



UNIVERSITY OF  
DENVER

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Graduate School  
of Social Work

**Bulletin 2011-2012**

## **Our Vision**

The Graduate School of Social Work aspires to be among the finest graduate schools of social work in the country, a vibrant center for intellectual development, a leader in promoting diverse communities, and an advocate for an integrated and inclusive model of social work, all within a facility that supports the best educational practices.

## **Our Mission**

The Graduate School of Social Work is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and community leadership and service. Our mission is to foster social responsibility regarding social and economic justice, quality of life and multicultural communities, based on equality for all people. As a center for the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the School provides graduate social work education in order to alleviate and prevent social problems of individuals, families and communities.

## **Our Values**

The guiding philosophy of social work includes values that create a framework for social work education, research and service. These include:

- Progressive ideals of equality, social and economic justice, cultural diversity and freedom.
- Social work's unique focus on person-in-environment as the central concept which shapes our curriculum and practice.
- Excellence in the development of social work knowledge and its dissemination to students, communities and policy makers.
- Responsibility for promoting social change and multiculturalism in the community, and empowerment of the social work profession.

# MSW PROGRAM

## Accreditation

The Master of Social Work program at the University of Denver is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation.

## Goals and Objectives

Based on the [vision, values and mission of the University](#), the [mission of the Graduate School of Social Work](#) (GSSW) and the [mission of the social work profession](#), the **goals** of the MSW program are to:

1. Prepare students for effective, culturally responsive, and ethical advanced clinical or community professional social work practice that enhances human interaction.
2. Involve students in critical scholarly inquiry, application and development of knowledge, and consideration of values and ethics.
3. Encourage students to assume leadership in promoting social and economic justice, advancing the public good, furthering multicultural understanding, and eliminating oppression.

Derived from the goals of the MSW program, the **objective of the MSW program** is to graduate students who are prepared to enter advanced, autonomous practice in an area of concentration. Specifically, our graduates will:

1. Engage in ethical, culturally responsive advanced clinical or community practice that emphasizes strengths of individuals and communities.
2. Critically evaluate and ethically apply the major theories related to human development and behavior that guide advanced clinical or community social work practice.
3. Identify, select, and ethically apply advanced skills in assessment, intervention, and client advocacy in clinical or community social work practice.
4. Base advanced clinical or community social work practice on empirical evidence and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and programs with consideration of values and ethics.
5. Analyze policy and identify strategies for advocating for policy that promotes social and economic justice, eliminates oppression, fosters the public good, and enhances the welfare of clients.
6. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning, the development of knowledge, and the profession of social work.

# PROGRAM OPTIONS

## Two-Year MSW Program

The two-year MSW program option is available to applicants with baccalaureate degrees in academic disciplines other than social work. Degrees must be from institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body. Students who attend full-time will complete the 90-quarter-hour program in two years (six quarters).

Educational programs at the University of Denver are on a quarter system in which the regular academic calendar includes three quarters: autumn, winter and spring. In addition, some MSW students are required, and others elect, to take courses in the fourth (summer) quarter.

During the first or **foundation year**, students are introduced to the professional foundation of social work. Students acquire a basic knowledge of intervention skills and techniques used to improve the social functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. At the same time, a sense of social responsibility for the achievement of social work goals will be enhanced.

Students begin their foundation year course work in the autumn quarter. The foundation year (September to June) consists of course work on Thursdays and Fridays (or Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturdays under the weekend scheduling option) and 16 hours of field internship per week, generally on Mondays and Tuesdays.

In the second or **concentration year** of the program, students advance in professional knowledge and skill through specialization in one of two social work concentrations: clinical practice (focus on individuals, couples, small groups and families) or community practice (focus on social planning, administration, policy and community organization). Students select their area of concentration by the third quarter of their foundation year.

Most concentration year courses are taken on Mondays and Tuesdays, with a field internship of 20 - 24 hours per week on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A limited number of elective courses may also be offered on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays.

## Advanced Standing MSW Program

The Advanced standing program option is available only to applicants with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university whose social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the degree is conferred. Advanced standing students begin their program in July and typically complete their MSW degree in one calendar year (four quarters).

The first quarter of the advanced standing program consists of course work only. Two courses are required during this quarter, Multicultural Social Work Practice (SOWK 4132) and Advanced Standing Seminar (SOWK 4299), whose purpose is to help students integrate their

BSW education with their social work experience and plan their continuing professional development. In addition, most students take two electives during the summer session.

Advanced standing students begin their concentration year in the fall in the same manner as two-year MSW students, specializing in one of two social work concentrations: clinical practice or community practice. In the fall, they also begin their field internship of 20–24 hours per week, generally on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## **Interdisciplinary Dual and Cooperative Graduate Degrees**

The University of Denver offers interdisciplinary dual and cooperative graduate degree programs allowing students to earn a master's degree in another field while simultaneously earning the MSW degree. Specific dual graduate degree programs exist with International Studies, Human Communication and Law. There is also a flexible dual graduate degree program that allows students to propose any dual graduate degree combination they choose.

