



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work



MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
ONLINE MSW PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Updated August 2025

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ONLINE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

BACKGROUND OF THE MSW PROGRAM

The profession of social work is devoted to the enhancement of human well-being and to the alleviation of poverty and oppression. These goals are accomplished through the promotion, restoration, maintenance and enhancement of the social functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The expansion of human service programs and areas of practice that utilize social work knowledge and skills create a demand for professionally educated social workers. Social Work offers a challenging and exciting career for the individual who is motivated to help others and who has a personal commitment to the advancement of social justice. The MSW degree program at the University of Oklahoma is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting body for educational programs in social work.

Social work education has been a part of the curriculum at the University of Oklahoma since 1917. A separate School of Social Work was established in 1935. The graduate program was fully accredited in 1957 and has maintained continuous accreditation. The school became the Anne and Henry School of Social Work in 2009 and moved into Anne and Henry Zarrow Hall in the fall of 2011.

The Online MSW Program launched in 2019. The program was designed to meet the needs of students in rural areas, students from other states, or for working adults in need of a fully online education. Great care has been taken to maintain the academic standards and consistency of traditional education. The program is delivered through both synchronous and asynchronous methods of learning.

MISSION AND GOALS

The school achieves its mission by preparing skilled social work practitioners who are committed to practice that includes services to the poor and oppressed, by improving and developing social service programs, and by promoting professionalism in social work in Oklahoma. The mission of the School is as follows:

The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work will transform our vision into reality by nurturing the growth of social workers, advancing the profession through innovative and collaborative research, and fostering intentional partnerships in the community. We are here to lead.

The Online MSW Program adds a unique mission:

The Online MSW Program within the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work prepares competent social workers to challenge social injustices and improve the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people and populations within diverse communities and contexts through an online distance learning platform; thus, emphasizing and responding to the need for high quality social work services in rural and underpopulated areas that are currently underserved by social work programs.

The University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work aims to:

1. Develop social workers who are critical thinkers and competent at practice infused by professional values and ethics.
2. Prepare social workers with the knowledge and systemic skills necessary for effective practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
3. Respond to the professional practice needs of historically oppressed groups and diverse backgrounds in Oklahoma, the nation, and the globe.
4. Affect societal change by improving social service delivery systems through:
 - faculty and student scholarship, research, and/or creative activities
 - service, leadership, and evaluation of state and national human service programs; and
 - innovative continuing education and advanced training for practicing social work professionals.

5. Provide high quality, accessible online education that maintains the standards and tradition of excellence present in the traditional programs of the University of Oklahoma.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM AND PROGRAM OPTIONS

The Online Master of Social Work degree is a program designed for working adults. Students progress through the curriculum in cohorts, ensuring a consistent track of coursework.

There are two options available in the Online MSW Program, both of which result in the degree of MSW upon graduation: a 60-credit hour program for students with any undergraduate degree and a 33-hour Advanced Standing program for students with a qualifying Bachelor of Social Work degree.

The full program, for students with a degree other than social work, is 60 credit hours. The first 30 credit hours of the program are termed Foundation Social Work Practice, or the Foundation Curriculum and the final 30 credit hours are the Concentration Curriculum of Advanced Integrative Social Work Practice. The Advanced Standing MSW is 33 credit hours and designed for students with a baccalaureate degree in Social Work (no other degrees qualify, per accreditation standards). Advanced Standing students begin by taking a foundational seminar meant to review and enhance their baccalaureate social work coursework. The content of courses taken during Foundation practice is geared toward essential foundational social work practice skills across micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice. The Concentration curriculum offers Advanced Integrative Practice coursework incorporating system levels for advanced skill development, along with the completion of three elective courses of choice from offered social work electives that create an individualized opportunity to specialize in a student's own area(s) of interest.

The content of courses taken during Foundation practice is geared toward essential foundational social work practice skills across micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice. The Concentration curriculum content offers Advanced Integrative Practice coursework incorporating system levels for advanced skill development, along with the completion of three selective courses of choice from offered social work electives that create an individualized opportunity to specialize in a student's own area(s) of interest.

Important:

- The baccalaureate degree in social work must have been received in the last seven years from a CSWE accredited institution to qualify for Advanced Standing status.
- The Graduate College requires the MSW to be completed within five years.
- Students in the 60-hour program must complete all foundation coursework and practicum curriculum requirements (the first 30 hours of the program) before proceeding to the advanced practice curriculum or concentration.

SUCCESSFUL ONLINE EDUCATION

Online education involves a different type of learning and a particular type of student. The successful online learner is self-motivated, organized, and willing to contact others and create a sense of connection with peers and faculty. With less opportunity for face-to-face interaction, the online learner may have to initiate contact with faculty in order to meet needs. The learner must plan for turning in assignments, completing modules, and managing time appropriately. A certain degree of comfort with technology and electronic learning must also be present.

The Online MSW Program utilizes highly engaging content in asynchronous modules as well as synchronous sessions with instructors to provide interaction with classmates, a chance for discussion, and sharing of thoughts and ideas. The program emphasizes individual contact with faculty to enhance learning and see the instructor as a facilitator of your learning as well as someone providing additional content and expertise to the asynchronous materials. Students also participate in simulation experiences with trained actors in our virtual simulation labs and receive extensive on-the-job training and valuable learning through field placements.

The online learner is most often a working adult, with many other responsibilities and commitments to manage. This has great advantages in terms of enhancing discussion with practical experience and the ability to apply concepts learned directly in an employment setting. However, it also can create a great deal of pressure for a student who is adding an additional role of student to a busy life. The online learner must make plans to protect time to complete online work and commit to study hours in the same manner as any other graduate student. Courses may be more self-paced but will still have weekly modules and regular due dates. Remember that since students will not be in a weekly classroom session, there is online material to cover that replaces that classroom experience. This is in addition to reading and writing assignments, quizzes, and discussions throughout the course.

Success in the Online MSW Program requires independent learning, good planning and time management skills. Students have fewer opportunities to interact with faculty so are encouraged to speak up when needing help and ask questions when they arise.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS POLICY

GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All students admitted to the graduate program in social work must meet the following requirements:

- Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The applicant's course of study must include liberal arts content which is broadly defined as coursework in the natural and social sciences and in the arts and humanities.
- Students are to have a grade point average of 3.0 or above. For all applicants, the Graduate College Admissions office calculates GPA based on cumulative coursework for the last degree completed.
- Students can be admitted on a conditional basis with a GPA of 2.75-2.99. These students must maintain a "B" average (3.00 GPA) for the first 12 hours of coursework to remain in the program.
- The successful applicant is expected to meet the requirements for ethics and physical and emotional well-being as presented in the Student Performance Policy.

ADVANCED STANDING GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To meet eligibility for advanced standing status applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in social work (only) from a CSWE-accredited undergraduate program, within the most recent seven years, and with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Only CSWE-approved baccalaureate Social Work programs are eligible.

