

The Social Work Master's Degree Program

The Master of Social Work Program is designed to prepare students for the competent and ethical practice of **clinical social work**. First year foundation courses provide generalist social work knowledge, values, and skills, which are applicable to all practice settings. Specialization in **clinical social work**, during the second year, provides students with the theories, methods, skills, and techniques necessary for effective clinical social work practice.

The full MSW curriculum consists of **66** academic credit hours, including **54** classroom credit hours and **12** credit hours (1120 clock hours) of supervised practice in agency settings.

Both full-time and part-time options are available.

THE ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM is designed for students who have received a baccalaureate degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program. *These students are eligible for up to 33 credit hours of course waivers*, which means that most are required to complete **33** hours of coursework in order to earn the MSW degree.

Advanced Standing students who qualify for all course waivers may complete the MSW program in three full-time semesters, beginning in the summer semester.

Advanced standing is not automatic. Course waivers may be granted only for *foundation* courses and they are determined on a course-by-course basis. A grade of "B" or better in the undergraduate course considered for waiver is required. In addition, course and/or credit waivers are dependent on the *equivalency* of the course content, as determined by the MSW Program Director.

Advanced standing students, receiving all course waivers, start in the summer following admission and take SW 604, SW 605, and one elective. Because the summer term is only 8-10 weeks long, seated summer courses meet twice a week, whereas seated courses offered during the fall and spring terms meet once a week for approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes per class session.

THE REGULAR STANDING PROGRAM is for the student who has an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than social work. This program begins in the summer or fall semester following admission, and is completed in two years by full-time students and four years by part-time students. Most regular standing students are required to complete the full 66 hours in order to earn the MSW degree.

Regular Standing students enrolled full-time may complete the MSW program in five semesters, beginning fall semester and ending in May of the following academic year. Part-time students may take up to four years to complete the full program.

All students have **four (4) years** from their date of entry into the program **to complete** the MSW Program.

Dual JD – MSW Degree Program

The Department of Social Work and the Washburn University School of Law jointly offer a dual JD-MSW Degree. The goal of the JD-MSW Dual Degree Program is to prepare students with combined skills in both social work and law for professional practice with

complex social and legal issues in areas where social work and law converge.

If pursued separately, the two-degree programs would require 156 credit hours (i.e., 90 hours for Law and 66 hours for Social Work). However, in the JD-MSW Dual Degree Program, certain courses are accepted for credit by both schools. For an *advanced standing* student with all course waivers, this reduces the total number of credit hours to 111 (a reduction of 12 credit hours across both programs). For a *regular standing* student, the total number of credit hours required is reduced to 144 (again, a reduction of 12 credit hours). Students will typically complete most of their course work in the MSW Program before beginning the JD Program, although it is possible for a student to start in the Law School, complete most of the JD requirements, and then begin and complete the MSW degree requirements.

Students must separately apply to and be accepted by both academic programs. Students are asked to indicate to each program, at the time of application, that they are applying to the JD-MSW Dual Degree Program.

School Social Work Track

Within the clinical concentration, students may opt to receive specialty training in school social work. This entails taking three (3) specific electives: Social Work Practice in Schools (SW 618); Clinical Social Work Practice with the Exceptional Child (SW 585) or its equivalent; and Clinical Social Work Practice in the Educational Environment (SW 585) or its equivalent. During the fall semester, school social work track students should take SW 618 concurrently with Clinical Practicum I (SW 650) and Clinical Practice Seminar I (SW 655). In addition, the two-semester clinical practicum must be in a school setting under the supervision of a school social worker.

Certificate Programs

Any applicant who would like to earn a certificate in Addiction Counseling, Victim/Survivor Services, and/or Morita Therapy may do so while working on her/his MSW degree. The certificate program is managed by the Department of Human Services at Washburn University. Some course work in the MSW Program may count toward the certificate, but any waivers can only be approved by the chair of the Department of Human Services. More specific information about certificate programs can be found at the department web site: <http://www.washburn.edu/sas/social-work> or by contacting the Department of Human Services at (785) 670-2116.

Admissions

Applicants must have completed all requirements for a bachelor's degree from an accredited university before the date for which admission is sought. The minimum requirement for admission is a grade point average of 3.0.

There should be evidence of adequate preparation to begin graduate study. *Such preparation must include satisfactory completion of undergraduate course work in each of the following*

*areas: natural sciences, social sciences, English composition, humanities, and mathematics. There must also be evidence of satisfactory completion of course work in biology and human cultural perspectives. Students who lack course work in any of these areas will be required to complete coursework during their **first year** of admission to the graduate program.*

Admission packets are available through the Department of Social Work. The absolute MSW application deadline is January 15th for summer/fall admission **and** October 15th for spring admission.

Application to the MSW program is a two-part process. First, applicants must fully complete an online Washburn University application for the semester in which they intend to start (spring, summer, or fall). To apply, please visit the Washburn University home page at <http://www.washburn.edu/> and follow the link labeled "Admissions."

Second, the applicant must submit a complete MSW Application packet on or before the deadline that includes three references, a completed application form, a personal statement, official transcripts from all universities attended, and a non-refundable application fee of \$25. Applicants are advised that admission to Washburn and admission to the MSW Program are separate processes. **Applicants are encouraged to apply early, and admission to the MSW Program is competitive.**

It is the policy of Washburn University to assure equal education opportunity without regard to age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, political affiliation, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.

