

SOCIAL WORK, MASTER'S PROGRAM

Introduction

The mission of the Master of Social Work program is to advance social and economic 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.

The 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, 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 practice behaviors:

1. Demonstrate the ability to make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW *Code of Ethics*, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical use of decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to the context
2. Demonstrate the ability to use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and in oral, written and electronic communication
4. Demonstrate the ability to use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes
5. Demonstrate the ability to use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior
6. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply and communicate an understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels
7. Demonstrate the ability to present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences
8. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies
9. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply an understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels
10. Demonstrate the ability to engage in practice that advances social, economic, and environmental justice
11. Demonstrate the ability to use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research
12. Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings
13. Demonstrate the ability to use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery
14. Demonstrate the ability to identify social policy at the local, state, and federal levels that impact wellbeing, service delivery, and access to social services
15. Demonstrate the ability to assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of, and access to, social services.
16. Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice
17. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, the person-in-the-environment perspective, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies
18. Demonstrate the ability to use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies
19. Demonstrate the ability to collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies
20. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, the person-in-the-environment perspective, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies
21. Demonstrate the ability to develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies
22. Demonstrate the ability to select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies
23. Demonstrate the ability to critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies
24. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, the person-in-the-environment perspective, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies
25. Demonstrate the ability to use inter-professional collaboration, as appropriate, to achieve beneficial practice outcomes
26. Demonstrate the ability to negotiate, mediate, and advocate with, and on behalf of, diverse clients and constituencies
27. Demonstrate the ability to facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals
28. Demonstrate the ability to select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes
29. Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, the person-in-the-environment perspective, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes
30. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes
31. Demonstrate the ability to apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels
32. Demonstrate the ability to make ethical decisions in clinical social work practice by applying the standards of the NASW *Code of Ethics*, the NASW *Standards for Clinical Social Work in Social Work Practice*, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers,

and Marriage and Family Therapist, Rules and Regulations Chapter 135-7, *Code of Ethics*, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct in research, and additional codes of ethics, as appropriate to the context.

33. Demonstrate an understanding of how personal experiences and affective reactions may impact professional clinical judgment and behavior along with strategies to effectively manage them
34. Demonstrate the ability to research and utilize culturally sensitive and effective services with children, families and/or vulnerable adults
35. Demonstrate the ability to effectively work with children, families and/or vulnerable adults from diverse populations
36. Demonstrate the ability to engage in practice with children, families and/or vulnerable adults in a manner that advances social, economic and/or environmental justice
37. Demonstrate the ability to effectively translate research findings into effective practice with children, families, and/or vulnerable adults
38. Demonstrate the ability to advocate with clients and constituencies to inform and influence agency, local, state, federal or global policies that impact children, families, and/or vulnerable adults
39. Demonstrate the ability to develop a culturally responsive professional relationship with children, families and/or vulnerable adult clients
40. Demonstrate the ability to effectively use multi-dimensional assessment tools with children, families and/or vulnerable adult clients
41. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate, select, and apply evidence-based interventions with children, families, and/or vulnerable adult clients
42. Demonstrate the ability to effectively collaborate with other professionals to coordinate appropriate services for children, families, and/or vulnerable adult clients
43. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate the processes and/or outcomes of clinical practice with children, families and/or vulnerable adult clients

Admissions Requirements

The MSW Application Packet 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. In some cases, a personal interview with the MSW Admissions Committee may be required in order 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.

Provisional Admission

Applicants who do not fully meet the requirements for Regular Admission 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 cumulative GPA 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 and is designed for working or non-traditional graduate students, with classroom instruction beginning after 5:15pm in the evening. The MSW curriculum is guided by the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) of our accrediting body, the Council of Social Work Education. Students must successfully complete 64 credit hours in order to receive the MSW degree. The curriculum consists of 32 credit hours in the Foundation Year courses followed by 32 credit hours in the Advanced 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. Any deviation from the official MSW Degree 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.