Often, applicants to the program have not completed their BSW degrees at the time of application and admissions. Applicants to the Advanced Standing Program who do not have a GPA of 3.0 and are currently enrolled in a BSW program should follow these steps:

1. Indicate in their application that they are still awaiting final grades.
2. Determine if they are enrolled in enough graded coursework in the spring semester to raise their GPA to a 3.0.
3. Once the above determination has been made, the student can then submit their FINAL transcripts to the graduate school to have their new GPA verified.
4. If the GPA is still not a 3.0 but between 2.75 and 2.99, students should refer to the policies related to Conditional Admission into the Advanced Standing Program.

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

International applicants should review the information offered by International Student Services at <http://www.ou.edu/content/cis/iss.html> when first considering application. International Student Services can help on matters related to immigration status and student work/study requirements.

Please be aware that the practicum requirements of the MSW program are often considered as unpaid

work, so students may need to account for these hours when arranging international study.

Graduate applications and admission credentials from international applicants are processed in the same manner as described above, with the following additions:

International graduate applicants should use the standard University of Oklahoma graduate application. Other credentials are usually required; these are detailed on the Graduate College and Admission Web site.

- Graduate College Requirement: <https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/apply/international-applicants>
- International Student Admission Requirements: <https://www.ou.edu/admissions/apply/international>
- English proficiency requirements are discussed in detail on the Admissions and Records Web site at <http://www.ou.edu/content/admissions/apply/international/english-proficiency-requirements.html>. This requirement must be met before being admitted to the Graduate College.

ADDITIONAL ADMISSION INFORMATION

- The 60-hour Online MSW Program has two potential starting dates: in the fall and spring semesters.
- The 33-hour Advanced Standing Online MSW Program begins in the summer semester.
- Final undergraduate transcripts must be submitted to the Graduate College before beginning classes and final GPAs must remain eligible for admission.
- OU Graduate College policies require that all master's students complete their degree requirements within a five-year period from the time of first admission. When a student withdraws from the School, he or she must reapply to the Office of Admissions and Records of the University and to the School. If a student maintains continuous enrollment (two semesters with no enrollment are allowed), regulations applicable during the term of admission apply. Where degree requirements change during a student's enrollment, the student may have the opportunity to choose the new requirements. A student who interrupts enrollment for one year or longer and is readmitted is subject to regulations in effect at the time of readmission. Even if readmitted, all required coursework must be completed within the five-year period.

ADMISSION MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES

To apply to the University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, applicants must complete the University of Oklahoma Graduate College application. As a required part of this application, all applicants must also complete the social work supplemental materials described at the link below. For the complete application process, view the MSW Graduate Application Webpage at <https://www.ou.edu/cas/socialwork/apply/graduate>.

Application and Admission Timelines

Applications for the 60-hour MSW program are accepted for consideration until July 15 for Fall admission and until December 1 for Spring admission. Applications for the Advanced Standing 33-hour program are accepted until April 1 for admission in the summer semester.

Admission decisions are made on an ongoing basis for the next available beginning term until capacity is reached. Should the cohort be full for the nearest upcoming start date, students may be offered the opportunity to be added to a waiting list. Should attrition occur before the cohort begins, students from the waiting list may be offered an earlier starting date. The waiting list will be created in order of receipt of application.

Application Process

The University of Oklahoma Graduate College Application includes:

- Basic Application
- Official Transcripts

- Additional requirements of the School of Social Work include:
 - Professional Résumé
 - Personal Statement in response to application questions
 - Three (3) letters of recommendations using the online recommendation form. References whom you have had contact in a work, academic or volunteer environment are required. Rarely considered adequate are letters from friends, relatives, or acquaintances known outside of a professional or academic context.

Scoring of Candidates

The School seeks mature, emotionally stable individuals with a strong sense of personal responsibility and integrity. The applicants are scored through an evaluation that weighs all admission materials (personal statement, resume, recommendation forms and transcripts). In addition to academic performance, measured primarily by grade point average, other factors that contribute to the good fit of an incoming professional social worker include: Formal work experience in human services, particularly in settings that serve public social services volunteer experiences and life experiences; leadership, communication and interpersonal relationship skills; problem solving ability; a personal orientation of respect for people from diverse backgrounds; motivation for graduate work and a career in social work; and commitment to issues of social, political & economic justice.

As admission decisions are made, we seek to build a student body composed of students from varied and diverse backgrounds with the potential and desire to work effectively with the varied vulnerable populations that social work serves.

Conditional Admissions Policy- Traditional Program Standing

Applicants with a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99, with an otherwise outstanding application, may be considered for conditional admission by the Graduate College and the School of Social Work. This type of admission is only considered when an application exhibits great strengths in areas beyond the GPA, such as valuable work experience, strong letters of recommendation from professionals in the field, excellent writing skills, or diverse life experience. It is expected that students with a low GPA will utilize their admission essay to address their previous academic challenges with assurance that the circumstances now are more conducive to academic success. These students must meet additional requirements specified by the Graduate College and the School.

Students with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.75 qualify for consideration for conditional admission if, subsequent to their bachelor's degree, they have completed **three years of paid, full-time work (or the equivalent thereof) in social work or a closely related human services field**. These applicants would also need to exhibit the strengths specified above as an outstanding application profile in spite of the low GPA. Students with GPAs below 2.5 are not considered for admission.

All students admitted conditionally must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the first 12 hours of the program or they will be discontinued from the MSW program.

Conditional Admissions Policy- Advanced Standing Program

To be considered for Conditional Admission into the Advanced Standing program, the following conditions apply.

- Applicants must have a 2.75-2.99 GPA from an earned BSW degree.
- Students, under an overall 3.0 GPA, who have a 3.0 GPA in the BSW/BASW courses, can be admitted into the 4 semester Advanced Standing program. They must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the first 6 hours of the program, or they will be discontinued from the MSW program.
- Students, under an overall 3.0 GPA, who have a 2.75-2.99 GPA in the BSW/BASW courses can be admitted in the 4 semester Advanced Standing program. They must first complete 6 hours of graduate courses as determined by the graduate coordinator.

- If successful in maintaining a 3.0 GPA in those first 6 hours, the School forwards a letter recommending admission into the Advanced Standing program. If a student is unsuccessful in meeting the stipulations of conditional admission they are discontinued from the program.
- These policies apply only as space allows; otherwise, students with low GPAs below 3.0 are denied admission.
- Students with a GPA below 2.75 will not be considered for Advanced Standing.

CAMPUS AND PROGRAM TRANSFERS

Admission is Campus and Program-Specific.

Once admitted into the Online MSW program, students generally may not take courses in the Campus MSW programs in Norman or Tulsa. Similarly, students admitted in the Campus MSW programs may not join the Online MSW courses as enrollment is reserved for the students in that program.

If students wish to transfer into a Campus MSW Program, due to moving to Norman or Tulsa or similar circumstances, they must contact the MSW Program Director. Decisions will be based on available space and scheduling needs.

Be aware that the curriculum for the Campus MSW Programs and the Online MSW Program are delivered in a different sequence and at a different pace. Therefore, changing programs can result in graduation delays, financial aid difficulties, and practicum disruption. Students may only make a switch to a different program one time to minimize this difficulty. A plan to switch will need close supervision by the MSW Program Director to ensure all requirements are met.

