
Graduate Program

MSW (Master of Social Work)—33 or 60

The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree is a professional degree enabling the graduate to enter practice as an advanced-level practitioner. Graduates are prepared to work in Interpersonal Clinical Practice or in Administration and Development Practice. The foundation curriculum for the MSW consists of five areas of course emphasis: Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy, Research, Professional Practice, and Practicum. Accreditation for the MSW degree has been granted through the Council on Social Work Education.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Students have the opportunity to apply for graduate assistantships—teaching or research. These assistantships give students the opportunity to develop their expertise. Students interested in becoming social-work educators—especially those with years of clinical experience—may teach undergraduate courses. Research assistantships offer experiences in community consulting, grant writing, and/or conducting research.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA*

Applicants to the MSW program must meet the requirements in the Graduate Admission section of this bulletin. They must also meet the requirements outlined below.

Regular Two-year Program

- Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, or a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
- Provide transcripts that demonstrate course work with a strong liberal arts background.

Required Liberal Arts Background Minimum Semester Credits

- Human Biology or Anatomy and Physiology—**3**
- Communications/Language Skills (foreign languages, speech, grammar, linguistics, written communication, media)—**6**
- Social and Behavioral Science (sociology, anthropology, psychology, social psychology, diversity)—**8**
- Humanities/History (philosophy, religion, arts, government, political science, economics, or literature)—**14**
- Math/Physical Science (statistics, sciences, chemistry, physics, logic, math)—**3**
- Previous computer skills, either in course work (1 credit) or extensive hands-on experience evidenced by the *Computer Skills Assessment Form*.
- A GPA of at least 3.00 (4.00 system) in the upper division course work
- A professional résumé documenting related experience
- A statement of professional interest and purpose for MSW graduate study
- Two strong professional references

The Student Services Monitoring Team may request a personal interview or a third reference and/or other information.

Advanced One-year Program

Credit requirements are reduced by 24 based on previous foundation courses taken. In addition to the requirements for the regular two-year program, the following are required for admission into the advanced one-year program.

- Bachelors degree in Social Work no more than five years old from

a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. If an applicant has a degree older than five years, he/she must have one year of post-bachelor's human-service work experience for every year beyond the five-year limit.

- An overall undergraduate GPA of 3.2, and on graduate credits previously earned, a minimum GPA of 3.5 on at least 10 graduate credits.
- An additional letter of reference from the applicant's field placement faculty liaison or field instructor or current human service job supervisor reflecting past satisfactory practice experience.

* Admissions criteria may be refined and changed as necessary to improve the process and address accreditation issues.

Past practice experience strengthens all MSW student applications. However, no academic credit is given for life experience.

MSW DEGREE REQUIREMENTS*

- A minimum of 60 semester credits (2-year regular students) or 33 semester credits (advanced placement students only) and satisfactory completion of all courses. This includes 900 hours of field practicum for two-year regular students (400 first year, 500 second year) or 600 hours of field practicum for advanced-placement students.
- The accumulation of no more than 8 credits below B- (including U)
- The maintenance at all times of professional conduct and behaviors appropriate for a social worker according to the National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics
- Defense of the professional degree portfolio. This portfolio is a demonstrative collection of professional skills and projects
- Other Andrews University degree requirements as presented in the Graduate Academic Information section of this bulletin.

* Subject to change as necessary to improve the process and address accreditation issues.

MSW CURRICULUM

Both Interpersonal Practice (micro) and Administration and Development (macro) emphases are offered during the advanced year. Students wishing to enroll in core graduate social work courses must be enrolled in the MSW Program and/or have the instructor's permission. Students in the regular two-year program are required to take all foundation year courses. All students, both regular and advanced placement, must take all advanced year courses, as well as those listed for the specific track they select (Interpersonal Practice or Administration and Development). Students who are accepted into the advanced one-year program must also take SOWK515. Students select approximately 2 credits of electives during their foundation year and 6-8 elective credits (depending on their concentration) during their advanced year. A maximum of 8 credits of graduate electives may be taken from other related disciplines. All courses are subject to change based on accreditation needs.

Courses

(Credits)

See inside front cover for symbol code.

SOWK100

(3)

Introduction to Social Work

The professional activity of social workers in the U.S., including a brief history of the social-work profession, its knowledge, values,

and skills base, and its cross-cultural aspects. Emphasis on the response of social work to varied populations and diverse cultures. *Fall, Spring*

SOWK105 (1)
BSW Seminar

Orientation to the social work program which includes procedures, policies, academic information, field instruction component, review of Handbook, professionalism and expectations for the program. Required of all new and transfer students. *Fall*

SOWK255 (2)
Introduction to Community Services

An opportunity to examine personal values and skills by observation at a community human services agency. Fifty hours of documented volunteer observation are required. Prerequisite: SOWK100. Pre/Co-requisite: SOWK315.