The University offers a cooperative dual graduate degree program with the Iliff School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary bordering the campus, through which students simultaneously earn the MSW and a Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Specialized Ministry (MASM) or Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree.

These dual and cooperative graduate degree programs offer students the opportunity to combine fields of study and graduate with fewer total credit hours than would be required if they pursued the degrees separately. Students may receive credit up to 15 quarter hours, or their equivalent in semester hours, for courses taken in one department or institution to meet credit hour requirements in the other department or institution.

Applicants pursuing this degree option must apply separately to both programs, meet the admission requirements of both programs and pay a nonrefundable application fee to both programs. Applications can be submitted prior to beginning either program, or after work in one program has begun, but not after degree requirements in one program have been completed. Students interested in the dual and cooperative graduate degree option should refer to the specific dual degree requirements for each program, as these may vary.

## **Dual Undergraduate/Graduate Degree**

This dual degree option allows highly qualified University of Denver students to combine a Bachelor's degree in any field with an MSW degree, graduating with both degrees in five years. This allows students to earn the MSW one year sooner than would be possible if the two degrees were earned consecutively, thus resulting in substantial savings of both time and money. The student's undergraduate financial aid level may be applied throughout the five-year program, another significant financial advantage.

Students in this dual undergraduate/graduate degree program complete their University of Denver undergraduate requirements, as well as their major and minor requirements, during their first three academic years. During the fourth year of study, students begin the MSW curriculum.

Students should work closely with both their undergraduate and GSSW advisers to ensure that all requirements for both degrees are met.

Ordinarily, it would require a total of 273 credit hours for a student to earn a Bachelor's degree (183 credit hours), followed by an MSW degree (90 credit hours). However, students enrolled in this program may count up to 30 credit hours of their MSW graduate level course work toward completion of their undergraduate degree. This reduces the total number of required credit hours for both degrees to 243.

Although University of Denver students will not begin the program until their fourth year of undergraduate study, it is recommended that they obtain detailed information from the GSSW admission office as early as possible to ensure that they complete all necessary undergraduate course requirements.

## **SCHEDULING OPTIONS**

Students who wish to develop individualized scheduling plans, including part-time and weekend classes, must work closely with their academic advisers to ensure that courses and field internships are taken in the proper sequence and that all required courses are taken at the appropriate time.

### **Weekend Scheduling**

The weekend scheduling option allows foundation year students to take course work at GSSW on Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons and evenings, and all day Saturday. All students are eligible to take weekend classes when available.

Students may complete all of their foundation year courses using this scheduling option. Due to the complexity of the concentration year curriculum, the weekend option is only available in the foundation year. Most concentration year classes are offered only on Mondays and Tuesdays in order to accommodate the requirements of the various concentrations. Students who take foundation courses using the weekend scheduling option must be prepared to complete their concentration course requirements on Mondays and Tuesdays. However, a limited number of concentration electives may be offered on the weekend and/or Wednesday afternoons.

Like other students in the MSW program, foundation students attending weekend classes must complete at least one day of their required field internships during weekday business hours.

### **Part-Time Scheduling**

The part-time scheduling option makes it possible for students to complete their degree requirements over a span of up to four years and is available to both two-year and advanced standing students. Graduation and course requirements do not differ from those for full-time study, and all course and field prerequisites and co-requisites must be met. Part-time students must complete a minimum of two courses in any given quarter, excluding summer, and must complete their MSW degree within four years.

# MSW CURRICULUM

The two-year MSW program consists of the foundation year and the concentration year. The foundation year provides the generalist base of social work practice. The concentration year prepares students for advanced clinical practice (social work with individuals, couples, families and small groups) or advanced community practice (social work in organizations and communities and in the policy arena).

The program is comprised of 90 hours of classroom (60 to 63 credit hours) and field instruction (27 to 30 credit hours). Thirty hours (18 classroom and 12 field) are accepted as a block transfer of credit for students admitted with advanced standing.

Students enrolled in the University's dual undergraduate/graduate degree program may count up to 30 credit hours of their MSW graduate level course work toward completion of their undergraduate degree. This reduces the total number of required credit hours for both degrees to 243.

Full-time GSSW students usually take between 12 and 18 hours each quarter. A student load in excess of 18 hours requires the approval of the student's academic adviser and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, requires additional tuition and is subject to the student's satisfactory work during previous quarters. Students may not enroll for more than 20 credit hours per quarter.

## Foundation Year

*(45 credit hours)*

The first, or foundation, year provides a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes, learned through both classroom and field instruction. The following courses are all required.

**SOWK 4001** - Social Work Skills Across Client Systems: Lab

**SOWK 4002** - Clinical Theories and Practice I

**SOWK 4003** - Clinical Theories and Practice II

**SOWK 4007** - Community Theories and Practice I

**SOWK 4008** - Community Theories and Practice II

**SOWK 4020** - Social Work Practice

These courses emphasize knowledge of bio-psycho-social variables that affect individual development and behavior, as well as theoretical frameworks that can be used to understand human interaction and interaction between individuals and social systems. The classes also prepare students to practice ethically within systems of all sizes in assessment, interviewing and planning intervention.

