

Master of Social Work

Plan Description

The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program at UNLV prepares students for professional social work careers in the areas of trauma-informed and direct practice with individuals, families and groups, and in management and community practice. The mission of the M.S.W. Program is to educate students to work with populations in urban settings, utilizing generalist, problem solving, empowerment, and social justice approaches. Special attention is given to the mastery of multiple practice issues, attendant upon the present plural and diverse populations in today's American society.

Students may elect either "direct practice," "management and community practice," or "trauma informed practice" as their area of concentration. The direct practice concentration prepares students for advanced social work practice with individuals, families, and groups. The management and community practice concentration prepares students for advanced administrative, managerial, and community practice in human service organizations and agencies at the local, state and national levels. The trauma informed practice concentration focuses on developing in-depth clinical social work skills that are specific to trauma-informed practice in the community, and responsive to trauma at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of intervention.

Students are provided academic knowledge related to the theory, research, and major substantive issues in the field and practice experience through practicum experiences in a variety of private and public agency environments. Field practicum placement is concurrent with classroom instruction and is an integral part of the program. A wide variety of field practicum agencies are available, and students are placed in the field under the guidance of the Field Director and in cooperation with the professional supervisory staff from local social service agencies. The program seeks to encourage and accommodate varied student interests, abilities, and career goals. Partnerships and on-going collaborative relationships between the school faculty and the service agencies facilitate a rich blend of academic and community-based experience for our students.

The M.S.W. program is designed to be consistent with the accreditation standards of the field's national professional accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The School of Social Work does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, creed, ethnic background, national origin, disability, and political, religious, or sexual orientation.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

An applicant must have the following:

A minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale for the bachelor's degree. An earned

bachelor's degree in social work from a regionally accredited program or a degree in another field.

Completion of the following liberal arts courses: English composition or literature courses; college-level mathematics or statistics course; courses in social sciences, preferably in psychology, sociology, and anthropology; a science course; one course in fine arts or humanities; a course in history or political science; a course or content in the biological determinants of human behavior or human biology; a course or content in diverse cultures, social conditions, or social problems. The applicant must not have more than two course deficiencies to be admitted to the program, and those must be cleared by the end of the first semester of M.S.W. studies.

An applicant must submit an application for admission, transcripts of all college-level work, and the application fee to the Graduate College along with three letters of recommendation (as specified below), a personal statement, and transcripts of all college-level work.

The applicant must submit to the School of Social Work three letters of recommendation (on the prescribed form) that reflect the applicant's academic experience, general abilities, and interest and motivation in pursuing a graduate degree in social work. One of these letters should be from the most recent employer in a social work position (if applicable), and one should be from an instructor (social work instructor, if applicable) from the last college attended. The third letter should be from a person who is familiar with the applicant's overall qualifications, experience, and interest in pursuing the M.S.W. degree.

Students with a BSW degree from a program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education may be admitted through Advanced Standing at the determination of the MSW Program. Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.25 overall, with preference for post-BSW practice experience of 5 years. Applicants will be required to complete the Advanced Standing Summer Term of 4 required courses completed to a 3.0 GPA or above. Students who do not have a 3.0 at the end of the Summer Term will not be allowed to continue into the concentration year of the MSW Program but will be allowed to enter the foundation year of the 63-credit MSW Program.

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

Admission to the MSW Program cannot be deferred. The student must also enroll in the program to which admission is offered (i.e., a particular concentration, full or part-time). Students must make any request for a change in status in writing and in accordance with School procedure. Also considering the rigor of the program, students must evaluate if their individual circumstances and resources warrant applying for the full-time or part-time program. Students working 20 hours a week or more are strongly advised to apply to the part-time program.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1: Capstone Track
Subplan 2: Thesis Track

Subplan 3: Advanced Standing Capstone Track

Subplan 4: Advanced Standing Thesis Track

Subplan 1 Requirements: Capstone Track

Total Credits Required: 63

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 27

Complete 27 credits by completing all of the following courses:

