Social Work Degrees Offered

- Master of Social Work
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Dual MSW/MPA

Nature of the Program

MISSION STATEMENT AND OVERVIEW

The mission of the WVU 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.

The program offers two degree plan options (Regular Standing and Advanced Standing) and two course delivery modalities (on campus and online). The Advanced Standing degree plan is available to students who have either earned a baccalaureate degree in Social Work (BSW) within the previous 8 years from a program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, that is recognized through its International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service, or that is covered under a memorandum of understanding with international social work accreditors. Each degree plan can be completed through a full-time or a part-time option. The full-time program is offered through the on-campus delivery modality only. 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 on campus 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 the dual-degree program must apply to and be accepted by each program (MSW and MPA) separately.

Students interested in applying for the MSW program should consult the School of Social Work 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

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. Social workers are the largest group of mental health service providers in the country.

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 Regulation, Older Adults Social Isolation, Dementia, Congregate Care, Community Care, Behavioral Health, LGBTQ Populations, Older Adults, Mental Health

MASTER'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR
• Mary Christensen - Ph.D. (Simmons University)
  Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Health Service Disparities, Evidence-Based Social Work Practice

BSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR
• Megan Gandy - Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  LGBT Populations, Mental Health Services, Social Justice, Technology in Social Work Education

PROFESSORS
• 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

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Mary Christensen - Ph.D. (Simmons University)
  Master's Program Director; Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Health Service Disparities, Evidence-Based Social Work Practice
• Megan Gandy - Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  LGBTQ Populations, Mental Health Services, Social Justice, Technology in Social Work Education
• Jiyoung Tabone - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Child Maltreatment and Later Outcomes, Prevention and Intervention Research, Mental Health Services, Risk and Resilience, Program Evaluation

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Bridget Bailey - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Adolescent and Adult Behavioral Health, Suicide, Bipolar and Mood Disorders, Co-occurring Trauma, Substance Use Disorders, Evidence-Based Treatments, Trauma-Informed Care, Community Engaged Research
• Megan Fabbri - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Human Rights, Global Perspectives, Migration, Sex Work, Worker Rights, Health Disparities, Community Organizing, International Social Work Education
• Andrew Irish - Ph.D. (University of Buffalo)
  Socioeconomic Status Inequality and Behavioral Health, Recovery Capital and Substance Misuse, Policy Mapping and Multilevel Modeling Methodologies

INSTRUCTORS AND FACULTY EQUIVALENTS
• Rhonda Hayes - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Instructor; Substance Abuse & Recovery, Family Victimology, Grant Writing, Social Agency and Program Administration
• Jacqueline Englehardt - MSW (West Virginia University)
  MSW Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator, Clinical Instructor, Title IV-E Coordinator; Nonprofit Management, Continuing Education Certificate Programs, Professional Development
• Fanica Payne - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Instructor; Behavioral Health, Substance Use Disorders, Diverse Populations, Civil Rights
• Lindsay Rinehart - MSW (New York University)
  Online Field Coordinator and Clinical Instructor; Field Education, Service Learning, Community Engagement, Homelessness
• Mandy Weirich - MSW (West Virginia University)
  MSW Online Program Coordinator, Clinical Instructor; Policy and Advocacy, Geriatric Education, Use of Technology in Teaching and Research
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Rebekah Bledsoe - MSW (West Virginia University)
  Title IV-E, Child Welfare

EMERITUS FACULTY

- Carol Amendola - MSW (West Virginia University)
- Marjorie H. Buckholz-Cleveland - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Patricia Chase - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
- Karen Harper-Dorton - PhD (Ohio State University)
- Helen Hartnett - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Roger A. Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Nancy Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Caroline T. Mudd - MSW (University of Pennsylvania)
- Neal Newfield - PhD (Texas Tech University)
- Michael Zakour - Ph.D. (Washington University)

Admissions

Applicants to the MSW programs (online or on campus) are classified as either Regular Standing or Advanced Standing.

REGULAR STANDING

- Domestic applicants: Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- International applicants (on-campus program only): 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 (on-campus program only) 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.

ADMISSION TERMS

Admission to the online and on campus MSW programs occurs once per year

- Advanced Standing full-time on campus students are admitted for Summer (May).
- All other students (part-time online Advanced and Regular Standing; part-time on campus Advanced Standing and full and part-time on campus Regular Standing) are admitted for Fall (August).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Consult the School of Social Work website (https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/msw/) for detailed application requirements and deadlines for both the online and on campus MSW programs. The School of Social Work uses the university online graduate application system.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

- At least a 2.75 overall GPA is required from the institution granting the applicant’s undergraduate degree, though a 3.0 GPA is preferred.
- For advanced standing students, a 3.25 or higher GPA in their undergraduate social work courses is preferred.
- Students who have already completed a graduate degree may use their graduate overall GPA for purposes of admission. A 2.75 GPA is required, with a 3.0 GPA preferred.