**SOWK 4118** - History of Social Welfare and Social Work

**SOWK 4120** - Social Welfare Policy

These courses emphasize not only understanding of our past and analyzing the impact of policy on client systems, but also development of commitment to

advocate for social and economic justice and the skills needed to be an effective advocate.

**SOWK 4132 - Multicultural Social Work Practice: Examining Oppression and Valuing Diversity**

Diversity and oppression content that is infused throughout the curriculum is introduced in this course and is designed to raise students' awareness of the impact of oppression. Students develop skill in working with persons who differ from themselves in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and ability.

**SOWK 4201 - Research Methods and Design**

This course helps students become effective consumers and users of research, learning skills needed to evaluate practice and programs.

**SOWK 4950 - Foundation Field Practicum**

Supervised field instruction gives students the opportunity to integrate the theories and practice of social work for effective professional intervention at both the clinical and community levels. To accomplish this, foundation field internship agencies are required to provide students opportunities to work with an array of different client populations and to apply skills in working with individuals, small groups and larger systems.

Additionally, students are required to choose one elective to be taken in either the Winter or Spring of their foundation year to fulfill the 45 credit hour requirement. The following courses are approved to meet the elective requirement for foundation year students:

SOWK 4315: Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Children & Adolescents

SOWK 4330: Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults

SOWK 4430: Drug Dependency Interventions

SOWK 4670: Policy Analysis and Development

SOWK 4712: Law of Family & Child

SOWK 4721: Existential Social Work Practice

SOWK 4725: Mind-Body Connections in Social Work Practice

SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

SOWK 4741: Social Work with the Chronically/Terminally Ill

SOWK 4765: International Social Development

SOWK 4971: Social Work Response to Postwar Bosnia

SOWK 4971: Disrupting Privilege Through Anti-Oppressive Practice

A sample foundation year course schedule may be found on the following page.

## Sample Foundation Year Course Schedule

To illustrate sequencing, a sample course schedule for full-time study in the foundation year is offered below. Please note that other scheduling options are also available.

### Autumn Quarter

*(16 credit hours)*

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>(Qtr. Hrs.)</b>
SOWK 4001	Social Work Skills Across Client Systems: Lab	3
SOWK 4020	Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4118	History of Social Welfare and Social Work	3
SOWK 4132	Multicultural Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4950	Foundation Field Practicum	4

### Winter Quarter

*(13 or 16 credit hours\*)*

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>(Qtr. Hrs.)</b>
SOWK 4002	Clinical Theories and Practice I	3
SOWK 4007	Community Theories and Practice I	3
SOWK 4120	Social Welfare Policy	3
SOWK XXXX	Elective*	3
SOWK 4950	Foundation Field Practicum	4

### Spring Quarter

*(13 or 16 credit hours\*)*

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>(Qtr. Hrs.)</b>
SOWK 4003	Clinical Theories and Practice II	3
SOWK 4008	Community Theories and Practice II	3
SOWK 4201	Research Methods and Design	3
SOWK XXXX	Elective*	3
SOWK 4950	Foundation Field Practicum	4

\*Students can take their chose of approved elective in either the Winter or Spring of their Foundation Year. See list of approved electives on previous page.

## Concentration Year

*(45 credit hours)*

The concentration year prepares students for advanced clinical practice with individuals, couples, families and small groups, or for advanced community practice in administration, community development and organizing, and policy analysis and advocacy.

**Clinical social work** practice seeks to liberate, support and enhance people's capacities and strengths, as well as increasing the responsiveness of physical and social environments in meeting people's needs. Clinical social workers develop partnerships with vulnerable and "at-risk" populations, working as service providers, therapists and advocates to empower those who are oppressed, exploited or harmed by social and economic systems.

Clinical social work uses a variety of methods including intake and assessment, marital and couples counseling, family therapy, individual psychotherapy, social work with groups, crisis intervention, environmental interventions, discharge planning, referral and linkage to community resources, and case management.

Within the Clinical Practice Concentration, students choose one of four tracks, or areas of specialization. These include the Child Welfare Track, the Families Track, the High-Risk Youth Track, and the Adulthood and Late Life Challenges Track.

**Community social work** practice seeks to meet people's needs through social change at the community, organizational, societal and global levels. Community practitioners work with the communities of people adversely affected by social and economic systems, believing this is the best way to solve community problems and create community well-being. The principal skill of community practice is leadership, and community practitioners must find their most effective leadership style.

Community practice includes community social work (planning, community organizing), organizational social work (administration, program development, organization development), societal social work (politics, social movements, social policy development) and international social work (social development, nongovernmental organization development).

The Community Practice Concentration has one track, the Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice Track.

