families, and vulnerable adult clients.
10. Demonstrate the ability to use culturally responsive evaluation methods to evaluate the outcomes of clinical practice with children, families and vulnerable adult clients.

Admissions Requirements

The MSW Application Packet (<https://www.asurams.edu/academic-affairs/college-of-business-education-professional-studies/social-work/degrees/msw.php>) contains several forms that must be completed before the file may be evaluated by the MSW Admissions Committee including:

1. An official transcript from each regionally accredited college or university attended. The applicant's undergraduate education must reflect a sound liberal arts foundation, including at least 21 credits in the humanities, the social sciences, the behavioral sciences, and the biological sciences. The transcript must show a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
2. Three professional letters of recommendation from persons who can address the applicant's ability and potential for successful graduate education and professional social work practice (e.g., former professors, employer, etc.), using the forms provided in the MSW Admissions Packet.
3. Completion of the Personal Narrative Statement, following the Personal Narrative Statement Outline form included in the MSW Admissions Packet
4. A professional resume. The applicant will submit a current resume that includes their complete work history. The applicant is asked to include a notation to explain any gaps in the work history.
5. Personal Interview. An online personal interview with the MSW Admissions Committee is required to better evaluate the applicant's potential for successful advanced social work practice.

Regular Admission

For regular admission, the applicant must meet all the admission requirements of the Graduate Admission Office and the MSW program and have an overall undergraduate Grade Point Average of 3.0 or above.

Provisional Admission

Applicants who do not fully meet the requirements for Regular Admission (3.00 or above GPA) may be considered for Provisional Admission. The MSW Admissions Committee will evaluate each applicant on an individual basis. In some instances, the applicant may be required to fulfill prerequisites prior to provisional admission. An applicant under Provisional Admission is limited to nine semester hours and must achieve a grade of "B" or better in each course attempted. An applicant who attains less than a 3.0 GPA in each course will be withdrawn from the MSW Program. Provisional Admission status will be converted to Regular Admission status when the applicant achieves a "B" or better in each course taken under Provisional Admission status.

Program of Study

The MSW program is fully online (except for field internships) and is designed for working or non-traditional graduate students. Generalist Practice Year students attend classes primarily on Monday and Wednesday evenings, while Specialized Clinical Practice Year students attend classes primarily on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Full-time students take two online classes each evening, with the first class beginning at 5:15 p.m. and ending at 7:45 p.m. and the second class beginning at 7:55

p.m. and ending at 10:25 p.m. Generalist Practice Year students enrolled in field internship also take a one-hour field seminar class on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Specialized Clinical Practice Year students enrolled in field internship also take a one-hour field seminar class on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The MSW curriculum is guided by the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) of our accrediting body, the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). Students must successfully complete 64 credit hours to receive the MSW degree. The curriculum consists of 32 credit hours in the Generalist Practice Year courses followed by 32 credit hours in the Specialized Clinical Social Work Practice Year. Since the MSW program is very structured, all prerequisites must be met, and courses must be completed in their correct sequence. Students who enroll in courses for which they have not met the prerequisites will be dropped from those courses. Please note that certain courses are only offered in the Fall or Spring semesters. Any deviation from the official MSW Course of Study plan will result in substantial delays of a year or more, due to the structured sequential nature of the MSW Program. Students are reminded that all requirements for the MSW degree must be completed within four years of their admission, as required by the Council on Social Work Education.

The MSW program provides "Advanced Standing" status to qualified students who hold a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited college or university within the last 5 years. Graduate credit is not granted for correspondence courses, extension courses, continuing education courses, advanced standing examinations, life, or employment experience, or if an equivalent course offered by Albany State University does not warrant graduate credit, per CSWE accreditation standards.

Curriculum

The MSW Program consists of 64 credit hours taken in the following order:

Code	Title	Semester Hours
SOWK 6000-Level Required Courses (First Year)		
<i>Generalist Practice Fall Classes</i>		
SOWK 6020	Achieving Justice Diverse Wrld	3
SOWK 6021	Hum Behav/Social Environment	3
SOWK 6031	Direct Practice Methods ¹	3
SOWK 6011	Social Welfare Policies & Prog	3
SOWK 6055	Generalist Practice Field Experience I ¹	3
SOWK 6051	Generalist Practice Field Seminar I ¹	1
<i>Generalist Practice Spring Classes</i>		
SOWK 6032	Theory/Pract Families/Groups ¹	3
SOWK 6033	Theory/Pract Comm/Organization ¹	3
SOWK 6041	Research in Social Work	3
SOWK 6056	Generalist Practice Field Experience II ¹	3
SOWK 6052	Generalist Practice Field Seminar II ¹	1
SOWK 6XXX	6000-level Elective	3
SOWK 7000-Level Required Courses (Second Year)		
<i>Clinical Practice Fall Classes</i>		
SOWK 7021	Family Dynam Through Life Cycl ¹	3
SOWK 7041	Evaluation Practice Child/Fami ¹	3
SOWK 7031	Assessment/Pract w/Child/Adole ¹	3
SOWK 7131	Psychopathology/Psychopharmaco	3

SOWK 7055	Specialized Clinical Practice Field Experience I ¹	3
SOWK 7051	Specialized Clinical Practice Field Seminar I ¹	1
<i>Clinical Practice Spring Classes</i>		
SOWK 7032	Assessment and Practice w/Fami ¹	3
SOWK 7033	Assess/Pract Vulnerable Adults ¹	3
SOWK 7011	Legal/Ethical Iss Chld/Fam Pol ¹	3
SOWK 7056	Specialized Clinical Practice Field Experience II ¹	3
SOWK 7052	Specialized Clinical Practice Field Seminar II ¹	1
SOWK 7XXX	7000-level Elective	3
Total Semester Hours		64

¹ Denotes courses that have prerequisites/corequisites that must be completed before registering.

Comprehensive Examination Policy

As required by the Georgia Board of Regents, a comprehensive examination is required of all MSW students. The examination is designed to test the ability of the student to demonstrate competencies in social work theory, practice, policy, and research. The examination is given in the Spring semester of the Specialized Practice year.

Degree Requirements

In order to graduate from the MSW Program, the graduate student must:

1. Earn a grade of "B" or better on all graduate work attempted, including transfer credits approved in advance of enrollment.
2. Have no incomplete grades.
3. Successfully pass the written MSW Comprehensive Examination.
4. Complete all requirements for the MSW degree within four years from the date of first enrollment.