TESTING

- International students may need to complete additional testing to demonstrate WVU English proficiency requirements. To find out more details about who is required to complete additional testing as well as testing requirements, please visit the Graduate Admissions Website. (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/information-for/international-students/)
- The WVU SSW does not require the GRE or any additional testing.
- All required test scores must be received by the admission deadline.

Certain application requirements may be waived based on a preliminary review of an application by the program.
Admission Requirements 2023-2024

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 1407

Major Code: 14C5

For specific information on the following program, please see the link to the right:

• Social Work, M.S.W.

For specific information on the following program, please see the link to the right:

• Social Work, Ph.D.

Degree Progress

The School of Social Work outlines specific timelines for degree completion and policies for evaluation of student progress. Students have a total of 8 years from the date of acceptance to complete the MSW degree. If students have not been registered for courses for a period of 24 months or more, they must re-apply to the program in order to continue towards completion of the degree. At that time, the MSW committee will decide whether previously completed coursework can be applied towards the current degree plan and curriculum requirements. Students who are applying for advanced standing status after a period of inactivity must have a BSW degree within 8 years of their most recent acceptance date. Similarly, if a student was previously accepted as an advanced standing student, but has become inactive, his or her advanced standing status is considered based on the most recent acceptance date.

TIMELINES FOR DEGREE COMPLETION

Typical timelines for degree plans are as follows:

• Advanced Standing, full-time: 1 year (3 semesters)
• Advanced Standing, part-time: 2 years (6 semesters)
• Regular Standing, full-time: 2 years (5 semesters)
• Regular Standing, part-time: 3 years (9 semesters)
• Dual Degree (MSW/MPA), Advanced Standing: 2 years (6 semesters)
• Dual Degree (MSW/MPA), Regular Standing: 3 years (8 semesters)

Timelines for degree completion are uniform for face-to-face and online delivery options. However, the online program is offered on a part-time basis only.

Students are asked to sign a copy of their designated degree plan upon admission to the program. If they wish to deviate from the outlined degree plan, they must have an alternate degree plan that outlines their plan of completion that is approved and signed by the MSW director in order to continue in the program.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

Students receive a written evaluation of their progress in the program yearly from their academic advisor. These evaluations summarize the student’s academic performance, progress in field education, professionalism and interpersonal skills, and progress towards completion of the degree plan. These evaluations are reviewed with students and kept on file at the School of Social Work.

For times when a student’s academic performance falls below the threshold, or when there are concerns regarding academic dishonesty or unprofessionalism/policy violations at the school or field placement site, the MSW program has a detailed review and remediation procedure that is clearly outlined in the MSW Student Handbook.

For additional information, please see the MSW Student Handbook, which can be downloaded at the SSW Webpage (https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/msw/).

• 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, 6 credits; advanced; 9 credits)
  • Advanced Standing students are required to complete one advanced community-based field internship (9 credits).
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.

School of Social Work Policies

The Master's program in the School of Social Work (SSW) has a detailed student handbook that outlines multiple policies related to admissions, degree requirements, field education, advising, evaluation and other policies. The MSW Student Handbook is posted on the MSW Webpage (https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/msw) and updated on a yearly basis.

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. Field placements are available in the greater Morgantown area, and throughout West Virginia. For online students, field placements are arranged in or near student's home communities.

FULL-TIME REGULAR-STANDING M.S.W.GENERALIST FIELD PLACEMENT

All regular standing students complete a 300-hour Foundation-Generalist Field on-site agency placement during the first year of the program. Full-time students will complete 16-20 hours per week at the placement site during standard weekday operating hours, with part-time students completing 12-16 hours per week. All students attend professional seminar sessions during their placement periods. For online students, seminar attendance involves engagement and completion of equivalent activities via online means. This placement is intended to serve as an "introductory" entrance into the social work field, and offers students the opportunity to build and practice foundational skills in the social work competencies.

ADVANCED FIELD PLACEMENT

The MSW Specialized-Advanced Field Experience occurs during all MSW students' final year and requires completion of 600 on-site placement hours. Full-time students will complete 20-24 hours per week over two semesters during the usual operating hours of the agency, plus professional seminar attendance. Part-time students will complete 16-20 hours per week over three semesters, with professional seminar attendance during two of those semesters. For online students, seminar attendance involves engagement and completion of equivalent activities via online means. Students in the Specialized-Advanced Placement will concentrate more intensively and autonomously in levels of intervention that reflect the elements of the Advanced Integrated curriculum, including work at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. The Specialized-Advanced placement is meant to prepare students for entry into social work practice employment, with the understanding that students have already grasped the generalist concepts, theories and roles, as well as appropriate professional behavior. MSW students coming into the program with Advanced standing are required to complete this field education experience only and can waive the Foundation-Generalist Field Experience requirement.

Students are required to enroll in the appropriate number of credit hours as determined by their degree plan for each semester of field and to participate in integrative seminars with their faculty field liaison. Decisions regarding field placements and the field placement assignment are jointly reached by the student, field office, and faculty advisor. Only sites on the School of Social Work's list of approved agencies may be used for field instruction. For a complete description of field related policies, please see our field education handbook (https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/field-education/).