Transfer Credit

Only graduate level coursework, not used for the completion of another degree, is applicable for the MSW degree. Students seeking a credit transfer should contact the Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator and be prepared to provide the syllabi for the courses requested for consideration.

The School may accept up to 12 hours (full program) or 9 hours (advanced standing) of approved graduate course credit from another college or university.

The Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator can approve electives, but any transfers of core curriculum require approval by the MSW Program Director as well as the Dean of the Graduate College via petition. Before requesting credit transfer please note:

1. The coursework transferred must represent valid graduate credit from an institution accredited to offer master's courses; undergraduate coursework is nontransferable.
2. Credit hours counted toward a completed master's degree are nontransferable.
3. Credits must carry a grade of "A", "B" or "S" (Satisfactory).
4. Credits cannot not be older than five years at the time of graduation from the MSW program. Therefore, courses that would not be eligible at the predicted time of graduation are nontransferable and students should be aware that approved courses may expire if graduation is delayed.
5. Credit hours earned by correspondence courses, workshops, seminars and other similar continuing education offerings are nontransferable.
6. Only practicum course credits earned from other CSWE accredited MSW programs are transferable for the purposes of fulfilling the foundation practicum. **Please note this as at the discretion of the Field Education Director as practicum is generally nontransferable.**

7. Academic credit is not given for life experience or previous work experience.
8. The credits must be approved by the School's MSW Director and by the Graduate College Dean.
9. The credit must meet all university and Graduate College requirements. Key Graduate College policies as presented in the Graduate College Bulletin are on their website: <https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/forms-and-policies/graduate-college-bulletin>.

MSW CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

The program consists of both a foundation and a concentration curriculum. Students are required to complete the Foundation practice classes (including Practicum I & II) prior to taking Concentration Advanced Integrative courses (including Practicum III & IV).

Foundation Practice Curriculum

The Foundation Practice curriculum comprises the first 30 credit hours. It is based on a generalist model of social work practice that prepares students for the advanced coursework and skills needed for the Concentration Advanced Integrative Practice curriculum.

Required Courses- Foundation (30 Hours):

- S WK 5403 Professional Social Work
- S WK 5433 Human Lifespan Development
- S WK 5333 Social Determinants of Health
- S WK 5333 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Individuals
- S WK 5093 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Families and Groups
- S WK 5393 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Communities and Organizations
- S WK 5083 Social Work Research Methods
- S WK 5313 Policy Practice in Social Work: Analysis and Advocacy
- SWK 5410 Foundation Year Practicum Planning
- SWK 5413 Social Work Practicum I
- SWK 5423 Social Work Practicum II

Concentration Advanced Integrative Practice Curriculum

The Concentration Advanced Integrative Practice curriculum comprises the final 30 credit hours. The required courses sum to 21 hours plus 9 elective hours of student choice, for a total of 30 hours. Building on a generalist practice foundation, students completing the final Concentration curriculum shall have the skills to function competently in social work practice roles across the incorporation of system levels.

Note: The 9 hours of elective courses may be spread out over the foundation and concentration year courses.

Required Courses - Concentration (30 hours):

- S WK 5513 Client Centered Direct Practice (3 hours)
- S WK 5523 Macro Systems Practice (3 hours)
- S WK 5973 Advanced Integrative Seminar (3 hours)
- S WK XXXX Elective* (3 hours)
- S WK XXXX Elective* (3 hours)
- S WK XXXX Elective* (3 hours)
- SWK 5810 Concentration Year Practicum Planning (0 hours)
- S WK 5816 Practicum III (3 hours)
- S WK 5826 Practicum IV (3 hours)

The following competencies are operationalized by the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work faculty in order to illustrate the expectations of students following the completion of the foundation curriculum:

- Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
- Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
- Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
- Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

For more information, visit the Council on Social Work Education website at <https://www.cswe.org/>

Registering for Courses

Students in the Online MSW Program are unable to self-enroll in courses. Assigned Student Success Coaches will contact students each semester to confirm course selections and complete student registration.

Communication from the School of Social Work

E-mail is the key source for communication for the University of Oklahoma campuses. It is the central way important information is disseminated to students. It is the student's responsibility to activate and maintain their University of Oklahoma e-mail account. Correspondence with OU should occur directly from your OU e-mail account.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

Online courses involve between 2-4 sessions (depending on the content and structure of the course) of synchronous content where students meet their instructor and peers using technology. These sessions are required meetings for all students. All students will be given advance notice of these dates before courses begin.

MISSED SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

Any student who is unable to attend a synchronous session must make pre-arrangements with the instructor if possible. Sessions will be recorded and made available for students to watch on their own. Instructors may require an assignment or verification of completion. Students with great difficulty attending synchronous sessions must speak with their instructor about arrangements as soon as possible. We understand that some circumstances require flexibility, but also must balance flexibility with the learning experience of your participation in class discussions.

SYNCHRONOUS SESSION EXPECTATIONS

When meeting online, students are expected to give the class their full attention.

- Students should arrive in the session on time, and not log off until instructed to do so.
- Childcare and pet care should be arranged so that the student can fully engage in the class with minimal distraction.

- Students and other people in the home should be dressed appropriately.
- Students should utilize a workspace with a table or a desk for their computers, and a chair for sitting upright.
- Cameras should be on the student's face at all times and the student should be in a well-lit area, so their face is visible to the class.
- Students should remain seated and refrain from walking or engaging in other activities as much as possible.
- Microphones should be on mute unless the student is speaking.
- Students should utilize headphones if there are other people in the room to protect the privacy of other students who may comment in class.
- All recordings of sessions shared with the class are considered private to the course and should not be distributed outside of the students and instructor in the course.
- The Chat function, "raising hand" function, or releasing the mute function, can be used to signal the student wants to speak.
- The Chat function should be used for discussion of class material, questions, or relevant comments and not personal conversation with peers.
- Please be aware that the chat features are saved in recordings, so the host has access to all chat that occurred during a session.
- Students should never drive while logged into a synchronous session of their class. Instances of driving will be treated as absences, or the students will be logged off by the instructor.

Students may encounter circumstances that require flexibility regarding attendance at synchronous sessions. Please make arrangements with your instructor if you are unable to meet the expectations outlined.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

E-mail is the key source for communication for the University of Oklahoma campuses. It is the student's responsibility to activate, maintain and regularly check their University of Oklahoma e-mail account. Correspondence with OU should occur directly from your OU e-mail account. Additional methods of communication such as Canvas inbox messaging and announcements are also utilized, but those sources are often limited to classroom interaction and official communication will come through your OU email.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