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 701 Social Welfare Policy I | 3 |
| SW 703 Social Welfare Policy II | 3 |
| SW 715 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I | 3 |
| SW 716 Social Work Research I | 3 |
| SW 719 Foundation Practicum I | 3 |
| SW 720 Foundation Practice Methods I | 3 |
| SW 726 Social Work Research II | 3 |
| SW 729 Foundation Practicum II | 3 |
| SW 730 Macro Theory and Practice | 3 |

Concentration Courses – Credits: 24

Complete 24 credits of coursework from one of the following concentration areas, by completing all of the courses displayed under the chosen concentration:

Direct Practice

[Before] Direct Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 739 Field Practicum I (DP) | 3 |
| SW 740 Direct Practice I | 3 |
| SW 747 DSM: Assessment and Diagnosis | 3 |
| SW 749 Field Practicum II (DP) | 3 |
| SW 750 Direct Practice II | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |

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|--|---|
| SW 785 Special Topics in Advanced Policy | 3 |
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Management and Community Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 759 Field Practicum I (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 760 Management and Community Practice I | 3 |
| SW 765 Financial Management and Resource Development | 3 |
| SW 769 Field Practicum II (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 770 Management and Community Practice II | 3 |
| SW 775 Advanced Policy Practice | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |

Trauma Informed Practice

| | |
|---|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |
| [After] SW - 779 - Field Practicum I (TIP) | 3 |
| [After] SW - 780 - Trauma and Addiction: Screening, Assessment, and Treatment | 3 |
| [After] SW - 781 - Trauma and the Brain | 3 |
| [After] SW - 782 - Trauma-informed Systems and Policies | 3 |
| [After] SW - 789 - Field Practicum II (TIP) | 3 |
| SW 790 Family-Based Practice | 3 |

Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete a minimum of 9 credits of Social Work electives, or other advisor-approved graduate-level courses.

Capstone Course – Credits: 3

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| SW 795 Capstone Seminar | 3 |
|-------------------------|---|

Degree Requirements

Complete course work with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.

To complete their Master's degree, students must successfully complete and pass a comprehensive examination.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

Successfully complete the capstone course.

Subplan 2 Requirements: Thesis Track

Total Credits Required: 63

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 27

Complete 27 credits by completing all of the following courses:

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 701 Social Welfare Policy I | 3 |
| SW 703 Social Welfare Policy II | 3 |
| SW 715 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I | 3 |
| SW 716 Social Work Research I | 3 |
| SW 719 Foundation Practicum I | 3 |
| SW 720 Foundation Practice Methods I | 3 |
| SW 726 Social Work Research II | 3 |
| SW 729 Foundation Practicum II | 3 |
| SW 730 Macro Theory and Practice | 3 |

Concentration Courses – Credits: 24

Complete 24 credits of coursework from one of the following concentration areas, by completing all of the courses displayed under the chosen concentration:

Direct Practice

| | |
|---|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 739 Field Practicum I (DP) | 3 |
| SW 740 Direct Practice I | 3 |
| SW 747 DSM: Assessment and Diagnosis | 3 |
| SW 749 Field Practicum II (DP) | 3 |
| SW 750 Direct Practice II | 3 |

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |
| SW 785 Special Topics in Advanced Policy | 3 |

Management and Community Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 759 Field Practicum I (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 760 Management and Community Practice I | 3 |
| SW 765 Financial Management and Resource Development | 3 |
| SW 769 Field Practicum II (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 770 Management and Community Practice II | 3 |
| SW 775 Advanced Policy Practice | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |

Trauma Informed Practice

| | |
|---|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |
| [After] SW - 779 - Field Practicum I (TIP) | 3 |
| [After] SW - 780 - Trauma and Addiction: Screening, Assessment, and Treatment | 3 |
| [After] SW - 781 - Trauma and the Brain | 3 |
| [After] SW - 782 - Trauma-informed Systems and Policies | 3 |
| [After] SW - 789 - Field Practicum II (TIP) | 3 |
| SW 790 Family-Based Practice | 3 |

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete a minimum of 6 credits of Social Work electives, or other advisor-approved graduate-level courses.

Thesis – Credits: 6

| | |
|---------------|---|
| SW 796 Thesis | 3 |
|---------------|---|

Degree Requirements

Complete course work with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.

