Social Work

Degrees Offered

• Master of Social Work
• Dual MSW/MPA

Mission Statement and Overview of the Program

The mission of the MSW program is to educate students to become advanced integrated practice social workers. The specialization in advanced integrated practice builds on generalist practice and prepares students to integrate micro, mezzo, and macro practice skills across service sectors and within interdisciplinary teams to effectively address social and human problems pertinent to a wide range of professional practice areas, with a particular emphasis on effective models of rural service delivery. The advanced integrated practice curriculum provides an integrative approach to social work where students are prepared for both direct practice and administrative roles. This curriculum prepares WVU MSW graduates to be well-rounded advanced practitioners who can respond to the complex realities of practice in a variety of roles and settings.

Full-time Advanced Standing students who have already earned a BSW from a CSWE Accredited University within the previous 8 years begin in mid-May and complete their degree in one calendar year (12 months). Part-time Advanced Standing and full- and part-time Regular Standing students (those who have earned a Bachelor's degree in another field of study) start in the fall. Part-time Advanced Standing students finish in the summer after their second year of classes, and part-time Regular Standing students finish in the summer after their third year of classes. The WVU MSW program is nationally accredited by the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE).

A dual degree option resulting in the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Public Administration (MPA) degrees is also available through the School of Social Work and the Department of Public Administration for full-time students. The MSW/MPA dual degree program can be completed in 3 years for Regular Standing students or 2 years for Advanced Standing students, including summer coursework. Students can learn more about the MPA degree here: https://publicadmin.wvu.edu/students/master-of-public-administration

Students interested in applying for the MSW program should consult the website: http://socialwork.wvu.edu or contact:

MSW Admissions
School of Social Work
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6830
Morgantown, WV 26506-6830

Phone: (304) 293-3280
Email: socialwork@mail.wvu.edu

Students interested in the dual degree program must apply to and be accepted by each program (MSW and MPA) separately.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the MSW program are employed throughout the United States and internationally. They work as individual, family, and group treatment specialists, planners, community organizers, and social researchers. They also work as social work educators and as administrators in a variety of programs such as mental health clinics, hospitals, correctional institutions, courts, delinquency programs, aging programs, family counseling agencies, child protective agencies, public welfare departments, child development programs, drug and alcohol abuse programs, public schools, community action agencies, settlement houses, city governments, state government planning agencies, federal administrative agencies, and private research and development organizations concerned with human problems.

There has been a constant growth in the need for professional social workers. It is anticipated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other research bodies that the employment demand for social workers will continue to increase in numbers and in varieties of programs. The WVU MSW social work curriculum is designed to help students prepare for these careers.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

• Deana Morrow - Ph.D. (North Carolina State University)
  Social Work Education, Social Work Practice Regulations, Sexual Minority Populations, Older Adults, Mental Health
MASTER’S PROGRAM DIRECTOR
• Mary LeCloux - Ph.D. (Simmons College)
  Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Health Service Disparities, Evidence-Based Social Work Practice

PROFESSORS
• Elise Fullmer - Ph.D. (State University of New York Albany)
  Rural Social Work, Aging, LGBT and Gender Studies
• Karen V. Harper-Dorton - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Professor and Chair, Title IV-E Project in Child Welfare, Rural Social Work, Social Administration
• Helen Hartnett - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Homelessness, Community Practice, Program Evaluation, Social Geography
• Kristina Hash - Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  Aging and Healthcare, Family Caregiving, Geriatric Education, Technology, Conflict Coaching and Meditation
• Deana Morrow - Ph.D. (North Carolina State University)
  Social Work Education, Social Work Practice Regulations, Sexual Minority Populations, Older Adults, Mental Health
• Carrie Rishel - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Rural Integrated Health Training Director; Children’s Mental/Behavioral Health, Prevention of Mental Health Problems, Risk and Protective Factors Related to Child Outcomes, Prevention-Focused Social Work Practice, Integrated Models of Service Delivery
• Leslie Tower - Ph.D. (Barry University)
  Women’s Issues, Health Care Administration, Domestic Violence
• Michael Zakour - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Organizations and Communities, Non-Profit Management, Disaster Response