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 581. Generalist Field Experience. 3-6 Hours.
PR or CONC: SOWK 530 and SOWK 540 and graduate standing in Social Work. 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. Community-based generalist field placement and an integrative seminar. 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 626. Clinical Practice in Integrated Healthcare. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Examines the structure of the United States' 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 633. Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, and Deliberation. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK and students must have completed SOWK 531 or have Advanced Standing status. 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 643. Assessment and Diagnosis. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK and students must have completed all 500-level courses in the MSW degree plan or have Advanced Standing status. 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 649. Practice with Individuals. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK and students must have completed all 500-level courses in the MSW degree plan or have Advanced Standing status. 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 and students must have completed all 500-level courses in the MSW degree plan or have Advanced Standing status. 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 654. Organizational Administration and Leadership. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK and students must have completed all 500-level courses in the MSW degree plan or have Advanced Standing status. 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 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 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 680. Child Welfare Continuum. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK. Theories and methods of integrated practice related to child welfare, including child welfare policy and services, family preservation/home-based services, adoption, foster, and residential care. Also includes community-based practices and intervention in the context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice and affirmation of human rights.

SOWK 682. Advanced Field Experience. 3-5 Hours.
PR: Graduate standing in SOWK and students must have successfully completed SOWK 582 or have Advanced Standing status and students are expected to take all sections of SOWK 682 in sequence as denoted on their degree plans. 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. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

SOWK 696. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
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. 1-9 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 731. Philosophy and Theories of Social Sciences. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course provides an overview of the history and evolution of social science philosophy and theories. This overview serves as a contextual base to examine the history and development of the social work profession and underlying foundation of contemporary social work practice.
SOWK 732. Advanced Social Work Practice Theories. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course expands on content covered in Philosophy and Theories of Social Sciences by focusing on classic and contemporary social work practice theories. Students will examine key theories in their area of research interest and begin the development of a theoretical foundation for their own work.

SOWK 735. Advanced Social Work Research Methods. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course provides essential skills for independent research. Students learn advanced skills related to hypothesis formulation, operationalization of variables and measurement, issues of validity and reliability, data collection methods, sampling, and quantitative research designs. Students apply research concepts to their own substantive interest area. Examination of research methods is grounded in the context of social work values and ethics.

SOWK 736. Community Focused Research. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course expands on topics taught in Advanced Social Work Research Methods and examines qualitative, mixed methods, and program evaluation research designs commonly utilized in community focused research. The challenges and strategies of data collection and analysis across designs are addressed, with particular focus on ethics and community engagement strategies.

SOWK 741. Statistics & Data Analysis 1. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course begins a two-semester sequence in statistics. This first course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of quantitative reasoning, probabilistic analysis, and statistical inference as applied in social science research. Students will develop a conceptual framework for approaching quantitative problems and build a strong foundation for understanding increasingly complex methods and applications in the second semester.

SOWK 742. Statistics & Data Analysis 2. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission and preceded by Statistics & Data Analysis 1 or instructor permission. This course is the second in the statistics and data analysis sequence. The course focuses on regression topics and other methods based on the linear model. There will be a special emphasis on issues that arise in data analysis, model building, and interpretation of empirical results. Advanced techniques on specific topical areas will be discussed.

SOWK 750. Advanced Social Policy and Programs. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course assists students in developing an advanced understanding of social policy and programs and provides opportunity to analyze policies at all levels as related to their research area of focus. Special emphasis is placed on issues related to organizational leadership and implementation science in health and human service organizations.

SOWK 761. Research Practicum 1. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course prepares students for the initial stages of independent research with a focus on problem definition, hypothesis formulation, literature review, and application of theoretical perspectives appropriate to the research question. Content related to external funding and grant pathways related to students’ areas of research are also addressed.

SOWK 762. Research Practicum 2. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission and preceded by Research Practicum 1 or instructor permission. This course prepares students for independent research with a focus on design and measurement. Students develop an advanced conceptual understanding of skills used in research design and measurement, with emphasis on community focused research. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) review process as it applies to students’ substantive areas is also addressed.

SOWK 770. Issues in Social Work Education. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission. This course examines the history and current philosophy of social work education within the context of higher education. Topics include higher education as a setting for social work education programs, career advancement in the academy, significant developments in the evolution of social work education, accreditation and curricula design, and current issues in social work education.

SOWK 780. Integrative Research Seminar. 3 Hours.
PR: PhD student in Social Work or instructor permission and preceded by all other PhD coursework in Social Work or instructor permission. This seminar provides students with faculty and peer feedback in the development of their comprehensive exam in the form of a dissertation proposal. Emphasis is placed on conceptual and methodological congruency of the proposed research. A plan for manuscript writing based on the 3-article dissertation format is developed. Professional development as an academic researcher and/or organizational leader is also addressed.