Social Work

Degree offered

- Master of Social Work

Nature of the Program

The mission of the M.S.W. Social Work Program at West Virginia University is to train graduate students in advanced social work practice either with individuals, families, and groups or in community organizing and social administration. The focus of this training is to produce competent and effective practitioners committed to enhancing social well-being and quality of life with particular emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed populations in small towns and rural areas characteristic of the Appalachian region.

All M.S.W. students complete coursework in social work practice, social welfare policy, human behavior and the social environment, social work research, and field instruction. In addition, students select a practice track—direct practice or community organizing and social administration.

Direct practice students gain the knowledge and skills to provide direct and clinical services to individuals, families, and small treatment groups. Community organizing and social administration students gain knowledge and skills to provide leadership to communities in the development, administration, and support of service programs.

Students have the opportunity to complete their field internships with agencies throughout West Virginia and adjacent areas. In addition, a dual degree option is offered in conjunction with the Department of Public Administration. Graduate certificates are available in the areas of gerontology and nonprofit management (http://grad.wvu.edu/). All degree programs offered by the university are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The School of Social Work supports both full-time and part-time graduate study at the campus in Morgantown and part-time graduate study at several extended campus sites, including Charleston, Beckley, Keyser, Wheeling, and Martinsburg. Regular-standing students—those with degrees in areas other than social work or those with social work degrees who do not meet the criteria for advanced-standing status—begin the program in fall semesters. It takes two years to complete the program on a full-time basis (including two summer sessions between the first and second years of the program) and three years to complete the program on a part-time basis (including summer sessions). Full-time advanced standing students (those with a qualifying B.S.W. degree) begin the program in January and complete the program in sixteen months. Part-time advanced-standing students begin in the fall semester and finish in just under two years.

Applicants to the M.S.W. program come from a variety of academic disciplines and have varying degrees of experience in the field of social work. Students interested in applying should consult the website: http://socialwork.wvu.edu or contact:

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

Phone: (304) 293-3501

Application information is also available on our website: http://socialwork.wvu.edu.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the M.S.W. 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 social work curriculum is designed to help students prepare for these careers.

FACULTY
DIRECTOR

- Tracy Morris, Interim Director - Ph.D. (University of Mississippi)
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

• Kristina Hash - Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  Aging and Healthcare, Family Caregiving, Geriatric Education

• Carrie Rishell - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Child Mental Health, Program Evaluation

• Leslie Tower - Ph.D. (Barry University)
  Domestic Violence, Women's Issues, Health Care Administration

• Michael Zakour - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Organizations and Communities, Non-profit Management, Disaster Response

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

• Helen P. Hartnett - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Communities and Organizations, Homelessness

• Neal Newfield - Ph.D. (Texas Tech University)
  Strategic Therapy, Hypnosis, Solution-focused Therapy, Social Documentary Photography

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

• HaeJung Kim - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  Non-profit Management, Social Policy

• Mariann Mankowski - Ph.D. (Smith College)
  Military Issues, Women's Issues, Aging

• JiYoung Tabone - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Risk and Resilience, Program Evaluation

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

• Patricia Chase - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
  M.S.W. Program Director, Child Welfare

• Linda Ferrise - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Baccalaureate Program Director, Clinical Practice, Community Mental Health

INSTRUCTORS AND FACULTY EQUIVALENTS

• Carol Amendola - M.S.W. (West Virginia University), L.C.S.W.
  B.S.W. Program Coordinator, Clinical Practice, Child Welfare

• Jacqueline Englehardt - M.S.W. (West Virginia University), L.C.S.W.
  Professional and Community Education. Non-profit Management

• Rhonda Hayes - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Wheeling M.S.W. Coordinator, Clinical Practice, Teaching Instructor

• Samuel J. Leizear - M.S.W. (West Virginia University), L.C.S.W.
  Field Education Coordinator, Human Diversity, Health Care and Aging, LGBT Issues

• Alysha Nichols - M.S.W./M.P.A. (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Instructor

• Jeremy Speer - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)

• Debra Young - Ed.D. (Marshall University)
  Charleston M.S.W. Coordinator, Community Organization and Social Administration

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)

• Barry Locke - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)

• Roger A. Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
M.S.W. 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.

- March 1 is the priority deadline. Applications submitted by March 1 will be given preference for graduate assistantships and scholarships.
- April 1 is the standard deadline. All applications must be submitted by April 1 for consideration.
- May 1 is the late application deadline. All applications must be submitted by May 1, and late application acceptance is based upon available space.

Requirements

Note: Materials marked with an * must be uploaded/submitted at http://grad.wvu.edu/apply in the Supplemental Material section.

COLLEGE PREP

- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university

PREREQUISITE COURSES

- Successful completion of thirty hours of courses in the liberal arts, including the social, behavioral, and biological sciences
- Evidence of study related to diverse cultures, social conditions, social problems, and individual lifespan

ADVANCED-STANDING

Applicants who have received a B.S.W. from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program 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 twelve credits of foundation-level courses as well as the foundation field experience.