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Neal Newfield - Ph.D. (Texas Tech University)
  Strategic Therapy, Hypnosis, Solution-Focused Therapy, Mindfulness and Cognitive Therapy, International Social Work, Human Trafficking, Social Documentary Photography

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• HaeJung Kim - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
• Mary LeCloux - Ph.D. (Simmons College)
  Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Health Service Disparities, Evidence-Based Social Work Practice
• Jiyoun Tabone - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Child Maltreatment and Later Outcomes, Prevention and Intervention Research, Mental Health Service, Risk and Resilience, Program Evaluation

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Linda Ferrise - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Baccalaureate Program Director; Social Work Practice, Child Welfare

INSTRUCTORS AND FACULTY EQUIVALENTS
• Carol Amendola - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Baccalaureate Program Coordinator; Social Work Practice, Child Welfare
• Rachel Blais - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Field Education Coordinator
• Jeremy Speer - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Adult and Childhood Traumas, Children’s Mental Health, Effectiveness of Play Therapy and Experiential Techniques
• Jacqueline Englehardt - MSW (West Virginia University)
  MSW Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator; Nonprofit Management, Continuing Education Certificate Programs, Professional Development

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
• Rebekah Bledsoe - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Title IV-E, Child Welfare
EMERITUS FACULTY
- Marjorie H. Buckholz-Cleveland - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Patricia Chase - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
- Roger A. Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Nancy Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Caroline T. Mudd - MSW (University of Pennsylvania)

MSW Admission Process
The School of Social Work has adopted an online application process. Please carefully read and follow all instructions as outlined.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Please remember that all required materials must be received and processed by the following deadline dates. Keep in mind transcripts, references, and test scores often take longer than anticipated to arrive.

- January 15 is the deadline for full time, Advanced Standing applicants and the early deadline for all other applicants
- March 1 is the deadline for part time Advanced Standing, full-time and part-time Regular Standing applicants.

REQUIREMENTS
Note: Materials marked with an * must be uploaded/submitted at https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/ in the Supplemental Material section.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE
- At least a 2.75 overall GPA is required from the institution granting applicant’s undergraduate degree, though a 3.0 GPA is preferred.
- A 3.0 or higher GPA for advanced-standing applicants (those with a BSW from an accredited undergraduate program within the past 8 years) in their undergraduate social work courses.

REGULAR STANDING
- Domestic applicants: Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- International applicants: Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution

ADVANCED-STANDING
- Domestic applicants who have received a BSW from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program within the last eight years may apply for Advanced-Standing.
- International applicants who have received a BSW from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program, recognized through its International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Services, or covered under a memorandum of understanding with international social work accreditors within the last eight years may apply for advanced-standing.
- Advanced-Standing enables the baccalaureate-holding social worker to move directly to the program’s advanced curriculum, waiving foundation-level courses as well as the foundation field experience

APPLICATION PROCESS
APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE*
- The application for the MSW program (and instructions) can be accessed at the following link: https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply
- The application fee is $60

TRANSCRIPT
Submit official transcripts to the WVU Office of Graduate Admissions at P.O. Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506

RESUME*
Submit a current resume including employment and volunteer experience

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION*
Three letters of recommendation are required. Contact information for these individuals should be provided within the online Graduate Application. Please submit a recommendation from each of the following categories:

1. Academic** (see note for advanced-standing applicants below)
2. Social Work/Human Service Experience (volunteer or paid)
3. Employer
**Advanced-standing applicants must submit a supporting recommendation from the director of their undergraduate program. Use this as the academic recommendation.**

**TESTING**

- Applicants with an undergraduate GPA above 3.0 do not have to take the Graduate Records Examination (GRE).
- Applicants whose undergraduate GPA is below 3.0 (and above a 2.75) must take the GRE. Official copies of test scores must be sent directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) to WVU. Our Institution code is 5904.
- International Students whose first language is not English must take and submit official test results for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The GRE is also required if GPA is below 3.0 (and above a 2.75).

**ADMISSION ESSAY**

This essay is an essential part of the student's admission application. This is the student's opportunity to communicate with the Graduate Program Committee members about their professional goals. Before submitting, make certain that the essay gives the reader a clear picture of your personal interests, experiences, and professional objectives. Once complete, please upload the Admissions Essay to your online application under the “Personal Statement” tab.