## Advanced Standing

*(15 credit hours, in addition to 45 concentration year credit hours)*

In addition to concentration year requirements, students admitted with advanced standing must also complete the following required courses:

- **SOWK 4299** - Advanced Standing Seminar
- **SOWK 4132** - Multicultural Social Work Practice
- three additional open electives

## TRACK FORMAT

During the concentration year, students take a total of 45 credit hours. Eight required courses make up each of the concentration year tracks: an overview course, two advanced skills courses, a policy course, two research courses, field internship and one track elective. Additionally, students take three elective courses from their track, from any of the other tracks, from any of the academic certificate programs or from the list of additional electives. This is illustrated in the table below:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>(Qtr. Hrs.)</b>
Track overview course	required	3
Track advanced skills course #1	required	3
Track advanced skills course #2	required	3
Track policy course	required	3
Research course (SOWK 4900)	required	3
Research course (SOWK 4901)	required	3
Field practicum	required	15
Elective #1 (within track)	required	3
Elective #2		3
Elective #3		3
Elective #4		3
<b>Total hours:</b>		<b>45</b>

## Clinical Practice Tracks

GSSW offers four clinical practice tracks, which are described below:

### Child Welfare Track

The Child Welfare Track prepares professional social workers for work with children and families served in public and private child welfare agencies. Most of these children and families have experienced child maltreatment. Many of these families are also experiencing poverty, domestic violence, mental illness and substance abuse. Intervention is focused on promoting the safety, permanence and well-being of children who have suffered, or are at risk of, maltreatment; building individual and family strengths; and preventing and alleviating the consequences of child maltreatment.

Several theoretical orientations support child welfare interventions, including crisis and attachment theory, family systems theory, cognitive/social learning theory and safety-focused containment theory.

Child welfare social workers work in a variety of public and private agencies and in an array of arenas of service delivery, including investigation of reports of child maltreatment, assessment of

risk and safety, family support, family preservation, foster care, kinship care, independent living, adoption and guardianship.

The Child Welfare Track includes an overview course focused on the causes and developmental consequences of child maltreatment, and two required courses designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to provide services to children and families at intake, in their own homes, and when children are in foster care, adoption and guardianship. Additionally, all students will take a policy course, one “track elective,” three additional electives, and two practice evaluation research courses. Most field placements take place in a county department of human services or in a private agency working in partnership with county departments.

**Overview Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4305 - Child Maltreatment: Causes and Developmental Consequences

**Skills Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4415 - Intake and Family Based Services: Assessment and Intervention

SOWK 4416 - Foster Care and Adoption: Assessment and Intervention

**Policy Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4600 - Child Welfare Policies and Services

**Research Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4900 - Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

SOWK 4901 - Applied Practice Evaluation Research

**Field Practicum** *(required)*

SOWK 4960 - Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical Practice

**Track Electives** *(at least one elective from this list is required)*

SOWK 4315 - Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Childhood and Adolescence

SOWK 4320 - Theories and Practice of Family Systems Therapy

SOWK 4430 - Drug Dependency Interventions

SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4705 - Forensic Orientation in Social Work Practice: Assessment and Interventions with High-Risk Offenders

SOWK 4710 - Domestic Violence Interventions

SOWK 4712 - Law of Family and Child

SOWK 4730 - Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

**Open Electives**

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers

## Families Track

The Families Track provides students with knowledge and skills to work from a family systems perspective with a wide variety of clients. “Families” are defined broadly to include biological lineages, affiliational families and communities.

Social workers using this perspective may intervene with individuals, couples, several members of a family, peer groups, work associates, school classrooms and organizations. Clients are viewed as being part of a larger context, situated in multiple social locations (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability and citizenship status). Assessment and intervention are applied within this context, with a goal of strengthening families and other systems.

The Families Track offers a broad-based academic experience, preparing students to work with adults, adolescents and children in a variety of settings: mental health and family services agencies, schools, treatment centers and community agencies. The track includes field internships with agencies or programs offering a wide array of services to families.

### **Overview Course** (*required*)

SOWK 4320 - Theories and Practice of Family Systems Therapy

### **Skills Courses** (*required*)

SOWK 4420 - Strategies and Techniques of Family Therapy

(pre-requisite: SOWK 4320)

SOWK 4505 - Social Work Practice with Couples

### **Policy Course** (*required*)

SOWK 4630 - Family Policies and Services

### **Research Courses** (*required*)

SOWK 4900 - Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

SOWK 4901 - Applied Practice Evaluation Research

### **Field Practicum** (*required*)

SOWK 4960 - Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical Practice

### **Track Electives** (*at least one elective from this list is required*)

SOWK 4330 – Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults

SOWK 4410 – Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Abuse

SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4710 – Domestic Violence Interventions

SOWK 4721 - Existential Social Work

SOWK 4790 – Human Sexuality

### **Open Electives**

three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers

## High-Risk Youth Track

Adolescence is a time of significant emotional, social, physical and psychological change. For some young people, adolescence is characterized by high-risk and antisocial behaviors such as drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence. Addressing the needs and concerns of youth, courses and field internships in the High-Risk Youth track seek to convey knowledge about the causes of adolescent problem behaviors and to teach intervention skills and strategies necessary to prevent and treat such problems. Policies aimed at preventing or controlling problems during adolescence are also examined.

The track utilizes a risk and protective factor framework to provide an overall framework for understanding, preventing and treating problem behaviors. Special attention is given to racial, ethnic and gender differences in the initiation and persistence of adolescent problems.

