

Social Work

College of Social Work

The College of Social Work offers a graduate curriculum of full-time and part-time study, leading to the Master of Social Work degree. This program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The MSW degree is designed to prepare students for advanced practice in the field of social work.

Master of Social Work

Application Requirements

Students must meet the general requirements of the Graduate School, as listed elsewhere in this Bulletin, as well as other specific requirements of the College of Social Work for the Master of Social Work degree as indicated below.

1. Applicants who do not qualify for advanced standing must earn 60 hours of credit with a grade-point average of 3.0 or above and no more than one course grade below a “B”. Fifty-four of these credits must be in the required social work courses either for the Community and Social Development or Clinical Social Work concentrations and students complete six hours of electives. Minimum academic requirements for admission to the 60-hour program are: baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning with a grade point average of 3.0 and a grade point average of 3.0 on all graduate work attempted. Applicants with less than a 3.0 UGPA will be placed in a “Waiting List” pool where the minimum GPA requirement for admission is the Graduate School’s 2.75 GPA. Only a limited number of applicants will be admitted from this pool. These students must submit a “Petition for Exceptional Consideration”. It is recommended that they take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) as well. All applicants must complete the College’s application form and the Graduate School’s application form, submit transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, three letters of recommendation, resume, as well as autobiographical and values statements.
2. Advanced standing of 21 credit hours may be granted in the Master of Social Work program to graduates of social work programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education who earned:
 - a) an overall 3.0 GPA, and
 - b) a 3.5 GPA in their social work major.Additionally, some work experience is preferred.

Degree Requirements

All MSW students must complete the final comprehensive examination. This examination covers the foundation and concentration areas of the student’s educational program to determine the breadth and depth of knowledge acquired for professional practice.

Doctor of Philosophy

The College offers a program leading to a Ph.D. degree through the Joint UK-U of L Ph.D. in Social Work Program which draws upon the academic resources of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Faculty members from both schools participate on students’ dissertation committees.

The program consists of a minimum of 44 credits of post-master’s course work plus 4 hours of dissertation research. Students are required to complete a core curriculum of 26 hours and to pass the Preliminary Exam. Students work on an individualized plan of study of 15 credit hours that includes scholarly study of an area of social work practice or research (9 credit hours) and pertinent research and teaching practica

(6 credit hours). These courses assist the student in developing a dissertation research area. Students are also required to complete a course on teaching (3 credit hours). After meeting these requirements, students take the Qualifying Examination which consists of a defense of the dissertation proposal. After successfully passing the Qualifying Exam, 4 hours of dissertation research and a dissertation must be completed.

The major aim of the program is to produce scholars with skills to expand the base of tested knowledge that can guide the profession of social work in addressing major social problems as well as to meet the challenges facing the doctoral level researcher and educator. The program emphasizes theory development and research.

Core Curriculum (29 credit hours)

Theory Development in the Social Work Profession	(3)
Advanced Analysis of Social Welfare Problems	(3)
Human Behavior & Change Theories	(3)
Ethics, Social Work & Society	(3)
Social Work Research I	(3)
Social Work Research II	(3)
Statistics (e.g., STA 570)	(3-4)
Statistics for Social Work II	(3)
Professional Seminar I	(1)
Professional Seminar II	(1)
Teaching in Social Work	(3)

Preliminary Examination

Individualized Plan of Study (15 credit hours)

Course work in an area of scholarly study	(9)
Research/Teaching Practica (3 hrs. must be in research)	(6)

Qualifying Exam

Dissertation Research	(4)
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Admission Requirements

Applicants must have career objectives consistent with the social work profession and demonstrate strong potential to complete a vigorous academic program as evidenced in the following:

- a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by or judged to be equivalent by CSWE (applicants with other master's degrees can also be considered);
- at least two years' post-master's full-time, paid experience in social work preferred;
- an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and a graduate GPA of 3.5;
- official transcripts from each college/university attended;
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores of 1,000 when verbal and quantitative sections are summed;
- three letters of reference (two academic and one from employer)
- a writing sample or publication
- an autobiography that describes career and research interests and the rationale for pursuing a doctoral degree.