The Admission Essay must address each of the following:

**Human Services and Community Work**

Please discuss any volunteer or paid experiences in human services, community work, and/or other experiences that contributed to your choice of social work as a profession. The Program Committee is looking for evidence of some leadership ability, experience, or interest in working with diverse populations or oppressed groups; commitment to social and economic justice; and other interests congruent with WVU's School of Social Work mission and social work practice in a rural setting.

**Professional Ethics**

The NASW Code of Ethics includes the following statement:

“Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance a client's capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts between client's interests and the broader society’s interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.”

Using a specific experience you have had with someone/some group different than you (in terms of race, socioeconomic background, gender, religion, sexual orientation, culture, age, etc.), discuss what challenges you had and what lessons you learned from this. How did the interaction affect your personal views about this individual/group? How will you reconcile any conflicts between your personal values and the requirement of the profession?

**Social Work Practice**

Please describe an aspect of social work that interests you most and explain how you became interested in this issue. Identify how you think social work, as a profession, should respond to this issue. Feel free to describe a response at the policy, program, or practice levels of social work.

**Addendum**

If necessary, applicants should submit an addendum that addresses any gaps or deficiencies in their academic record, including incomplete grades, withdrawals from courses, etc.

**Advanced-Standing Applicants must also submit a Case Study**

Contact the School of Social Work for the Case Study by emailing socialwork@mail.wvu.edu Please limit your response to 500 words.

Your description headings should include the following:

- **Assessment** – A summary of the essential case data, including age, ethnicity, race, presenting problem, history of the problem, coping abilities. (If the assessment is based on a group or organization, describe the type of group/organization, membership makeup, and purpose.

- **Case Plan** – Describe a hypothetical case plan and how it relates to the assessment evaluation.

- **Interventions** – Describe and analyze some hypothetical practice interventions and how they are related to the case plan or assessment formulation.

- **Evaluation** – Critically analyze the strength and limitations of your proposed interventions. Are there potential barriers or obstacles that you might face if you were to engage with this client system in real life?
Degree Requirements

- **Standing:**
  --Regular Standing: includes students who have completed a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than Social Work. Regular Standing students have the possibility to complete their program in 9 semesters, online, with a part-time student status.
  --Advanced Standing: reserved for students who have earned a Council on Social Work Education accredited baccalaureate degree in Social Work. Advanced Standing students have the possibility to complete their program in 6 semesters, online, with a part-time student status.

- **Credit Hours:**
  --Regular Standing students are required to complete a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in Social Work at the 500 and 600 level.
  --Advanced Standing students are required to complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours in Social Work at the 600 level.

- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in all SOWK courses.

- **Graduation Requirement:** Students must complete required coursework.

- **Benchmarks:** In addition to maintaining GPA requirements, students must pass all field courses, adhere to academic standards, and demonstrate professional ethics consistent with social work practice (see MSW Handbook for details).

- **Additional Requirements:**
  --Regular Standing students are required to complete two community-based field internships (generalist, 3 credits; advanced; 9 credits)
  --Advanced Standing students are required to complete one advanced community-based field internship (9 credits).

- **Dual M.S.W./M.P.A.:** A dual degree option resulting in the master of social work (M.S.W.) and master of public administration (M.P.A.) is available through the School of Social Work and the Division of Public Administration.

Curriculum Requirements: Regular Standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalist Courses</th>
<th>24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 513</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 540</td>
<td>Generalist Practice 1: Individuals, Families, and Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 531</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy and Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 530</td>
<td>Professional Identity and Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 541</td>
<td>Generalist Practice 2: Rural Community Macro Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581</td>
<td>Generalist Field Experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Courses</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 616</td>
<td>Evaluation Research in Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Deliberation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 643</td>
<td>Assessment and Diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 649</td>
<td>Practice with Individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>Practice with Families and Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 654</td>
<td>Organizational Administration and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 656</td>
<td>Financial Management and Grant Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select two of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 626</td>
<td>Child Mental Health: Promotion, Prevention, and Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 627</td>
<td>Clinical Practice in Integrated Healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 675</td>
<td>Addiction and Social Work Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 680</td>
<td>Child Welfare Continuum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 645</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 681</td>
<td>Rural Gerontology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 60
Curriculum Requirements: Advanced Standing