### **Overview Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4315 - Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Childhood and Adolescence

### **Skills Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4410 - Prevention and Treatment of Adolescent Substance Abuse

SOWK 4720 - Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Violence

### **Policy Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4610 - Policies and Programs for High-Risk Youth

### **Research Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4900 - Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

SOWK 4901 - Applied Practice Evaluation Research

### **Field Practicum** *(required)*

SOWK 4960 - Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical Practice

### **Track Electives** *(at least one elective from this list is required)*

SOWK 4320 - Theories and Practice of Families Systems Therapy

SOWK 4500 - Mental Health Interventions with Children

SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4712 - Law of Family and Child

SOWK 4715 - School-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Strategies

SOWK 4730 - Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

SOWK 4971 – Empirically-Supported Interventions in Child & Adolescent Mental Health

### **Open Electives**

three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers

## **Adulthood and Late Life Challenges Track**

The Adulthood and Late Life Challenges Track focuses on normative developmental processes and challenging problems that are encountered frequently during the adult years, such as problems with mental health, drug dependence, health and aging. The track provides advanced theory and research on adult development; a choice of policy courses (either mental health/substance abuse or health/aging); a required skill courses on assessment of mental health/drug use; and a choice of second required skills course (see list below).

Elective track courses include mental health interventions from several theoretical perspectives as well as intervention courses in drug dependency, health care settings, and chronic and terminal illness. Two practice evaluation courses also are required. Field education internships are offered in adult mental health settings, drug prevention and intervention programs, health and medical settings, and programs and services for seniors.

### **Overview Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4345 - Perspectives on Adulthood and Late Life

### **Skills Courses #1** *(required)*

SOWK 4330 - Assessment of Mental Health and Drug Use in Adults

### **Skills Course #2** *(required, pick one)*

SOWK 4775- Social Work with Groups

SOWK 4730 – Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

SOWK 4735 – Psychotherapeutic Interventions with Adults

SOWK 4445 – Assessment & Interventions in Aging

### **Policy Course** *(choice of one is required)*

SOWK 4640 - Mental Health and Drug Dependency: Policies and Systems *or*

SOWK 4650 - Social Policies and Social Services in Health and Aging

### **Research Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4900 - Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

SOWK 4901 - Applied Practice Evaluation Research

### **Field Practicum** *(required)*

SOWK 4960 - Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical Practice

### **Track Electives** *(at least one elective from this list or a second course chosen from the list of possible skills courses above is required)*

SOWK 4430 - Drug Dependency Interventions

SOWK 4515 - Community Mental Health Interventions

SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4721 - Existential Social Work

SOWK 4723 - Intervention Strategies in Health Care

SOWK 4741 - Social Work with the Chronically/Terminally Ill

### **Open Electives**

three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers

# Community Practice Track

## Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice Track

Community social work practice seeks to meet people's needs through social change at the community, organizational, societal and global levels. Community practitioners work with people adversely affected by social and economic systems with the aim of solving community problems and creating community well-being. The principal skill of community practice is leadership; each practitioner must find his/her own most effective leadership style and be able to apply it with multiple constituencies.

Community practice includes community social work (planning, community development, community organizing), organizational social work (administration, program development, organizational development), societal social work (social policy development and advocacy) and international social development (policy and practice research in an international setting).

The required skills courses in the Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice Track provide students with state-of-the-art knowledge about leadership for advanced practice in communities and organizations, with a theoretical orientation on transformational leadership theory and skills. Most field internships are in non-profit and public organizations, where students are encouraged to take leadership roles.

### **Overview Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4340- Theories of Leadership

### **Skills Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4435 - Empowerment Practice with Diverse Communities

SOWK 4525 – Human Service Program Development & Administrative Practice

### **Policy Course** *(required)*

SOWK 4670 – Policy Analysis and Development

Or

Any of the field of practice policy courses (SOWK 4600, 4610, 4630, 4640, or 4650)

### **Research Courses** *(required)*

SOWK 4900 – Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

SOWK 4901 – Applied Practice Evaluation Research

### **Field Practicum** *(required)*

SOWK 4961 –Concentration Field Practicum: Community Practice

### **Track Electives** *(at least one from this list is required)*

SOWK 4760 – Financial Management & Fundraising

SOWK 4765 – International Social Development

SOWK 4761 – Strategic Planning for Human Services

SOWK 4660 – Social Policy Advocacy

SOWK 4770 – Social Work Supervision

SOWK 4971 – Community Economic Development

### **Open Electives**

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers

## **Academic Certificates**

Four academic certificate programs are offered to MSW students in the concentration year at GSSW. These certificates allow students to pursue in-depth knowledge in a particular social work specialty.

- Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate
- Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy (offered through a cooperative program with the Denver Family Institute)
- Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate
- Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate

Note: All certificates except the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate accept students in any concentration. However, due to the nature of the certificate, students interested in the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate must choose one of the 4 clinical tracks.