Curriculum

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

Code	Title	Semester Hours
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	Foundation Field Experience I ¹	3
SOWK 6051	Foundation Field Seminar I ¹	1
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	Foundation Field Experience II ¹	3
SOWK 6052	Foundation Field Seminar II ¹	1
SOWK 6000-level	Elective	3
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 7055	Advanced Field Experience I ¹	3
SOWK 7051	Advanced Field Seminar I ¹	1
SOWK 7131	Psychopathology/Psychopharmaco	3
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	Advanced Field Experience II ¹	3
SOWK 7052	Advanced Field Seminar II ¹	1
SOWK 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.

SOWK 6011. Social Welfare Policies & Prog. (3 Credits)

Examines the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery and the role of practice in policy development. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor.

SOWK 6020. Achieving Justice Diverse Wrld. (3 Credits)

Historical, political and socio-economic forces that maintain oppressive values, attitudes, and behaviors in society are examined. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor.

SOWK 6021. Hum Behav/Social Environment. (3 Credits)

Lays the theoretical groundwork for social work practice with individuals over the lifespan. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor.

SOWK 6031. Direct Practice Methods. (3 Credits)

Provides students with the knowledge, values and skills to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate individuals. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW Program and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOWK 6021.

SOWK 6032. Theory/Pract Families/Groups. (3 Credits)

Provides students with the knowledge, values and skills to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate families and groups. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW Program and completion or concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6021.

SOWK 6033. Theory/Pract Comm/Organization. (3 Credits)

Provides students with the knowledge, values and skills to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate communities and organizations. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW Program and completion or concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6021.

SOWK 6041. Research in Social Work. (3 Credits)

Provides students with the knowledge, values and skills to employ evidence-based interventions to evaluate practice. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6051. Foundation Field Seminar I. (1 Credit)

Connects the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the field practice setting. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6055: Foundation Field Experience I.

SOWK 6052. Foundation Field Seminar II. (1 Credit)

Connects the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the field practice setting. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6056: Foundation Field Experience II.

SOWK 6053. Foundation Field Seminar Block. (2 Credits)

SOWK 6055. Foundation Field Experience I. (3 Credits)

MSW-supervised field experience of 225 clock hours. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, successful completion of or concurrent enrollment in first year foundation coursework, concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6051: Foundation Field Seminar I, and written consent of the MSW Field Director.

SOWK 6056. Foundation Field Experience II. (3 Credits)

MSW-supervised field experience of 225 clock hours. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, successful completion of first semester foundation coursework, completion of or concurrent enrollment in second semester foundation coursework, concurrent enrollment in SOWK 6052, and consent of MSW Field Director.

SOWK 6057. Foundation Field Exp Block. (6 Credits)

SOWK 6130. School Social Work. (3 Credits)

Overview of the various social work related theoretical perspectives, models, and programs for intervention with children and their families in school settings. Prerequisites: Graduate admission; admission to the MSW program or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6131. Family Violence Across Lifespa. (3 Credits)

Examines the various forms of violence in families, including intimate partner abuse, child abuse and elder abuse. Prerequisites: Graduate admission; admission to the MSW program or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6132. Grief/Loss in Soc Wrk Practice. (3 Credits)

This elective course examines theories and interventions related to grief and loss. Prerequisites: Graduate admission; admission to the MSW program or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6133. Soc Wrk Prac w/Older Adults. (3 Credits)

Examines the development stages of later adulthood, the aging process and best practices in meeting the needs of older adults. Prerequisites: Graduate admission; admission to the MSW program or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6134. Special Topics in Social Work. (3 Credits)

Topics vary from semester to semester depending on the needs and interest of the students and the southwest Georgia service area. Prerequisites: Graduate admission; admission to the MSW program or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 6460. International Social Welfare P. (3 Credits)**SOWK 7010. Ethic Decis Making in Sowk Pra. (3 Credits)**

This course assists students acquire the knowledge base for identifying ethical issues and the skills necessary to resolve ethical dilemmas.

SOWK 7011. Legal/Ethical Iss Chld/Fam Pol. (3 Credits)

Critical examination of current and proposed policies impacting children, vulnerable adults and families over the lifespan. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework or consent of instructor.

SOWK 7021. Family Dynam Through Life Cycl. (3 Credits)

Provides the advanced theoretical bases for understanding complex family processes over the lifespan. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework or consent of instructor.

SOWK 7031. Assessment/Pract w/Child/Adole. (3 Credits)

Examination of theories of childhood and adolescent development, methods of assessment, and the facilitation of change. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in SOWK 7021.