Provisional Status

The purpose of provisional status is to allow select individuals, who fail to meet one of the admission criteria, the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to meet the academic rigor of the graduate program. Provisional students must achieve a "B" or better in each course or be subject to dismissal from the program.

Transfer Students

Transfer of credits from another MSW program is considered on a case-by-case basis. As a rule, only courses taken in a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited Master of Social Work program will be eligible for transfer. The applicant must have received a grade of "B" or better in the course(s) being considered. In addition, each course must be deemed equivalent in content to an existing social work graduate course for which transfer credit is being considered. In most instances, transfer of credit is only granted for first year foundation courses. In accordance with accreditation requirements, academic credit is **not** given for life or work experience.

All graduate transfer students must complete an application packet. One of the three letters of reference must come from the dean/department chair of the CSWE-accredited program from which the student is transferring. If the student was in a practicum placement while in the other program, he/she should obtain the second letter of reference from his/her field practicum instructor. All other letters of reference should be from

full-time members of the teaching faculty in the host program, who have had the student in their classes. The MSW Admissions Committee will be convened to consider the application.

Class Schedule

Seated classes for first-year, generalist graduate students are offered in a day-long block format on **Mondays** with three class periods running from 8:00 am – 10:50 am, 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm, and 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Likewise, seated classes for second year, clinical graduate students are offered in a day-long block format on **Wednesdays** with three class periods running from 8:00 am – 10:50 am, 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm, and 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm). Some additional sections are offered in evening slots on different days of the week. On occasion, an elective course is offered each semester on a Saturday in a compressed format running from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Online Courses

The department's primary aim is to offer quality courses, regardless of format or method of delivery. At present, the department offers seated **and** online sections for the following classes:

SW 500 – Micro HBSE [ONLINE] (fall)
SW 501 – Macro HBSE [ONLINE] (spring)
SW 510 – Foundations of Social Policy [ONLINE] (fall)
SW 511 – Social Policy and Advocacy [ONLINE] (spring)
SW 520 – Quantitative Social Work Research [ONLINE] (fall)
SW 521 – Qualitative Social Work Research [ONLINE] (spring)

The department is working to extend its online series of elective courses (e.g., Couples Counseling, Psycho-pharmacology). Other courses (e.g., SW 605) can be delivered online or in a blended seat-time and online format. At present, all other social work courses are web-assisted (i.e., seated with supplementary web-content). Over the next several years, the department will be developing and offering additional online elective courses.

MSW Course of Study

<u>Foundation Courses</u>		
<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SW 500	Micro HBSE	3
SW 501	Macro HBSE	3
SW 510	Foundations of Social Policy	3
SW 511	Social Policy and Advocacy	3
SW 520	Quantitative Social Work Research	3
SW 521	Qualitative Social Work Research	3

SW 530	Fundamentals of Social Work Practice	3
SW 525	Pre-Generalist Practicum Workshop	0
SW 550	Generalist Practicum I	3
SW 551	Generalist Practice Seminar I	3
SW 560	Generalist Practicum II	3
SW 561	Generalist Practice Seminar II	3

Clinical Core Courses

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SW 600	Clinical SW Practice with Individuals	3
SW 601	Clinical SW Practice with Families	3
SW 604	Clinical SW Practice with Groups	3
SW 605	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	3

Clinical Elective Courses

Students must take at least three elective courses (i.e., nine credit hours) from the growing list of department electives. At this time, these include, but are not limited to:

- Bowen Family Systems Theory and Therapy
- Clinical Social Work Practice with Addictions
- Play Therapy
- Mental Health and the Law
- Clinical Social Work Practice with Survivors of Trauma
- Cognitive Therapy
- Dimensions of Professional Social Work

Electives vary each semester. The faculty periodically reviews the curriculum, adding new electives so students can keep current with social issues and best practices.

Clinical Practicum and Seminar Sequence

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SW 625	Pre-Clinical Practicum Workshop	0
SW 655	Clinical Practice Seminar I	3
SW 650	Clinical Practicum I	3
SW 656	Clinical Practice Seminar II (ONLINE)	3
SW 660	Clinical Practicum II	3

The field practicum is an integral part of the MSW program. It provides a laboratory for students to develop mastery of social work skills. Students complete a total of 400 hours for the Generalist Practicum and 720 hours for the Clinical Practicum.

The Clinical Practice Seminar is taken concurrently with Clinical Practicum I. There is no seminar for students in Clinical Practicum II.

Financial Assistance

Applications for general financial assistance are available in the Financial Aid Office at Washburn University in Morgan Hall (telephone 785-670-1151). The Financial Aid web site is at <http://www.washburn.edu/financial-aid>.

Additional financial aid information may be obtained through the Dean's Office of the School of Applied Studies (telephone 785-670-1245). Practicum stipends should be discussed with the Director of Field Practicum in the Department of Social Work.

Faculty

The highly qualified faculty possesses exceptional academic credentials and extensive social work practice experience. Faculty members remain active in professional and community organizations. In addition, students profit from taking classes from a select group of community-based clinical social workers, who teach part-time in their respective areas of expertise.

**Washburn University – School of Applied Studies
Department of Social Work
1700 SW College Avenue – 412 Benton Hall
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Telephone (785) 670-1616
Fax (785) 670-1027
E-Mail: social-work@washburn.edu
Web Site: <http://www.washburn.edu/sas/social-work>**

Washburn University

Master's of Social Work



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