NON-THESIS-COMPREHENSIVE EXAM POLICY & PROCEDURES

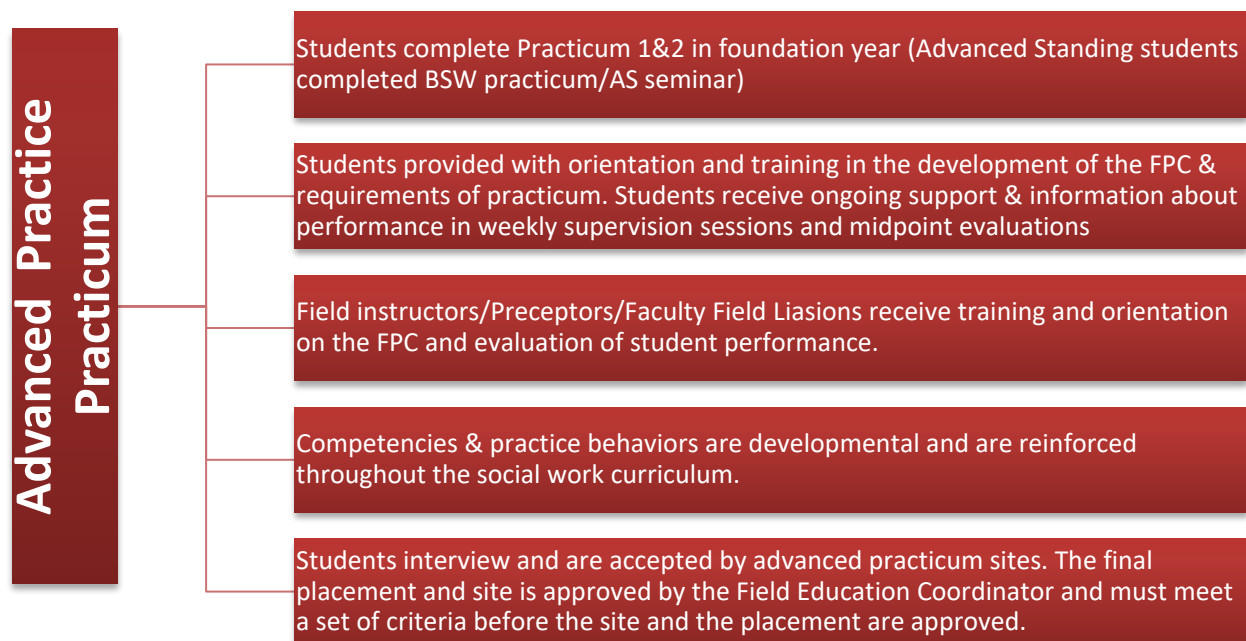
The non-thesis comprehensive examination for the MSW follows the requirements set forth in the *Graduate College Bulletin*. Students preparing for non-thesis comprehensive examination are advised to consult the bulletin regarding application procedures and deadlines located here:

<https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/forms/bulletin>

The following describes the non-thesis comprehensive exam and a description of the examination process within the School of Social Work. From this point forward, we will refer to the non-thesis comprehensive exam as the "comprehensive exam".

- The comprehensive exam requirement in social work is met by completing the concentration year practicum. The concentration year practicum consists of enrollment in two linked 6-hour courses. **The second, or final, course (SWK 5826 Practicum IV) serves as the comprehensive exam.**
- Several individuals including the student are involved in the preparation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of performance in the practicum. Students demonstrate each of the competencies required by the Council on Social Work Education in the concentration year practicum.

- Students are selected by concentration year practicum sites. The Field Education Coordinator approves each site that meets the criteria set forth in the Field Education Manual. The Field Education Coordinator also approves the final field education placement.
- Each student is required to complete a written Field Education Contract (FEC). The FPC teaching and learning plan outlines a developmentally graduated description of the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work program competencies, which must be incorporated into the practicum experience and addressed at each site.



The first major practicum assignment at all sites is the development of the Field Education Contract.

During the first weeks of the practicum, the student works with the field instructor to identify or create practicum activities and assignments that can be incorporated into each competency area of the FPC. These activities are recorded in the Work Plans feature of the contract. In order to identify site activities, the student follows the directives of the Practice Tasks feature, which is linked to each Work Plan. The student must come to understand why each set of Practice Tasks is bundled together under each competency area of the contract; how the tasks are relevant to the competency; and how they are related to each other. Then, through the guidance of the field instructor, the student develops Work Plans describing how he or she will go about acquiring and demonstrating program competencies while engaging in assignments and activities that are grounded in the mission, context, culture, and work of the practicum site.

At the School, during the early weeks of the practicum, the faculty liaison assists students with the development of Work Plans, with an emphasis on tying practicum activities directly to program competencies, ensuring that practicum assignments, in addition to being instructional, are designed to create opportunities for the student to demonstrate program competencies and receive instructive feedback and evaluation of their competency performance.

Students complete 500 practicum hours in the concentration year practicum and earn 12 graduate credit hours for the two courses. The practicum will be during the final two terms of the program. **The comprehensive exam consists of the final 6 hours of the practicum course SWK 5826 in the concentration year. The comprehensive examination is a requirement of the social work program and cannot be waived.**

Eligibility for Social Work Comprehensive Exam

Eligibility for the comprehensive exam requires:

- A student is admitted to candidacy by the Graduate College before scheduling the comprehensive examination.
- A student is in good academic standing during the semester the comprehensive examination is scheduled. A student who is on probation may not schedule the exam until probationary status is cleared.
- A student should complete all required or core courses and at least 75 percent of all coursework listed on the approved Program of Study/Admission to Candidacy form before taking the exam.
- The MSW Program Director must request authority from the Graduate College before the comprehensive examination is administered. The result of an unauthorized exam is not valid.
- The comprehensive examination should be held before the deadline indicated on the Academic Calendar.
- In rare cases, a student who fails the comprehensive examination on the first attempt may, at the discretion of the School Director or Associate Director, repeat the exam once in a future term. Only two attempts to pass the comprehensive examination are permitted.
- The result of a comprehensive examination remains valid for two years from the end of the semester in which the exam is completed.

Enrollment Requirements for the Comprehensive Exam

- A student must enroll in at least two graduate credit hours at the University of Oklahoma in the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken.
- Failure to maintain enrollment for the entire semester invalidates exam results.

Unsatisfactory Performance

If a student receives an Unsatisfactory grade in concentration practicum courses (SWK 5816/5826), this will impact their comprehensive exam and initiates a Critical Performance Review at the School. These are outlined below:

Unsatisfactory Progress in Practicum III - IV	Comprehensive Exam & School Impacts
Student does not develop a SWK 5816 or 5826 Field Practicum Contract that is approved by all parties by the deadline on the Field Education Calendar.	Student receives a "U" in the practicum course and thereby fails the comprehensive exam. A Critical Performance Review is initiated to review the student's plan for progression in the social work program.
Student completes SWK 5816 Practicum III but due to unresolved insufficient performance, is awarded a grade of Unsatisfactory.	Student cannot proceed to take SWK 5826 Practicum IV and is therefore not allowed to take the comprehensive exam. A Critical Performance Review is initiated to review the student's plan for progression in the social work program.
Student might complete the entire practicum, and, due to unresolved or insufficient performance in SWK 5826 Practicum IV, be awarded a grade of Unsatisfactory. The comprehensive exam committee then reviews the evaluation and determines the grade of U or S.	If, on review of the final practicum evaluation, two of three members of the comprehensive exam committee indicate a grade of U; student is notified that they did not pass the comprehensive exam.