**Advanced Courses**

- SOWK 616 Evaluation Research in Social Work
- SOWK 633 Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Deliberation
- SOWK 643 Assessment and Diagnosis
- SOWK 649 Practice with Individuals
- SOWK 650 Practice with Families and Groups
- SOWK 654 Organizational Administration and Leadership
- SOWK 656 Financial Management and Grant Writing
- SOWK 682 Advanced Field Experience

**Electives**

Select two of the following:

- SOWK 626 Child Mental Health: Promotion, Prevention, and Treatment
- SOWK 627 Clinical Practice in Integrated Healthcare
- SOWK 675 Addiction and Social Work Practice
- SOWK 680 Child Welfare Continuum
- GERO 645 Fundamentals of Gerontology
- GERO 681 Rural Gerontology

Total Hours: 36

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY: REGULAR STANDING**

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Summer Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>3 SOWK 513</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 SOWK 643</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 530</td>
<td>3 SOWK 531</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 SOWK 649</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 540</td>
<td>3 SOWK 541</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 SOWK 654</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581</td>
<td>3 SOWK 581</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 12 + 12 + 9 = 36

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>3 SOWK 656</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>3 SOWK 616</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>4 SOWK 682</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK Elective 1</td>
<td>3 SOWK Elective 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 13 + 14 = 27

Total credit hours: 60

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY: PART-TIME REGULAR STANDING**

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 530</td>
<td>3 SOWK 513</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 540</td>
<td>3 SOWK 531</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 6 + 6 = 12

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>3 SOWK 541</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581</td>
<td>3 SOWK Elective 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 9 + 6 = 15

Total credit hours: 30
Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 SOWK 654</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>3 SOWK 656</td>
<td>3 SOWK 682</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK Elective 2</td>
<td>3 SOWK 682</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours: 60

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY: ADVANCED STANDING**

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 643</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 649</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 654</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>3 SOWK 656</td>
<td>3 SOWK 643</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>4 SOWK 682</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK Elective 1</td>
<td>3 SOWK Elective 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours: 36

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY: PART-TIME ADVANCED STANDING**

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 SOWK 643</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK Elective 1</td>
<td>3 SOWK Elective 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 SOWK 654</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>3 SOWK 682</td>
<td>3 SOWK 682</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours: 36

**DIRECT PRACTICE AREA OF EMPHASIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 618</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 643</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 649</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION AREA OF EMPHASIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 616</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 651</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 654</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 656</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DUAL M.S.W/M.P.A.

A dual degree option resulting in the master of social work (M.S.W.) and master of public administration (M.P.A.) is available through the School of Social Work and the Division of Public Administration. For a student admitted to the regular M.S.W. program, a total of eighty-two credit hours are required to meet the dual degree requirements. For a student admitted to the advanced standing M.S.W. program, a total of sixty-nine credit hours are required to meet dual degree requirements. Many students complete such requirements through one or more additional semesters of study beyond the semesters required for the M.S.W. degree. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of each program.

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG03

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is available to students who meet WVU graduate admission requirements and have an interest in learning more about the aging processes and older people. The certificate affords students an opportunity to explore the basic biological, psychological, and sociological processes of aging; the effects on needs and experiences of older people; and the impact of social policies related to human aging. An understanding of the unique problems and needs of older adults in Appalachia and other rural areas is emphasized.

- The certificate requires fifteen graduate credits as detailed below.
- A 3.0 grade-point average must be maintained in all certificate coursework.

Coordination of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology was assumed by the Beatrice Ruth Burgess Center for WV Families and Communities of the WVU School of Social Work in Fall 2009. As Certificate requirements are reviewed, it is possible that some of them may be modified. You may want to check this site periodically or contact Dr. Kristina Hash, Director of the Gerontology Certificate Program, for the latest information about program requirements.

Students must apply to be enrolled in the certificate program. An application may be obtained from Dr. Hash who may be contacted at kmhash@mail.wvu.edu or (304) 293-8807.