## **Overall Requirements for Admission to Certificate Programs**

Students who wish to be considered for admission to any one of the four academic certificate programs must:

- Successfully complete the foundation year at GSSW or be admitted to the MSW program as an advanced standing student.
- Declare their intention to complete the certificate on their Course Planning Worksheet according to established deadlines (the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy and the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate both require a more formal application process.)
- Be interviewed by the coordinator of the certificate program(s) in which they are Interested, if required.
- Be willing and able to attend all classes required for the certificate at the time those classes are offered.
- Be willing and able to meet all academic requirements for their concentration and practice track, as well as for the certificate program.
- Pay any additional tuition or fees, as required.
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements listed within the individual certificate descriptions below.

### **ANIMAL-ASSISTED SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATE**

The Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW) Certificate allows GSSW students to experience a new and exciting aspect of social work practice. Participants explore the therapeutic use of animals in multiple social work settings and a variety of practice applications.

Students will learn to develop, implement and evaluate AASW programs, to select animals appropriate for particular therapies and to properly care for the animals in accordance with nationally recognized standards. The certificate offers students theoretical and application competencies in animal-assisted social work practice, utilizing nationally endorsed, empirically supported and best practice standards.

The AASW Certificate adds two specialized courses to the MSW curriculum. It also includes a field internship offering opportunities for AASW practice.

## Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate must meet all of the general requirements for admission to the certificate programs listed in the introductory section. In addition, they must attend a series of scheduled experiential AASW activities.

## Field Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in this certificate are required to complete fifteen (15) hours of concentration-year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency that either offers animal-assisted social work or is interested in developing it. The internship must fulfill the requirements of the concentration practice track, as well as those of the certificate. Students must incorporate their learning goals in the area of animal-assisted social work into their practice competencies and use of supervision on their Individualized Field Education Plan (IFEP).

## Course Requirements

Within their course of study, AASW Certificate students must include the following courses:

	<b>Credit Hours</b>
SOWK 4795 - Integration of Animals into Therapeutic Settings	3
SOWK 4796 - Animal-Assisted Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4960 <i>or</i> SOWK 4961 - Concentration Field Practicum	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

\*Please note that SOWK 4795 must be taken prior to SOWK 4796.

For more information about the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate, please contact the [certificate coordinator](#).

## CERTIFICATE IN COUPLES AND FAMILY THERAPY

Concentration year students may begin work toward a Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy through a cooperative program with the Denver Family Institute (DFI). Students take ten quarter hours of course work at DFI, completing their first year of work toward the certificate while still at GSSW. After obtaining their MSW, they complete an additional year of course work, and one to two years of post master's degree supervision and clinical contact hours requirements.

The program offers students:

- advanced learning and direct clinical training and practice with families, couples and

- individuals in a strong, supportive, systemic, strengths-based clinical community;
- state-of-the-art, intensive, often experiential training with experienced clinicians, enabling students to become skilled practitioners;
- the opportunity to develop a clinical specialty that adds to clinical confidence, professional identity, and enhances future job searches;
- clinical supervision (live and video) for licensure and the opportunity for dual licensure in both social work and marriage and family therapy (clinical supervision and clinical hours count towards both the LCSW and LMFT licenses).

Accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the Denver Family Institute offers the Rocky Mountain region's most extensive training in marriage and family therapy. Many of the supervisors are both LCSW and AAMFT approved.

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings (1st year) and Monday evenings (2nd year), and every effort is made to accommodate students' class and employment schedules. Supervision is arranged between students and faculty at mutually convenient times. Additional trainings and an annual relational conference are also offered at an additional cost, but at a reduced rate for students in the program.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy must meet all of the general requirements for admission to the certificate programs listed in the introductory section. In addition, they must apply directly to the Denver Family Institute. DFI reserves space for GSSW students each year, but openings are limited. The program accepts applications only from students who will complete the entire certificate program including the post-graduate coursework, supervision and clinic hours. A strong sense of self and social work values, interest in couples and family therapy work and the desire to be part of a clinical community are also a plus. Applications are accepted in the spring for admission in autumn quarter. Limited additional spaces in the program are reserved for advanced standing students.

### **Field Internship Requirements**

A limited number of internship placements for concentration year and advanced standing students are made available each year at DFI for GSSW students. All DFI field internship students must also enroll in, and complete, the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate Program. However, students in this certificate may also complete their field internships elsewhere.

### **Course Requirements**

Couples and Family Therapy Certificate students in the Families Track will take an overview course and two skills courses at DFI. These courses are taken in place of the overview and skills courses that GSSW requires within the Families Track (SOWK 4320, SOWK 4420 and SOWK

4505). However, in order to receive credit for these courses at GSSW, students must register at GSSW for the equivalent DFI courses, in addition to registering for these courses at the Denver Family Institute. Students will earn ten hours of GSSW credit for courses taken at DFI.

At GSSW, students will take a required policy course (SOWK 4630), two research courses in sequence during winter and spring quarters (SOWK 4900 and SOWK 4901, with research conducted in the student's field placement), three open electives selected in consultation with faculty advisers and at least one track elective from the following list:

- SOWK 4330 – Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults
- SOWK 4410 – Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Abuse
- SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities
- SOWK 4710 – Domestic Violence Interventions
- SOWK 4721 - Existential Social Work
- SOWK 4790 – Human Sexuality

Concentration year students in other tracks also may participate in the certificate program, completing all required courses for their track and taking DFI courses as ten hours of their electives.