	<p>A Critical Performance Review is initiated to determine whether the student is permitted to repeat the practicum sequence (SWK 5816 & 5826) and take the comprehensive exam for a second time.</p> <p>If a student repeats the exam for the second time and receives a grade of U, then the student will be terminated from the social work program.</p>
<p>The school or the practicum site might terminate a practicum placement if it becomes evident to the practicum site, Field Instructor, Faculty Liaison, Field Education Coordinator, and/or the School, that the student is unable to successfully complete the practicum. The Field Education Coordinator will investigate further, and if warranted, a grade of U will be assigned.</p>	<p>If the termination occurred during SWK 5816 Practicum III, then the student does not proceed to SWK 5826 Practicum IV and is therefore not permitted to take the comprehensive exam.</p> <p>If the termination occurred during SWK 5826 Practicum IV, then the student thereby fails the comprehensive exam.</p> <p>A Critical Performance Review is initiated to determine if the student is permitted to either repeat SWK 5816, or to repeat the entire practicum sequence (SWK 5816 & 5826) and take the comprehensive exam a second time.</p> <p>If a student repeats the exam for the second time and receives a grade of U, then the student will be terminated from the social work program.</p>

Comprehensive Examination Committee¹

The comprehensive examination committee consists of the Field Education Director, the MSW Program Director, and the Associate Director or Director of the School of Social Work.

- The final practicum evaluation is completed by the field instructor and is reviewed by the faculty field liaison and the Field Education Coordinator.
- The Field Education Coordinator reviews the final evaluation of student performance and recommends a grade. Grades are recorded as S or U.
- The comprehensive exam committee reviews the final evaluation and field practicum contract. The committee reports its decision on the *Authority Report Form for the Non-Thesis Exam* by indicating a “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” result.
- Two of the three committee members must evaluate student performance as satisfactory. If two or more committee members do not indicate that performance is satisfactory, the examination is judged unsatisfactory.
- The decision is submitted to the Graduate College.

Unsatisfactory Result of the Comprehensive Examination

- According to Graduate College policy, a student cannot appeal an unsatisfactory result of the

¹ Per graduate college policy, the committee must consist of a committee chair and at least two other members of the graduate faculty. The committee chair & members must hold an M1, M2, or M3 graduate faculty appointment.

comprehensive examination on the basis that he or she had not completed all required or core courses before taking the exam.

- A student who has failed the first attempt of the comprehensive examination may, **at the discretion of the School's Director or Associate Director**, attempt the exam a second time in a future term.
 - Pursuant to department policy, a grade of U or the termination from the practicum automatically triggers a Critical Performance Review. Details of the Student Review Procedures process are found in the School's Student Performance Policy.
 - If a student is allowed to proceed with a second practicum, he/she is also eligible to take the comprehensive exam a second time.
 - If the student is not allowed to repeat the practicum, the School's Director recommends to the Dean that the student be terminated from the Master of Social Work program.
- A student is not allowed to attempt the comprehensive exam in the same semester.
- Graduate College policy states: a student earning two or more credit hours of U and/or NP in one semester will be placed on academic probation for the next two semesters in which the student enrolls.
- A student who has failed the second attempt of the comprehensive examination is disenrolled from the program.

Appeals

- If a student issue involves a matter for which the student or the University has initiated a separate University administrative process (e.g., grade appeal, academic integrity charge, EEO or Title 9 charge or investigation), the Critical Performance Review will be delayed until the charge/investigation are completed.
- The student is responsible for filing the appeal in accordance with the process described in the Graduate College Bulletin. Noted in the Bulletin is that appeals must be filed within fifteen (15) days of when the results of the evaluation were made known to the student. Therefore, Critical Performance Review meetings will not be held until at least fifteen days following the release of the evaluation to the student to allow this time period to lapse.

LICENSURE

If you are planning to pursue licensure in a state outside of Oklahoma, it is important to investigate the specific requirements of your target state early on. Many states have regulations concerning required elective coursework, clinical hours, and the need to maintain syllabi or documentation of practicum experiences. Understanding this early on will allow you to effectively plan, ensuring that you fulfill all necessary state licensure criteria. If you need assistance with submitting documentation of your coursework, please contact Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator, Aubrey Fick, at aubreyfick@ou.edu.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP)

The Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program provides financial support to selected students who make a commitment to work in public child welfare. CWPEP in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) enhances and supports Oklahoma's public child welfare workforce through professional social work education for current and potential DHS employees. It affords interested students financial support by covering books, fees and in-state tuition in return for a specified employment obligation in a Child Welfare position with DHS or a Tribe with which DHS has a Tribal/State agreement.

The employment commitment is 12 months (BSW) or 15 months (MSW) for each 30-hour academic year of financial support.

Application information and applicable due dates will be posted on the CWPEP website:

<https://www.ou.edu/cas/socialwork/centers-and-programs/child-welfare-professional-enhancement-program> Applications may be open to full-time junior and senior undergraduates and to full-time and part-time graduate students in Norman and Tulsa, if slots are available. CWPEP also is available (depending on annual decisions) to current DHS/Child Welfare employees and to employees of the tribes that have Tribal/State agreements with DHS.

CWPEP provides financial assistance to eligible applicants who are accepted into the program and agree to the terms of the legal contract. CWPEP works with the students in practicum placements within DHS/CW or the tribe's ICW program. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and pass criminal background and driving record checks. Upon graduation with a BSW or MSW degree, social workers are employed by DHS as CW specialists or return to the tribe in ICW. Students who do not fulfill the terms of the contract are required to repay all the funds provided or expended on their behalf. CWPEP graduates are given priority- hiring status by DHS. CWPEP is an exceptional opportunity for those students who are interested in the challenge of CW social work. For more information, contact: Misty Stanberry at misty.stanberry@ou.edu

Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect

The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, located in Oklahoma City, offers a two-semester Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect for advanced students in medicine, dentistry, occupational therapy/physical therapy, psychology, law, social work, education, public health, nursing, sociology and related disciplines. Established in 1987, the ITP provides specialized training in clinical practice, prevention, policy formation, child advocacy, research and administration in the field of child abuse and neglect. More than 285 U.S. students and seven international students have participated in the ITP program. Learn more about the program here: <https://medicine.ouhsc.edu/academic-departments/pediatrics/sections/developmental-behavioral-pediatrics/education-training#826514011-interdisciplinary-training-on-child-abuse-and-neglect-ity>

Typically, MSW students take the ITP course sequence in their final (Concentration) year though students could possibly take it earlier than this. Students may earn up to 6 credits in the ITP program. Interested students who work for child welfare should contact: Misty Stanberry at misty.stanberry@ou.edu
To be eligible for the ITP, students must:

- Be enrolled in a graduate or a postgraduate program.
- Have sufficient background in their major discipline to benefit from interdisciplinary training.
- Evidence a career interest and commitment to the field of child abuse and neglect.
- Demonstrate leadership potential; and
- Obtain the recommendation of their major advisor, Department Chair or MSW Program Director.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program Internship

LEND is an interdisciplinary internship training program facilitated by the Center for Learning & Leadership on the OUHSC campus. The LEND program is available to advanced social work graduate students interested in working with children with disabilities and their families. The School of Social Work collaborates with the College of Medicine at the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center to provide a training stipend each year to one social work student to participate in the LEND program. This internship is designed to provide specialized training to professionals who work with children who have, or are at risk of developing, neurodevelopmental disabilities or other similar conditions such as autism and mental retardation. Social work interns train with 11 other students from medical and allied health fields for two semesters.