SOWK 7032. Assessment and Practice w/Fami. (3 Credits)

Focuses on engagement, assessment, planning, and service provision to families. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOWK 7021.

SOWK 7033. Assess/Pract Vulnerable Adults. (3 Credits)

Focuses on engagement, assessment and service provision with vulnerable adults. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOWK 7021.

SOWK 7041. Evaluation Practice Child/Fami. (3 Credits)

Applying research knowledge and skill in social service programs for children and families over the lifespan. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework or consent of instructor.

SOWK 7051. Advanced Field Seminar I. (1 Credit)

Opportunity to connect advanced coursework to social work practice with vulnerable children, families and adults in the field. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in SOWK 7055: Advanced Field Experience I.

SOWK 7052. Advanced Field Seminar II. (1 Credit)

Continued opportunities to connect advanced coursework to social work practice with vulnerable children, families and adults in the field. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in SOWK 7056: Advanced Field Experience II.

SOWK 7053. Advance Field Block Seminar. (2 Credits)

SOWK 7055. Advanced Field Experience I. (3 Credits)
Advanced MSW-supervised placement of 225 clock hours. Prerequisites: Completion of all foundation year course requirements, concurrent enrollment in SOWK 7021, SOWK 7031, SOWK 7041, SOWK 7051, and written consent of the MSW-Field Director.

SOWK 7056. Advanced Field Experience II. (3 Credits)

Advanced MSW-supervised placement of 225 clock hours. Prerequisites: Completion of all first seminar advanced coursework, SOWK 7031, SOWK 7033, SOWK 7011, concurrent enrollment in SOWK 7052, and written consent of the MSW Field Director.

SOWK 7057. Advance Field Experience Block. (6 Credits)**SOWK 7130. Soc Work Prac Abus/Neglect Fam. (3 Credits)**

Examines the historical, legal and best social work practices with abusing and neglecting families. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year coursework.

SOWK 7131. Psychopathology/Psychopharmaco. (3 Credits)

Prepares social workers to understand the medical model of mental health practice (e.g., DSM IV, mental health diagnosis, psychiatric treatment, medications, etc.). Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW programs or consent of the instructor.

SOWK 7132. Social Work with Groups. (3 Credits)

Knowledge, values and empirically-supported practice skills for competent group work with diverse children, adolescents and families. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year course work.

SOWK 7133. Behav Methods Soc Wrk Practice. (3 Credits)

Examines the practices in behavioral interventions in a variety of settings. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year course work.

SOWK 7134. Soc Wrk Prac Substnce Abus Fam. (3 Credits)

Provides theories and methods in the assessment, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation of substance abusers and their family members. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year course work.

SOWK 7135. Soc Wrk Prac/Military Families. (3 Credits)

Evidence-based theories and methods in the assessment, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation with military veterans and their families. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year course work.

SOWK 7136. Case Management. (3 Credits)

Provides knowledge regarding the historical development, processes and models for case management in the social services. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year coursework.

SOWK 7137. Crisis Intervention. (3 Credits)

Examination of the impact of specific crises on individuals and families such as life-threatening illness, trauma, physical and mental disability, and death. Prerequisites; Successful completion of all MSW foundation year course work.

SOWK 7138. Supervision in the Social Scie. (3 Credits)

Provides the knowledge, values and skills necessary to provide competent supervision in social service organizations. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all MSW foundation year coursework.

SOWK 7139. Global Research. (3-6 Credits)

A variable content elective graduate course focusing on selected topics in social work and social welfare. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and consent of the instructor.

SOWK 7141. Directed Independent Study. (3-6 Credits)

An individualized research study of a social work issue conducted under the direction and supervision of graduate faculty. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, written consent of the sponsoring faculty member, and written consent of the MSW Program Director.

SOWK 7155. Field Experience Elective I. (1 Credit)

Requires 75 clock hours of elective field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Director.

SOWK 7156. Field Experience Elective II. (2 Credits)

Requires 150 clock hours of elective field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Director.

SOWK 7157. Field Experience Elective II. (3 Credits)

Requires 225 clock hours of elective field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Director.

SOWK 7400. Policy in Rural Areas. (3 Credits)