## **Fees**

The Denver Family Institute charges tuition, payable at the beginning of each quarter. This fee is in addition to GSSW tuition, but it is less than half of what non-GSSW students are charged. The reduction in fees is given to GSSW students attending DFI as a scholarship contingent upon graduation from the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate program. For current fee information, please contact the [Denver Family Institute](#).

## **Post-Graduate Course Work and Tuition**

After MSW graduation, certificate students are required to complete additional supervision and course work at DFI, for which DFI charges additional tuition. Each quarter, full-time students receive 10 hours of group supervision with an emphasis on live case presentations, and 6 hours (7 in the fall) of individual supervision emphasizing taped session reviews. There is one evening of course work per week for one year.

Following MSW graduation, certificate students are required to have 500 clinical client contact hours. Of the 500 required hours, 125 hours may include observation of colleagues' sessions at the DFI Clinic. The observation culture is strongly encouraged in the program. The remaining 375 of the 500 hours must be direct client contact hours, half of which must be relational hours working with couples and/or families. DFI program staff can provide additional information regarding these requirements.

Some students complete the program within one year after MSW graduation. Others need additional time to meet the supervision, clinic and client contact requirements.

For more information, please contact the [certificate coordinator](#). Applications are available from the [Denver Family Institute](#) (303.756.3340).

## **SOCIAL WORK WITH LATINOS/AS CERTIFICATE**

The Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate has been designed to address the critical need for bilingual and culturally competent social workers who can effectively serve individuals and families of Mexican and Latin American origin. The certificate includes an intensive language summer immersion course (taught collaboratively with the Department of Languages and Literatures) that includes an experiential component in Mexico on global relations and poverty, and a field placement offering the opportunity to work with Latino/a clients and use Spanish at least 30-50% of the time.

Students who complete the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate will have an understanding of Latino/a difference from a cognitive perspective (through course work) and practical experience (through field work), and they will be linguistically equipped to intervene in the Spanish language.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate must meet all of the general requirements for admission to the certificate programs listed in the introductory section. In addition, this certificate requires:

- The ability and willingness to complete the initial intensive Spanish language immersion course (SOWK 4750 - Critical Perspectives on the Latino Context) during the summer preceding the concentration year.
- A score of “Intermediate” on the nationally standardized Spanish language placement test, given by a university Spanish department; this test is offered at the University of Denver.

### **Field Internship Requirements**

Students enrolled in this certificate program are required to complete fifteen (15) hours of concentration-year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency offering the opportunity to work with Latino/a clients and use Spanish at least 30-50% of the time. The internship must fulfill the requirements of the concentration practice track, as well as those of the certificate.

## Course Requirements

Within their course of study, Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate students must include the following courses:

	<b>Credit Hours</b>
SOWK 4750 - Critical Perspectives on the Latino Context	4
SOWK 4132 - Multicultural Social Work Practice*	3
SOWK 4749 - Social Work Interventions with Latinos/as	3
SOWK 4751 - Global Relations & Poverty in Mexico	3
SOWK 4753 - Social Development in Latin America	3

SOWK 4960 <i>or</i> SOWK 4961 - Concentration Field Practicum	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

\* Note: Two-year MSW students will complete SOWK 4132 (Multicultural Social Work Practice) during their foundation year. Advanced standing students will take this course during the summer.

For more information about the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate, please contact the [certificate coordinator](#).

## INTERPERSONAL TRAUMA STUDIES CERTIFICATE

The Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate introduces students to trauma practice through an increased understanding of the dynamics and needs of individuals, families, groups and communities impacted by multiple levels of trauma. Participants will integrate knowledge and practice relevant to response and recovery from trauma, including physical, psychological, social, historical and vicarious or secondary trauma, with an emphasis on interpersonal trauma.

In keeping with GSSW's commitment to the overlapping nature of the strengths perspective, multicultural frameworks for understanding and practice, empowerment models and awareness of multilevel systems, the certificate addresses trauma at personal, interpersonal and social-political-community levels, as well as the interactions among them.

The program adds two specialized courses to the regular MSW curriculum and requires a field internship in a trauma-related setting.

### Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate must meet all of the general requirements for admission to the certificate programs listed in the introductory section, and must choose a clinical concentration.

### Field Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in this certificate are required to complete fifteen (15) hours of concentration-year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency where a minimum of 50% of their time (e.g., 10 hours per week in a 20-hour-per-week placement) is devoted to

trauma-related practice and content. The internship must fulfill the requirements of the clinical concentration practice track as well as those of the certificate. Students must incorporate their learning goals in the area of trauma work into their practice competencies and use of supervision on their Individualized Field Education Plan (IFEP).