Curriculum Requirements for Gerontology Certificate Program are as follows:

A grade of B- or better must be earned in all required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GERO 512</td>
<td>Public Policy of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 681</td>
<td>Rural Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 628</td>
<td>Aging Women &amp; Cultural Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 695</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 751</td>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives (Select two of the following courses)</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 653</td>
<td>End of Life Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 572</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERO 645</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 754</td>
<td>Decision Analysis in Healthcare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

For further information, please consult the Summer Institute on Aging’s website, https://sioa.wvu.edu/gerontology-certificate, or contact Dr. Kris Hash at kmhash@mail.wvu.edu.

Major Learning Outcomes

SOCIAL WORK

The mission of the MSW program is to provide students with skills in direct practice with individuals, families, and groups, as well as program and agency administration, community development, and macro-level practice. In addition, students are trained in how to utilize these skills to foster successful interprofessional practice in a wide variety of settings. Specifically, graduates of the MSW program will be prepared to:

1. Formulate and implement integrated service delivery models appropriate to advanced practice with diverse client populations at multi-system levels.

2. Design and conduct brief and/or on-going assessment and intervention methods consistent with integrated systems and context of practice.

3. Construct an integrated evidence-informed theoretical framework appropriate to the level and context of practice situations.

4. Organize collaboration with other professions to coordinate intervention efforts suitable to the practice situation.
5. Design and conduct collaborative, practice-based evaluation methods and apply findings to improve practice, policy, and/or service delivery effectiveness.

Field Instruction

Field instruction provides the student with an opportunity to test classroom knowledge as well as to develop and refine advanced-practice skills. Field instruction opportunities are available throughout West Virginia and adjacent areas as well as in a select number of settings outside the region.

Full-time regular-standing M.S.W. students have a generalist field experience during the second semester of study. Advanced-field placement is typically completed on a concurrent plan requiring sixteen–twenty-four hours of field instruction activity each week throughout the second year of study according to degree plans.

Students are required to take at least three credits of classroom coursework concurrently with the advanced field placement and to complete assignments designed to facilitate the integration of field and classroom study. Decisions regarding the field placement assignment are jointly reached by the student, faculty advisor, and field instruction coordinator. Only sites on the School of Social Work’s list of approved agencies may be used for field instruction.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements for Good Standing

All graduate courses must be completed with a grade of B or better; students may repeat any course for which the final grade is less than B one time only. Students are required to maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a four-point scale) to continue in the program, to be eligible for field instruction, and to be eligible for graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Course Credits</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generalist Field Credits</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581 Generalist Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682 Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Course Credits</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682 Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSES

SOWK 513. Research Methods. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Introduction to social work research methods, with the unifying theme of the importance of evidence-based practice. Content prepares students to develop, use, and communicate empirically based knowledge effectively. Research knowledge is used to provide high-quality services; initiate change to improve practice, policy and social service delivery; and evaluate practice at all levels.

SOWK 520. Human Behavior in the Social Environment. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Theories underlying human behavior within the social environment, including human development as well as behavior within families, groups, organizations, and communities. Special attention is given to issues of human diversity and the challenges and opportunities offered by rural environments.

SOWK 530. Professional Identity and Social Justice. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Provides the basic framework for generalist social work practice, theory, and professional values. Examines social work practice from an empowerment, human rights and social justice perspective. Addresses contemporary issues in social work reflecting the unique needs of diverse populations, settings and social conditions.

SOWK 531. Social Welfare Policy and Programs. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Development of foundational understanding and appraisal of social welfare policies and programs in the United States, and of the historical and contemporary forces that shaped their development. Introduces conceptual approaches to policy analysis and assesses selected social policies, programs regarding income maintenance, health care and social services with emphasis on impact in rural areas.
SOWK 540. Generalist Practice 1: Individuals, Families, and Groups. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Development of a generalist framework for social work practice at the micro and mezzo levels. Reinforcement of engagement, assessment, and intervention skills with attention to strengths-based perspective and multi-culturally competent social work practice. Focus on developing theoretical knowledge as well as practicing and applying specific techniques necessary for generalist social work practice.