The School of Social Work does not give academic credit for work or life-experience.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

- At least a 3.0 overall GPA
- A 3.0 or higher GPA for advanced-standing applicants in their undergraduate social work courses

APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE*

- Complete the combined WVU Graduate/School of Social Work application
- $60 application fee

TRANSCRIPTS

- 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:

- Academic
- Social Work/Human Service Experience (volunteer or paid)
- Employer

Advanced-standing applicants must submit a supporting recommendation from the director of their undergraduate program.

TESTING

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA above 3.0 do not have to take the General Requirements Examination (GRE).
Applicants whose undergraduate GPA is below 3.0 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 the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The GRE is also required if GPA is below 3.0.

ADMISSION ESSAY*:

All applicants must submit an Admission Essay. Please read the detailed description below.

Admission Essay Guidelines

This essay is one 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 ADDRESS:

Please choose a practice example on individuals, group, family, or organization and describe it, disguising names and identifying information. Please introduce the example with a brief paragraph describing the agency, its function, and its purpose. 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 the plan and how it relates to the assessment evaluation.

Interventions – Describe and analyze your practice interventions and how they are related to the case plan or assessment formulation.

Evaluation – Critically analyze the strength and limitations of your intervention. With hindsight, how might you have intervened differently and why?
Admission Essay Guidelines have been compiled and adapted from the following institutions: University of Maine, UNC-Chapel Hill, University of Maryland at Baltimore, and the University of Michigan.

**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. Acceptance by one program does not guarantee acceptance by the other. Additional information and descriptive materials about the dual degree program are available from either of the following:

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

or

Division of Public Administration  
West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6322  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6322

**Master of Social Work**

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complete either the Regular Standing or Advanced Standing Requirements:</strong></td>
<td><strong>18-34</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 513</td>
<td>Social Work Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 531</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy and Services</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 540</td>
<td>Generalist Social Work Practice</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581</td>
<td>Generalist Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 621</td>
<td>Human Behavior/Diversity and Social Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>Social Policy Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Area of Emphasis Requirement (12 hours)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 513</td>
<td>Social Work Research Methods</td>
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<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment</td>
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<td>SOWK 531</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy and Services</td>
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<td>SOWK 633</td>
<td>Social Policy Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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**DIRECT PRACTICE AREA OF EMPHASIS**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 618</td>
<td>Personal Practice Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 643</td>
<td>Psychopathology and Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 649</td>
<td>Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

SOWK 616 Evaluation Research in Social Work 3
SOWK 651 Community Organization Theory and Practice 3
SOWK 654 Social Agency and Program Administration 3
SOWK 656 Non-profit Financial Management 3
Total Hours 12

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 form (http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-gerontology) is available on this website or may be obtained from Dr. Hash who may be contacted at (304) 293-8807.

Those interested in the Gerontology Certificate may also want to explore the Summer Institute on Aging (http://socialwork.wvu.edu/continuing-education/west-virginia-summer-institute-on-aging).

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GER 512</td>
<td>Public Policy of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 681</td>
<td>Rural Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 628</td>
<td>Aging Women &amp; Cultural Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 695</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 751</td>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
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<th>Electives (Select two of the following courses)</th>
<th>6</th>
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<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>GER 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 School of Social Work's website, http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificates, or contact Dr. Kris Hash at KMHash@mail.wvu.edu.
Graduate Certificate in Integrated Mental and Behavioral Health

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG33

ADMISSION AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The goal of the program is to train students to become effective mental and behavioral health care providers. To be admitted to the Certificate program, applicants must demonstrate graduate student status at West Virginia University (either degree or non-degree) and be in good standing. The requirements for participation in the required Capstone course also impact admission criteria. The capstone course requires students to complete an individualized project that applies content learned in the certificate program to their target population of focus. In order to complete this capstone course, students must have access to field placement, clinical practicum, internship, or employment setting in which they have the ability for “hands-on” practice with the target population. Applicants will be asked to explain and document their anticipated access to this type of experience at the time they would be completing the capstone course. To continue their progress in the Certificate program, students must maintain a grade of “B” or higher in certificate coursework.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

The Graduate Certificate in Integrated Mental and Behavioral Health will consist of 15 credit hour:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 626 Child Mental Health</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 627 Advanced Clinical Practice in Integrated Healthcare</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 649 Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 650 Families and Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 641 Social Work with Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 644 Brief Therapy</td>
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<td>SOWK 658 Social Work with Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 675 Substance Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 678 Family Victimology</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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Major Learning Goals

SOCIAL WORK

The mission of the MSW Social Work Program at West Virginia University is to train graduate students in advanced social work practice either with Individuals, Families and Groups or in Community Organizing and Social Administration. The focus of this training is to produce competent and effective practitioners committed to enhancing social well-being and quality of life with particular emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed populations in small towns and rural areas characteristic of the Appalachian region.

The Direct Practice Curriculum prepares students with the knowledge and skills to provide direct services to individuals, families, and small treatment groups.

The Community Organization and Social Administration (COSA) Curriculum prepares students with the knowledge and skills to provide leadership to communities in the development, administration, and support service programs.

MSW programs are available at West Virginia University’s campus in Morgantown or around the state at our extended campus locations.

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>
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<tr>
<td>Generalist Field Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 581</td>
<td>Generalist Field Experience</td>
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<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 682</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience</td>
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<td>Electives Credits</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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<th>Required Course Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
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