The social work stipend is typically awarded to a social work student in their concentration year. Students may earn up to 6 academic credits in the LEND program. Contact Dr. Christina Miller at crmiller@ou.edu. For further information see: <https://medicine.ouhsc.edu/academic-departments/pediatrics/sections/developmental-behavioral-pediatrics/education-training#826514012-oklahoma-lend-leadership-education-in-neurodevelopmental-and-related-disabilities>

PRACTICUM

The practicum is an integral part of professional education in social work and is offered in collaboration with selected agencies and programs throughout the state of Oklahoma. The student is placed in the agency under an approved supervisor. Students in a traditional 60-hour program complete a practicum during both their Foundation and Advanced study. Advanced Standing students complete only the Concentration practicum. The Foundation practicum is generalist in its nature and related to Foundation content. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ou.edu/content/cas/socialwork/field-education.html>

PERSONAL CONDUCT AND COMPORTMENT

ETHICS

The School of Social Work fully subscribes to and is guided by the NASW Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/ethics>). Social work program students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior that reflects a commitment to the ethics of the social work profession as exemplified in the Code of Ethics. Behavior and statements contrary to these ethics may be cause for denial of the student's admission to or the student's continuance in the School of Social Work's programs. Examples of behavior that warrant a review include, but are not limited to, derogatory oral or written statements towards students, staff, faculty, agency representatives or clients. Derogatory statements concerning racial, ethnic, or cultural background, handicap status, religion, socio-economic background, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or other status also may warrant review. See the Student Performance Policy of the School of Social Work to review the expectations of students in the program: <https://www.ou.edu/cas/socialwork/resources>.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES

The School does not require submission of a criminal background check at the point of application; students should realize that practicum agencies may require a background check for placement. Further, applicants should realize that future employers may request a background check and that a criminal record may disqualify applicants from some social work positions or other potential professional certifications. In addition, the school, as part of its process of admission and practicum assignments, asks students whether they have a misdemeanor or felony conviction (or non-contested charge). When students have a history of criminal offense, disclosure is essential for school administration and the Field Office to assist in advocating for the student's educational opportunities.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Students can find more information on insurance and healthcare options for each campus at: <https://www.hr.ou.edu/shp>.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS

Social work students must demonstrate a degree of academic accomplishment and professional potential. Thus, students are evaluated academically in the areas of class performance, practicum experience and comprehensive examination. Satisfactory performance in the classroom, practicum and the comprehensive examination are co-requirements in meeting the minimum goals for retention and matriculation in the program.

At the graduate level, students whose GPA falls below a 3.0 are placed on probation for the following semester, i.e., conditions may be attached that must be satisfied before the student enrolls in further semesters. Once final grades are posted, the Graduate College will send written notice to any student on probation and will require the student to meet with a designated advisor to review the requirements for continuation in the program. A student admitted or retained under academic conditions shall be terminated from the program if those conditions are not met.

STUDENT ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

A student enrolling in the University of Oklahoma and the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work assumes an obligation to behave in a manner that is compatible with the institution and school as educational enterprises. It is the student's responsibility to know and abide by the OU Academic Code. This code is available online at <http://integrity.ou.edu/>

Students can report academic misconduct to faculty/staff when it occurs even if the student does not have firsthand information about the incident. Only faculty or staff may take action to file a charge or impose an admonition for academic misconduct. A student also may be accused of academic misconduct. For more information about faculty and student rights under the code, please refer to <http://integrity.ou.edu/>.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES OF FACULTY OR STAFF

The School of Anne and Henry Zarrow Social Work strives to be an institution that is responsive to the needs and concerns of the students. Grievances may be about the systems or processes within the school, incidences of bias, or problems with peers, field or classroom instructional faculty.

- When possible, students should attempt to resolve problems or concerns by first discussing their concern with the individual or instructor.
- If this is not possible, students are encouraged to consult their faculty advisors.
- Students may also consult with the Office of Student Affairs for further assistance.
- The advisor may consult with or request that the student meet with the MSW Program Director and/or Director and/or Associate Director of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.
- School faculty or administration may also consult with the university office of EEO, Title IX, ADRC, and DAO.

STUDENT IMPAIRMENT

If a person appears to be an immediate threat to themselves, or someone else or is incapable of caring for themselves, 911 will be called.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services and other state departments provide financial aid for some of their employees to attend graduate school. Federal agencies that administer scholarships for social work students include the Veterans' Administration and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Additionally, some American Indian tribes offer financial support.

The Online MSW Program is proud to offer scholarships as available. These scholarships will have an annual deadline of May 15th and will be distributed in the Fall terms. Application and additional scholarship information is distributed in the Spring term. For information on Social Work scholarships, contact Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator, Aubrey Fick, at aubreyfick@ou.edu.

For information on other scholarships, stipends, and loans, consult the University of Oklahoma, Office of Financial Aid Services at onlineaid@ou.edu. www.ou.edu/sfc

STUDENT RESOURCES

STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISING

Online MSW students are assigned a Student Success Coach who is in frequent contact throughout their academic journey. This advisor assists with scheduling, enrollment, and monitoring student academic progress. Student Success Coaches are responsible for enrolling students in courses each semester. It is important to note that OU-Online courses are not available for students to self-enroll in and this must be completed by the Student Success Coach.

ADMISSIONS/ENROLLMENT ADVISING

The Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator provides frequent email communication about deadlines and opportunities. The coordinator can assist with problem solving and linking students to University resources and can answer many of your questions.

ACADEMIC LIFE COACHING

Academic Life Coaching is a mentoring approach designed to provide individualized student support. The program provides a specially trained coaching mentor who meets regularly with their students throughout the semester. The student and the Academic Life Coach work together to identify stressors and establish goals that lead to academic success and degree completion. For more information and to request a coach, visit: <https://www.ou.edu/alc>.

ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Students may reach out to the Accessibility & Disability Resource Center (ARDC) if they self-identify as a student with a disability. Students must submit proper documentation to register with the ARDC. The type of documentation will vary by disability. To register a disability, visit <https://www.ou.edu/drc/drc-registration>. In addition to providing accommodations, the ARDC can also assist in ensuring the content in online programs is accessible and easy to navigate.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Online students have access to 24/7 mental health counseling and support through TELUS Health. This service provides on-demand counseling, scheduled counseling sessions with a licensed counselor, after-hours crisis support for urgent situations and a self-help library with resources to support your mental health journey. The counseling is completely uncapped, meaning there are no limits on the number or length of sessions students can have as long as the support remains short-term, focused on achievable goals, and clinically appropriate. For more information on how to access this service, visit: <https://www.ou.edu/online/student-resources/mental-health-services>

Students that live near the OU-Norman campus have access to the University Counseling Center's in-person services. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911, Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For students that are not local, OU also offers the Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) resource. This is an interactive, web-based program that provides effective strategies to help overcome anxiety, depression, and other common concerns. Students can register for free at: <https://us.taoconnect.org/register>.