SOWK315 (2)
Christian Perspectives on Ethics and Diversity

Special attention is given to core values and professional ethics expected of outstanding social workers. Emphasizing a Christian world view, students develop appreciation for diversity and sensitivity toward issues related to culture, race, gender, class, age, and sexual identity. *Fall*

SOWK325 S (3)
Social Welfare Institutions and Services

An analysis of the factors which determine the manner in which social-welfare services are currently being delivered in the U. S. Factors include the value base, the historical development, and the organization of the social welfare system. Prerequisites: SOWK100; HIST118 or PLSC104. *Fall*

SOWK340 (3)
Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Ecological model for studying human behavior and an overview of normal individual development throughout the life cycle. Psycho-social, learning, and social-role theories constitute the theoretical basis for the course. Special attention paid to the impact of gender, health, and minority status upon human development. *Fall*

SOWK350 S (3)
Social Welfare Policy

Examines the determining factors affecting how social-welfare services are currently delivered in the U.S., including the value base, historical development, and organization of the social-welfare system. The framework used to systematically identify, define, and analyze social problems and policies is studied. *Spring*

SOWK401, 402 (5, 5)
Foundations of Practice I, II

Designed to develop the theory, knowledge, and skills essential in generalist social-work practice. Various methods are offered for developing communication, assessment, planning, intervention, termination, and evaluative skills necessary in social work practice. Focus on skills necessary for practice with individuals, families and groups in a variety of settings. Includes a concurrent lab. Co/Prerequisites: SOWK320, 325, 340. *Fall* (401), *Spring* (402)

SOWK410 ♦ (2)
Children and Families at Risk

Development of programs for the well-being of children. Focus on current child-welfare programs including juvenile courts, foster care, child-care centers, adoptions, protective services, institutional care, and special-need services.

SOWK415 ♦ Alt (2)
Substance Use in American Society

An overview of substance-use terminology, historical issues, definitions, epidemiology, consequences, and drugs of abuse within an American cultural and historical framework. Offered alternate years.

SOWK420 (5)
Social Work Methods Seminar

Provides opportunity for students to develop their basic social work skills through integrating social work knowledge and theory into field practice. Several aspects of field will be discussed. Is taken concurrently with the student's field placement and is repeated each semester student is in SOWK435. Corequisite: SOWK435. *Fall, Spring*

SOWK435 (1-4)
Field Instruction

A lab course to give students experience and practice in a community agency under qualified supervision. A total of 400 clock hours required. Repeatable to 4 credits. *Fall, Spring*

SOWK437 ♦ (2)
International Environment of Social Welfare

Students engage in critical thinking in relation to global issues. Theories of causation and alternative models of global intervention. Explores the social, cultural (including religious), political, and economic factors impacting social-welfare policies and the delivery of human services in Third World, developing, industrial, and post-industrial societies.

SOWK440 ♦ (2)
Assessment and Treatment of Victims of Violence

Examination of assessment issues, approaches, and barriers to effective treatment when working with victims of domestic violence, adult survivors of sexual abuse, victims of rape, incest survivors, and child sexual-assault victims. Interpretation of assessment findings included. Short- and long- term therapy options including specific techniques are explored. Prerequisites: SOWK401 and 402 or SOWK501 or permission of instructor.

SOWK447 ♦ (2)
Social Policies and Service in Other Countries

A study of the policy-making processes and strategies utilized to meet the needs of the poor and at-risk populations in other countries. Students travel abroad where they study social policy formulation, analyze selected social policies and programs, and participate in the development of a group position paper. Prerequisite: SOWK350 or equivalent course.

SOWK448 ♦ (2)
Computers in 21st-Century Social Work Practice

Exposure to computer applications and automated systems that enhance practice for the 21st century. Much of this class involves hands-on learning in the computer lab.

SOWK455 ♦ (2)
Treatment of Substance Abuse

An overview of treatment techniques and basic prevention strategies including specific training in assessment and therapeutic techniques, examining the relationship between etiology and treatment. Treatment evaluation discussed. At-risk, vulnerable populations receive special consideration. Prerequisites: SOWK415, 458.

SOWK458

◆ (2)

Advanced Theories of Addiction and Treatment

Surveys, critiques, and integrates the primary theories currently used to explain the process, outcome, and treatment of addictions. Covers biological, psychological, social, and anthropological addiction theories. Primary substance-abuse prevention theories are surveyed. Implications for at-risk, vulnerable populations considered. Corequisite: SOWK415.

SOWK460

(2)

Death and Grief in Contemporary Society

Designed to help the student understand cultural and societal perspectives on death as well as develop an increased awareness