## Course Requirements

Within their course of study, Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate students must include the following courses:

	<b>Credit Hours</b>
SOWK 4754 - Trauma and Recovery in Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4755 - Social Work Interventions for Responses to Trauma	3
SOWK 4960 - Concentration Field Practicum : Clinical	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

It is also highly recommended that students complete SOWK 4735 - Psychotherapeutic Interventions with Adults.

For more information about the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate, please contact the [certificate coordinator](#).

## Field Internship Requirements

Supervised field instruction is a required component of the GSSW curriculum. This experience allows students to apply the knowledge and theories learned in the classroom to professional clinical and community interventions. Field education is offered under the concurrent field plan, which engages students simultaneously in both classroom and practice learning during each academic quarter. Field internships last a full academic year. Some block placements are available after course work has been completed, with careful prior planning.

Students' field internships are selected in relation to career interest, administrative feasibility, geographic considerations and educational standards. GSSW makes every effort to place students in field internships; however it does not guarantee their acceptance by participating agencies. Availability may vary, and some internships are limited to concentration year students only. Public transportation may be used for field internships if a student does not have a car. However, this may limit a student's choice of internship sites. Students are discouraged from working full-time while taking classes and completing a field internship.

A minimum of 1,080 field clock hours is required for students in the 2-year MSW program; 600 clock hours are required for advanced standing students.

Foundation year students must complete 12 quarter hours of field internship, 4 credit hours each quarter, for a total of 480 clock hours. Concentration year students must complete a minimum of 15 quarter hours of field internship, 5 credit hours each quarter, for a total of 600 clock hours. Students in approved internships requiring more than 600 clock hours register for additional

credits. Although the break between autumn and winter quarters is four to five weeks long, students are expected to continue at their field internships two weeks beyond the Thanksgiving break, usually completing autumn quarter field work by mid-December.

Students who are employed by a human service agency that meets GSSW's requirements may apply to do one field internship in their place of work. They must have been employed there for at least six months and have completed the agency's probationary period. Additional criteria are listed in the GSSW [Field Manual](#).

## Graduation Requirements

The following requirements must be met for the Master of Social Work degree:

- **Residency:** Students must be enrolled at GSSW for at least three quarters and earn a minimum of 45 credit hours at GSSW.
- **Grades:** Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, excluding field practicum grades.
- **Credit hours:** Students in the two-year program must earn 90 quarter hours, and those in the advanced standing program must earn 60 quarter hours; both requirements must be met within four years of the date of first enrollment.
- **Required courses:** Students must complete concentration and other course requirements.
- **Field internship:** Students must satisfactorily complete field internship requirements.
- **Advancement to candidacy:** Students must advance to candidacy no later than one quarter before the expected date of program completion. Advancement is based on enrollment as a regular-status student, as well as satisfactory progress in course work and field internship. In addition, students must exhibit satisfactory progress in the areas of professional attitude and behavior and ethical conduct. Students for whom there is a conduct review pending will not be advanced until the satisfactory resolution of that concern.
- **Application for graduation:** Students must apply for graduation no later than the first day of the quarter preceding that of intended graduation.

## PhD PROGRAM

University policy requires a minimum of 135 quarter hours beyond a baccalaureate for the doctor of philosophy degree in social work. Up to 60 quarter hours toward this requirement may be credited for “A” or “B” work completed as part of a master’s degree conferred through an accredited school of social work. Transcripts of students with a master’s degree in an academic discipline other than social work will be reviewed, and up to 45 credits toward the PhD degree will be granted for “A” or “B” work in courses that are sufficiently related to degree requirements. Please see the [PhD Handbook](#) for additional information.

In addition to the up to 60 credit hours granted for the master’s degree, a typical program consists of a minimum of 75 quarter-hour credits, distributed as follows: 43 hours of required course credits, 25 hours of elective course credits and up to 7 dissertation credits. All courses and independent studies must be consistent with the student’s educational plan and approved by the student’s academic adviser each quarter.

Students without an MSW or BSW are required to take, or test out of, SOWK 4118 (History of Social Welfare and Social Work) and SOWK 4120 (Social Welfare Policy) in the MSW program.

All students must successfully complete the following core doctoral courses:

- SOWK 5002 - Social Work and Theory
- SOWK 5101 - Social Welfare Policy Analysis and Development
- SOWK 5200 - Introduction to Social Work Research
- SOWK 5400 - Seminar in Professional Social Work Issues (each quarter of 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- SOWK 5450 – Social Work Knowledge Integration and Publication
- SOWK 5401 - Quantitative Research Methods
- SOWK 5402 - Qualitative Research Methods
- SOWK 5405 - Qualitative Data Analysis

SOWK 5930 - Statistical Methods in Social Work, Education and Psychology  
SOWK 5950 - Multivariate Analysis  
SOWK 5952 - Correlation and Regression  
SOWK 5700 - Teaching Practicum

In addition to the core courses, students must complete at least 25 additional elective hours in theory and policy, research methods, and in a substantive area of study. Electives may be chosen from other University departments, other universities or selected MSW courses that complement the student's course of study. All courses taken outside the school must be designated as doctoral level by the departments offering them. Students taking master's level courses for doctoral credit within GSSW are expected to perform at a level beyond that expected of master's students.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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