MONEY COACHES

The MidFirst Bank MoneyCoach program assists students with financial planning, coaching and financial education strategies. Money Coaches can assist with loan repayment plans, debt management, and creating a financial plan to pay for graduate studies. They are available via e-mail, phone, in-person or video conferencing. Students may schedule an appointment by visiting <https://www.ou.edu/moneycoach>.

STUDENT ORIENTATION

All students have a series of orientation videos to review that provide an overview of the program, practicum readiness information, and ideas for success in an online program. Resources and information are held in a repository of online videos for students to review available information. In addition, there will be a live Zoom Student Orientation that will be offered, and we strongly encourage students to attend. This will be an opportunity to connect with coordinators, staff members and fellow students in the program, as well as learn more about the program and helpful tips for you as you navigate graduate school.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work encourages student participation in school events and governance. The Online MSW Program has a Social Work Student Association (SWSA) that is open for all students to join. The SWSA is a student-led organization dedicated to fostering community, professional development, and advocacy.

TUTOR.COM

Students have access to on-demand live tutors 24/7 in a wide array of subjects. They offer a drop-off writing center that guarantees a 12-hour turn-around time for feedback, along with 24/7 live support through the online writing center. To schedule a session or drop off a paper, login to canvas.ou.edu. Click on your OU Online Orientation Course, choose "Tutor.com: 24/7 Online Tutoring".

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Students have access to a wide variety of online journals, texts, and resources through the University Libraries. Students may visit <https://libraries.ou.edu> to learn more about downloading texts and locating useful resources.

WRITING CENTER

OU provides a Writing Center to assist students with writing papers. The services include helping students improve writing projects by providing resources and feedback in writing consultations, one on one consultation throughout the writing process and offering multiple ways to learn collaboratively with the staff. Consultations are offered in two formats: written feedback or video conference. The Writing Center - Wagner Hall, Room 280- is reached at (405) 325-2936 or <http://www.ou.edu/writingcenter/>.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED FOUNDATION COURSES- PREREQUISITE FOR ALL COURSES IS GRADUATE STANDING IN SOCIAL WORK.

S WK 5083 Social Work Research Methods Introduction to the design and implementation of quantitative and qualitative research methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of social work practice and policies.

S WK 5403 Professional Social Work This course is an overview of social work as a profession, including central concepts and theories, values, ethics, and career pathways. The profession's historical development is included along with a focus on poverty and economic disparity, human rights and social justice, and human diversity. It provides an introduction to the generalist practice model across system levels.

S WK 5433 Human Lifespan Development. Within a social systems framework and biopsychosocial perspective, students learn empirically based theories that deal with lifespan development and family theory. This course provides an introduction to small group dynamics and development as well as a theoretical foundation for micro and mezzo level generalist practice.

S WK 5373 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Individuals This course provides the theoretical background, practice skills, and research experience necessary for generalist social work practice and evaluation at the individual level. The generalist intervention model is the foundation for teaching the knowledge, values, skills, cognitive, and affective processes necessary for engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with individuals.

S WK 5383 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Families and Groups This course addresses foundation-level components of theory, practice, and evaluation related to generalist social work practice with families and groups. Students learn key explanatory theories about how families and groups operate and are introduced to generalist practice models for practice with these client types. Students also learn about how to effectively evaluate practice with families and groups.

S WK 5393 Theory, Practice, and Evaluation with Communities and Organizations Exploration of the generalist perspective focusing on the knowledge, values, skills, and techniques appropriate to assessment and interventions with organizations and communities.

S WK 5313 Policy Practice in Social Work: Analysis and Advocacy Prerequisite: A historical and descriptive review of federal and state social welfare programming, an introduction to practice skills of policy analysis, and advocacy in affecting development, change, or implementation of social welfare policy.

S WK 5333 Social Determinants of Health This course introduces students to the dynamic interplay between individual well-being and broader social, economic, and environmental systems. Framed through the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), the course examines how structural and environmental factors influence outcomes such as health status, educational attainment, economic opportunity, and social functioning. Students will engage with contemporary public health and social work literature to understand how identity, context, and systems interact.

SWK 5410 Foundation Year Practicum Planning Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor. This course provides structure and support to students as they complete the necessary university-based and agency-based onboarding tasks to secure an educationally focused and professionally supervised practicum placement in a community-based agency or program.

S WK 5413 Social Work Practicum I Prerequisite: SWK 5410 and permission of practicum coordinator. Professionally supervised foundation year practicum placement in an area social service agency.

S WK 5423 Social Work Practicum II Prerequisite: SWK 5410, SWK 5413. A professionally supervised practicum placement in an area social service agency; continuation of 5413.

REQUIRED ADVANCED INTEGRATIVE CONCENTRATION COURSES

S WK 5043 Intro to Advanced Integrative Practice for Advanced Standing MSW Students only! This seminar course is designed to enhance the preparation of Advanced Standing students for graduate study in the MSW Advanced Integrative Practice social work level. This course orients students to graduate level writing and research, the generalist practice model, Social Work in rural and tribal communities, simulation as a tool for skill development, and an introduction to the Decision Case model. Individualized students' professional development is emphasized.

S WK 5513 Client-Centered Direct Practice This course addresses clinical practice across the lifespan with application to individuals, families, and groups. Evidenced informed practice provides a framework within which empirically supported treatment modalities are explored as they relate to the intersecting domains of trauma, substance abuse, and mental health.

S WK 5523 Macro Systems of Practice This course utilizes an advanced generalist perspective focused on advancing the knowledge, values, skills, and techniques appropriate to engagement, assessment, and intervention with organizations and communities.

SWK 5810 Concentration Year Practicum Planning This course provides structure and support to students as they complete the necessary university-based and agency-based onboarding tasks to secure an educationally focused and professionally supervised practicum placement in a community-based agency or program.

S WK 5816 Practicum III Prerequisite: SWK 5810, SWK 5513, SWK 5523, and permission of instructor. This course offers an educationally focused and professionally supervised practicum placement in a social service agency and requires a minimum of 500 clock hours at an assigned practicum site.

S WK 5826 Practicum IV Prerequisite: SWK 5810, SWK 5513, SWK 5523, SWK 5816 and permission of instructor. This course offers an educationally focused & professionally supervised practicum placement in a social service agency & requires a minimum of 500 clock hours at an assigned practicum site.

S WK 5973 Advanced Integrative Seminar Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Social Work, S WK 5503. Seminar enables students to integrate learning experiences in advanced integrative practices through case-based learning.

ELECTIVES

Note: The School of Social Work offers a variety of electives, and not every elective is offered every year.