SOWK 541. Generalist Practice 2: Rural Community Macro Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Students learn to identify and understand social problems in rural communities. Development of knowledge and skills in community and organizational practice to assist rural communities effectively, to enhance their empowerment through acquisition and mobilization of resources.

SOWK 547. Multicultural Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Understanding and appreciating human differences as encountered in professional practice. Practicing with sensitivity to influences such differences may present to the social worker.

SOWK 572. Contemporary Issues in Aging. 3 Hours.
Intended for students who have an interest in health and aging. The opportunity to attend a broad array of workshops on current issues and skills related to practice with older adults and their families.

SOWK 581. Generalist Field Experience. 3-6 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Community-based generalist field placement and an integrative seminar. Students learn to apply generalist engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills. Students also acquire an understanding of responding to social and human problems within the context of social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 593. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

SOWK 616. Evaluation Research in Social Work. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Prepares students to evaluate social work practice and health and human services programs. Students learn to design an evaluation study, collecting qualitative and quantitative data, and to report and interpret results while adhering to ethical research standards.

SOWK 618. Personal Practice Assessment. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 513 or consent. The use of single-system evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of social work interventions, with an emphasis on using these tools to guide practice decision making.

SOWK 619. Social Work in Vietnam and Cambodia. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 520 and SOWK 540 and SOWK 513 and SOWK 531 and SOWK 621 and SOWK 633. Travel course which examines issues related to assessment and intervention in community health/mental health in Vietnam and Cambodia.

SOWK 621. Human Behavior/Diversity and Social Justice. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 540 and SOWK 540 or advanced standing. Advanced content on human behavior in the social environment with special emphasis on vulnerable populations and social justice issues of concern to social workers.

SOWK 625. Social Work in Northern Ireland. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 520 and SOWK 513 and SOWK 540 and SOWK 531 and SOWK 621 and SOWK 633. Travel course which examines issues related to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

SOWK 626. Child Mental Health: Promotion, Prevention, and Treatment. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Examines the structure of the United StatesÆ public mental health system for children and related policy issues. Analysis of mental-health construct across a prevention-treatment continuum. Students learn to distinguish universal, selected, and indicated prevention from treatment. Risk and protective factors, evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions are evaluated throughout the course.

SOWK 627. Clinical Practice in Integrated Healthcare. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Prepares students to address challenges of integrating services for persons with health, mental health and substance use problems. Addresses language and culture of health, theories and models for integrated health care. Examines role of behavioral health providers in primary care settings. Examines multidisciplinary team practice and best practices for assessment and intervention.

SOWK 633. Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Deliberation. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Focus is on contribution of social work and social welfare to the human condition and communities. Analyzes ideologies and values, and their impact on policy and social work practice. Students analyze social problems and issues, and reach conclusions about strategies to empower clients.

SOWK 641. Social Work with Groups. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 621 or consent. Theory and skills for working with a variety of groups and settings. Focus on dynamics and roles of social workers and group members.

SOWK 643. Assessment and Diagnosis. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Analyzes mental illness assessment and diagnosis from a social work perspective. Examines the impact of major mental illnesses on diverse client populations across the life cycle and multi-level systems. Assessment, diagnostic, and intervention strategies are provided for advancing social work methods of assessment and diagnosis within integrated practice settings.
SOWK 644. Brief Therapy. 3 Hours.
Solution Focus Therapy and how it is applied to working with individuals, couples and families. Content: Assessment, stages, goal setting, conducting sessions, interventions, tailoring therapy to address problems, family preservation, abuse, neglect, substance abuse and divorce.

SOWK 645. Supervision in Social Work. 3 Hours.
Practice course. PR: SOWK 621 or consent. Functions, conflicts, and dynamics of supervision of professionals, and the relationship of ethical and value principles.

SOWK 649. Practice with Individuals. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Focus on social work theories and methods consistent with integrated practice with individuals. Emphasis on evidence-based theories and methods relevant to integrated practice in contemporary settings. Advanced integrated practice addressed within a context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 650. Practice with Families and Groups. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Exploration of advanced integrated social work practice with families and groups. Emphasis on group work and family intervention relevant to integrated practice in contemporary settings, the context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 651. Community Organization Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 513 and SOWK 520 and SOWK 531 and SOWK 540. Practice issues in skill development and community organization and development with special emphasis on rural communities.