Graduate Courses

SW 505	Child Welfare Services	(2-3)
SW 511	Genocide: Intervention With Survivors And Global Prevention	(3)
SW 512	Social Work In The Criminal Justice System	(3)
SW 514	Alcoholism And Problem Drinking	(2-3)
SW 515	Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities I (same as RC 515)	(3)
SW 516	Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities II (same as RC 516)	(3)
SW 523	Social Perspectives On Racism And Ethnic Prejudices In America	(2-3)
SW 571	Social Work And The Law	(3)
SW 580	Topical Seminar In Social Work	(2-4)
SW 600	Theory-Informed Practice With Individuals	(3)
SW 601	Theory -Informed Practice With Families	(3)
SW 602	Theory-Informed Practice With Groups	(3)
SW 603	Social Work Practice With Children And Youth	(2)
SW 606	Seminar In Criminal Justice Processes	(2)
SW 612	Seminar On Social Work Practice With Women	(2-3)
SW 613	Urban Ecology And Aging	(2-3)
SW 616	Social Work Practice In School Settings	(2-3)
SW 617	Family Violence: Social Work Interventions	(2-3)
SW 618	Social Work Practice With Gay And Lesbian People	(2-3)
SW 624	Perspectives On Human Sexuality (same as FAM 624)	(3)
SW 626	Forensic Mental Health: Evaluation And Treatment	(2-3)
SW 627	Collaborative Practice: Substance Abuse, Mental Health And Social Services	(2-3)
SW 630	Introduction To Social Welfare Policy	(3)
SW 635	Introduction To Professional Ethics	(2)
SW 640	Foundation Practicum	(3)
SW 643	Biomedical Aspects Of Aging (same as GRN 643)	(3)
SW 650	Research Methods In Social Work	(3)
SW 680	Special Problems In Social Work Practice	(2-6)
SW 701	Asset-Based Community Development And Assessment	(2-3)
SW 702	Substance Misuse, Violence And Risk Management	(3)
SW 704	Child Assessment And Treatment	(3)
SW 718	Clinical Decision-Making	(3)
SW 720	Social Work Perspectives On Human And Cultural Diversity	(2)
SW 721	Poverty And Inequality	(3)
SW 722	Psychopathology For Social Work Practice	(3)
SW 724	Assessment And Treatment Planning	(3)
SW 726	Psychopathology II	(3)
SW 728	Comparative Treatment Modalities	(3)
SW 730	Evidence-Based Practices	(3)
SW 731	Advanced Social Welfare Policy And Analysis	(3)
SW 733	Community-Informed Organizational Interventions	(3)
SW 734	Integrative Seminar For Clinical Social Work	(3)
SW 735	Integrative Seminar For Community and Social Development	(3)
SW 737	Non-Profit Management In Human Services	(3)
SW 740	Clinical Social Work Practicum I	(3)
SW 741	Community And Social Development Practicum I	(3)
SW 742	Clinical Social Work Practicum II	(3)
SW 743	Community And Social Development Practicum II	(3)
SW 749	Dissertation Research	(0)

SW 750	Clinical Social Work Advanced Research	(3)
SW 751	Community And Social Development Advanced Research	(3)
SW 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
SW 769	Residence Credit For The Doctor's Degree	(0-12)
SW 770	Doctoral Research I	(3)
SW 771	Doctoral Research II	(3)
SW 773	Doctoral Statistics II	(3)
SW 780	Independent Work	(1-6)
SW 781	Theory Development In The Social Work Profession	(3)
SW 782	Advanced Analysis Of Social Problems, Policy And Practice	(3)
SW 783	Human Behavior And Change Theories In Social Work Practice	(3)
SW 784	Ethics, Social Work And Society	(3)
SW 785	Proseminar In Social Work Research	(1)
SW 786	Doctoral Research Practicum	(3-6)
SW 787	Doctoral Teaching Practicum	(3-6)
SW 788	Research In Social Work Seminar	(3)
SW 790	Seminar In Teaching And Learning	(3)
SW 795	Advanced Doctoral Seminar In Social Work (Subtitle Required)	(3)