In consultation with their advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

To complete their Master's degree, students must successfully complete and pass a comprehensive examination.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

The student must submit and successfully defend their thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 3 Requirements: Advanced Standing Capstone Track

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Bridge Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits by completing all of the following courses:

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 734 Advanced Standing Practice Seminar | 3 |
| SW 736 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |

Concentration Courses – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits of coursework from one of the following concentration areas, by completing all of the courses displayed under the chosen concentration:

Direct Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 739 Field Practicum I (DP) | 3 |
| SW 740 Direct Practice I | 3 |
| SW 747 DSM: Assessment and Diagnosis | 3 |
| SW 749 Field Practicum II (DP) | 3 |
| SW 750 Direct Practice II | 3 |
| SW 785 Special Topics in Advanced Policy | 3 |

Management and Community Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 759 Field Practicum I (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 760 Management and Community Practice I | 3 |
| SW 765 Financial Management and Resource Development | 3 |
| SW 769 Field Practicum II (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 770 Management and Community Practice II | 3 |
| SW 775 Advanced Policy Practice | 3 |

Trauma Informed Practice

| | |
|---|---|
| [Before] SW - 779 - Field Practicum I (TIP) | 3 |
| [After] SW - 780 - Trauma and Addiction: Screening, Assessment, and Treatment | 3 |
| [After] SW - 781 - Trauma and the Brain | 3 |
| [After] SW - 782 - Trauma-informed Systems and Policies | 3 |
| [After] SW - 789 - Field Practicum II (TIP) | 3 |
| SW 790 Family-Based Practice | 3 |

Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete a minimum of 9 credits of Social Work electives, or other advisor-approved graduate-level courses.

Capstone Course – Credits: 3

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| SW 795 Capstone Seminar | 3 |
|-------------------------|---|

Degree Requirements

Complete course work with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.

To complete their Master's degree, students must successfully complete and pass a comprehensive examination.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

Successfully complete the capstone course.

Subplan 4 Requirements: Advanced Standing Thesis Track

Total Credits Required: 42

Course Requirements

Bridge Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits by completing all of the following courses:

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 707 Contemporary Issues in Diversity | 3 |
| SW 734 Advanced Standing Practice Seminar | 3 |
| SW 736 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar | 3 |
| SW 776 Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work | 3 |

Concentration Courses – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits of coursework from one of the following concentration areas, by completing all of the courses displayed under the chosen concentration:

Direct Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 739 Field Practicum I (DP) | 3 |
| SW 740 Direct Practice I | 3 |
| SW 747 DSM: Assessment and Diagnosis | 3 |
| SW 749 Field Practicum II (DP) | 3 |
| SW 750 Direct Practice II | 3 |
| SW 785 Special Topics in Advanced Policy | 3 |

Management and Community Practice

| | |
|--|---|
| SW 759 Field Practicum I (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 760 Management and Community Practice I | 3 |
| SW 765 Financial Management and Resource Development | 3 |
| SW 769 Field Practicum II (MCP) | 3 |
| SW 770 Management and Community Practice II | 3 |
| SW 775 Advanced Policy Practice | 3 |

Trauma Informed Practice

| | |
|---|---|
| [After] SW - 779 - Field Practicum I (TIP) | 3 |
| [After] SW - 780 - Trauma and Addiction: Screening, Assessment, and Treatment | 3 |
| [After] SW - 781 - Trauma and the Brain | 3 |
| [After] SW - 782 - Trauma-informed Systems and Policies | 3 |
| [After] SW - 789 - Field Practicum II (TIP) | 3 |
| SW 790 Family-Based Practice | 3 |

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete a minimum of 6 credits of Social Work electives, or other advisor-approved graduate-level courses.

Thesis – Credits: 6

| | |
|---------------|---|
| SW 796 Thesis | 3 |
|---------------|---|

Degree Requirements

Complete course work with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.

In consultation with their advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

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Graduation Requirements

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Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements.

Subplan 1: Capstone Track

Subplan 2: Thesis Track

Subplan 3 Requirements: Advanced Standing Capstone Track

Subplan 4 Requirements: Advanced Standing Thesis Track