- Preventing & Treating Substance Abuse Disorders
- Rural Social Work
- Mental Health Diagnosis and Assessment
- Social Work with American Indians
- Social Work with Sexual and Gender Minorities
- Integrative Practice with Children & Families
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Social Work with Older Adults
- Human Services Administration
- Health & Social Work
- Tribal/US Welfare Policy
- American Indian Behavioral Health
- Hope Centered Theory & Practice

SOCIAL WORK WITH AMERICAN INDIANS CERTIFICATE

The School of Social Work offers a Social Work with American Indians Certificate. You can earn the certificate without any extra courses while completing your MSW at OU. You will be required to successfully complete the following elective courses: SWK with American Indians, American Indian Behavioral Health & Tribal/US Family & Child Welfare Policy. You will also need to successfully complete SWK 5403 Professional Social Work & SWK 5333 Social Determinants of Health OR complete 6 credits of

Practicum working with a tribe or an organization that primarily serves American Indians. If you are interested in obtaining this certificate, please contact Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator, Aubrey Fick, at aubreyfick@ou.edu.

COURSE PROGRESSIONS

The Online MSW Program offers two pathways to reach the required 60 credit hours of coursework. Each plan offers the same courses but operates at a different pace during the semester.

Option 1: Standard Plan

This plan consists of 9 semesters of coursework. Most students prefer the Standard Plan, which requires them to take 2 courses at once during most semesters. The majority of working professionals with additional personal responsibilities find this pace allows them to maximize work/life balance as online students.

Option 2: Accelerated Plan

This plan consists of 7 semesters of coursework. For students with more time available, such as those who work part-time, the Accelerated Plan will allow you to progress faster toward graduation. Under the Accelerated Plan, students take 3 classes at a time during most semesters. The courses are the same as those in the Standard Plan; only the number of courses taken per semester changes.

Students who begin on the Standard Plan are unable to switch to the Accelerated Plan at a later date. Students who begin on the Accelerated Plan may switch to the Standard Plan if they decide to move at a less strenuous pace. Student Success Coaches will assist in making any changes and will help you stay on track toward graduation. It is important to be aware of financial aid requirements, add/drop dates, and withdrawal procedures.

FALL START-60 HOUR PROGRAM- STANDARD PLAN

FALL 1	SWK 5403	Professional Social Work
FALL 1	SWK 5333	Social Determinants of Health
SPRING 1	SWK 5433	Human Lifespan Development
SPRING 1	SWK 5373	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Individuals
SUMMER 1	SWK ****	Elective
SUMMER 1	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 2	SWK 5383	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Families & Groups
FALL 2	SWK 5083	Social Work Research Methods
FALL 2	SWK 5410	Foundation Year Practicum Planning
SPRING 2	SWK 5393	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Organizations & Communities
SPRING 2	SWK 5413	Practicum I
SPRING 2	SWK 5313	Policy Practice in Social Work
SUMMER 2	SWK 5423	Practicum II
SUMMER 2	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 3	SWK 5523	Macro Systems in Practice
FALL 3	SWK 5513	Client Centered Direct Practice
FALL 3	SWK 5420	Concentration Year Practicum Planning
SPRING 3	SWK 5816	Practicum III
SPRING 3	SWK 5973	Advanced Integrative Seminar

SUMMER 3	SWK 5826	Practicum IV
August Graduation		

SPRING START-60 HOUR PROGRAM- STANDARD PLAN

SPRING 1	SWK 5403	Professional Social Work
SRRING 1	SWK 5333	Social Determinants of Health
SUMMER 1	SWK ****	Elective
SUMMER 1	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 1	SWK 5373	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Individuals
FALL 1	SWK 5433	Human Lifespan Development
SPRING 2	SWK 5083	Social Work Research Methods
SPRING 2	SWK 5383	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Families & Groups
SPRING 2	SWK 5410	Foundation Year Practicum Planning
SUMMER 2	SWK 5423	Practicum I
SUMMER 2	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 2	SWK 5413	Practicum II
FALL 2	SWK 5393	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Organizations & Communities
FALL 2	SWK 5313	Policy Practice in Social Work
SPRING 3	SWK 5513	Client Centered Direct Practice
SPRING 3	SWK 5523	Macro Systems in Practice
SPRING 3	SWK 5810	Concentration Year Practicum Planning
SUMMER 3	SWK 5816	Practicum III
FALL 3	SWK 5826	Practicum IV
FALL 3	SWK 5973	Advanced Integrative Seminar
December Graduation		

FALL START-60 HOUR PROGRAM- ACCELERATED PLAN

FALL 1	SWK 5403	Professional Social Work
FALL 1	SWK 5333	Social Determinants of Health
FALL 1	SWK 5433	Human Lifespan Development
SPRING 1	SWK 5373	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Individuals
SPRING 1	SWK 5083	Social Work Research Methods
SPRING 1	SWK 5313	Policy Practice in Social Work
SPRING 1	SWK 5410	Foundation Year Practicum Planning
SUMMER 1	SWK 5383	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Families & Groups
SUMMER 1	SWK 5413	Practicum I
FALL 2	SWK 5393	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Organizations & Communities
FALL 2	SWK 5423	Practicum II
FALL 2	SWK ****	Elective
SPRING 2	SWK 5513	Client Centered Direct Practice
SPRING 2	SWK 5523	Macro Systems in Practice
SPRING 2	SWK ****	Elective
SPRING 2	SWK 5810	Concentration Year Practicum Planning
SUMMER 2	SWK 5816	Practicum III
SUMMER 2	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 3	SWK 5973	Advanced Integrative Seminar

SUMMER 3	SWK 5826	Practicum IV
December Graduation		

SPRING START-60 HOUR PROGRAM- ACCELERATED PLAN

SPRING 1	SWK 5403	Professional Social Work
SPRING 1	SWK 5333	Social Determinants of Health
SPRING 1	SWK 5433	Human Lifespan Development
SUMMER 1	SWK 5373	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Individuals
SUMMER 1	SWK 5083	Social Work Research Methods
SUMMER 1	SWK 5410	Foundation Year Practicum Planning
FALL 1	SWK 5313	Policy Practice in Social Work
FALL 1	SWK 5383	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Families & Groups
FALL 1	SWK 5413	Practicum I
SPRING 2	SWK 5393	Theory, Practice & Evaluation with Organizations & Communities
SPRING 2	SWK 5423	Practicum II
SPRING 2	SWK ****	Elective
SUMMER 2	SWK 5513	Client Centered Direct Practice
SUMMER 2	SWK ****	Elective
SUMMER 2	SWK 5810	Concentration Year Practicum Planning
FALL 2	SWK ****	Elective
FALL 2	SWK 5816	Practicum III
FALL 2	SWK 5523	Macro Systems in Practice
SPRING 3	SWK 5973	Advanced Integrative Seminar
SPRING 3	SWK 5826	Practicum IV
May Graduation		

SUMMER START-ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM

SUMMER 1	SWK 5043	Intro to Advanced Integrative Practice
SUMMER 1	SWK 5****	Elective
FALL 1	SWK 5513	Client Centered Direct Practice
FALL 1	SWK 5523	Macro Systems in Practice
FALL 1	SWK 5810	Concentration Year Practicum Planning
SPRING 1	SWK 5816	Practicum III
SPRING 1	SWK 5973	Integrative Seminar
SPRING 1	SWK 5***	Elective
SUMMER 2	SWK 5826	Practicum IV
SUMMER 2	SWK 5***	Elective
August Graduation		