SOWK 653. End of Life Care. 3 Hours.
Online course focused on social work with those who are dying and bereaved by death. Elective course to prepare the student for social work practice with clients coping with terminal illness, loss and grief.

SOWK 654. Organization and Administration. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Examination of concepts, principles, and skills of social agency and program administration from an integrated practice perspective. Includes programming, budgeting, staffing, organization, and management of social agencies and programs. Addresses relationships with constituents and other human service organizations and systems within a context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and human rights.

SOWK 655. Non-Profit Management and the Third Sector. 3 Hours.
Understanding the role and place of the third sector in post-industrial society.

SOWK 656. Financial Management and Grant Writing. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Focus is on financial management and grant development in social service settings from an integrated practice perspective. Topics include accountability, budgeting, cost measurement, grant writing, and nonprofit management within the context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 657. Grant Development. 3 Hours.
Course offers broad overview of external funding for social service agencies, emphasis on nonprofit sector. Students will have opportunity to find funding sources, develop grant proposals write, edit, and prepare to submit a request for funding.

SOWK 658. Social Work with Veterans. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to advance the student's knowledge concerning the needs of veterans and their families.

SOWK 673. Legal Issues in Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course will explore in detail the legal and ethical obligations of social workers in practice. Review of common legal issues in social work practice and legal issues clients may face.

SOWK 674. Community Mental Health. 3 Hours.
(Field of practice course.) PR: SOWK 621 and ((SOWK 643 and SOWK 649) OR (SOWK 651 and SOWK 654)). An overview of the field of mental health which addresses major policy, program, practice, theory, and research issues. Current federal and state issues are examined.

SOWK 675. Addiction and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Examination of theoretical and neuro-biological perspectives on addiction from an integrated practice perspective. Study of evidence-based intervention strategies used for engagement, assessment, and treatment of individuals who have substance use disorders. Discussion of impact of substance-use disorders and addiction on families and society. Review of substance use-related social policies.

SOWK 676. Social Work Practice Children/Families. 3 Hours.
CoReq: SOWK 682. Analyzes the population at risk, examines family theory, major programs, services and polices. Examines gaps in services and major styles of family intervention in social work roles.

SOWK 677. Family Victimology. 3 Hours.
(Practice course.) PR: SOWK 621 or consent. The interface of social work practice in family victimology, with emphasis on victim welfare policy and service, victim compensation programs, and victim prevention. Social concern for physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, and related topics.

SOWK 678. Social Work with Couples/Families. 3 Hours.
(Practice course.) PR:SOWK 621 or consent. This course explores social work practice focused on couples or families as a unit. Emphasis on intervention models oriented to couple and family relationship counseling and on clinical social work techniques.
SOWK 680. Child Welfare Continuum. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Theories and methods of integrated practice in child welfare. Examination of child welfare policy and services, including family preservation and home-based services, adoption, foster and residential care, community-based practices, and intervention in the context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 681. Social Work in Health Settings. 3 Hours.
PR: SOWK 621 and ((SOWK 643 and SOWK 649) OR (SOWK 651 and SOWK 654)). Comprehensive strategies for serving clients, including the aged, with physical and/or emotional problems and their families with an emphasis on direct practice approaches. Practice in traditional and nontraditional settings is examined.

SOWK 682. Advanced Field Experience. 3-5 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Community-based advanced field placement and integrative seminar. Students learn to apply advanced integrated practice skills. They engage with interdisciplinary teams to address social and human problems within a context of social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of the human rights of diverse groups of people.

SOWK 692. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

SOWK 693. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

SOWK 694. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

SOWK 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

SOWK 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

SOWK 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.)

SOWK 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.

SOWK 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University's facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department's 699/799 Graduate Colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is P/F; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

SOWK 930. Professional Development. 1-6 Hours.
Professional development courses provide skill renewal or enhancement in a professional field or content area (e.g., education, community health, geology). These tuition-waived continuing education courses are graded on a pass/fail grading scale and do not apply as graduate credit toward a degree program.