

School of Social Work

UMKC 2007-08 Graduate and Professional Catalog (1.0)

June 12, 2007

Contents

- School of Social Work 5
 - Department Description 5
 - Career Implications 5
 - Program Description 5
 - Field Practicum 5
 - Admissions 5
 - Degree Requirements 6
 - Student Advising 6
 - Student Learning Outcomes 6
 - Plan of Study 7
 - Professional Status 7
 - Social Work (SW) Courses 7

School of Social Work

Master of Social Work Program
4825 Troost Avenue, Suite 106
(816) 235-1025
Fax: (816) 235-6573
soc-wk@umkc.edu
<http://cas.umkc.edu/socialwork>

Mailing Address

University of Missouri-Kansas City
School of Social Work
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

Interim Program Chair:

Joseph Hughey

Interim Program Director/Professor:

Lee Rathbone-McCuan

Interim Director of Field Education:

Elaine Spencer-Carver

Faculty:

Rosalyn Bertram (children, youth & families; developmental disabilities), Betty Blackmon (practice; violence across the life span; human behavior; cultural competency), J. Larry Dyer (practice; substance abuse), Monica Nandan (healthcare), Lee Rathbone-McCuan (social policy and aging), Kathylene Siska (policy; research), Elaine Spencer-Carver (practice; violence across the life span; children, youth and families; qualitative research), Rhonda Weimer (psychopathology; practice; advanced group)

Department Description

The School of Social Work offers a program of study leading to the master's in social work degree and a professional career in social work. Started in 1999, the M.S.W. program is the result of collaborative efforts by the University of Missouri System, UMKC and many social service agencies in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The M.S.W. program received initial accreditation in May, 2003.

The mission of the UMKC M.S.W. program is the preparation of competent professionals for advanced generalist social work practice in the urban environment. The M.S.W. program emphasizes three themes across the curriculum: empowerment and social and economic justice; strengths perspective and asset building; and community building.

Achieving proficiency in each of these competency areas results in an M.S.W. graduate with the ability to practice across a variety of social service settings and with a specialty set of skills individualized through the selection of elective courses.

Career Implications

Why consider an advanced degree in social work? Above all, the degree is flexible and versatile. For example, social workers are employed in public social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, medical settings, schools, community-based clinics and residential settings. The social work perspective looks not only at individual thoughts, feelings and actions, but also at the social environment as a primary arena for opportunities for change. On behalf of the people they serve, social workers have strong interests in social policy and advocacy, as well as social science research and policy and program evaluation.

Program Description

The program educates advanced generalist social work practitioners for professional responsibilities in today's challenging human service field. To accommodate working

students' schedules, many classes are scheduled for late afternoons, evenings and weekends.

As adult learners, students have opportunities to choose assignments and electives fitting their learning needs. Faculty members view students as active co-directors of the learning process. Group discussion and debate; role playing; and other experiential activities complement readings and written assignments.

The practice-oriented curriculum is focused on advanced generalist social work practice in an urban environment. It is an eclectic theory base for viewing human behavior in the social environment; skills for operating in a multidisciplinary agency and community environment; research methods with practical application to agency practice; and approaches to working with culturally diverse populations.

The full-time, regular M.S.W. program offers a two-year, 60-credit curriculum combining classroom and field experience. For students who already have a B.S.W. degree, the full-time advanced standing program includes 36 credits during a summer semester and one full-time year of coursework with a supervised field practicum. Any student may attend part-time but must complete the M.S.W. in four years.

The foundation year includes coursework in generalist social work practice theory and skills, social policy, human behavior in the social environment, social work research and a generalist field practicum experience in a social service agency 16 hours a week.

In the concentration level year, the curriculum focuses on advanced generalist method within an urban context. Students select four electives with a requirement of at least one elective in Integrative content area and at least one elective in Advanced Methodological approaches to Social Work practice. Students explore individualized interest by their selection of electives. Then a second field practicum for 16 hours a week provides advanced generalist experience and supervision.

Field Practicum

The practicum program uses agencies throughout the metropolitan area to offer experiences at both foundation and advanced levels. Students typically spend two days in the field and are mentored by an M.S.W. practitioner employed by the agency. Students spend a required number of hours in face-to-face contact with clients; in agency meetings; in individual or group supervision; and in the community. In some cases, students who already are social service employees can arrange to complete one year of their field placements at their own agencies.

Admissions

The majority of applicants to M.S.W. programs have a variety of undergraduate degrees. Some people have life or work experience in other fields and are ready for a career change. Others have worked in the human service field and are ready to pursue an M.S.W. degree to advance in their careers.

Applicants who already have a B.S.W. degree can consider the advanced standing program if they have received the B.S.W. degree within the last five years and had a 3.0 grade-point average in the B.S.W. major.

For both the regular and advanced standing programs, applicants should request an admissions packet from the school. The packet contains an information folder, a program application, and a graduate student application from the University.

In addition to standard materials, applicants must submit an essay in response to the questions:

1. "What social need do you hope to address as a professional social worker?"
2. "What groups of people or what organizational settings might best utilize your personal and professional talents?"

Three confidential references from people able to assess the applicant's work and academic experience and professional potential are required. Students must send this material directly to the program.

While personal interviews are not required, the M.S.W. Admissions Committee may request a meeting with an applicant. Applicants with questions about the program may attend public information sessions, which are scheduled once a month on campus or at a local agency.

The program is inclusive and draws from a diverse applicant pool. Toward this end, program faculty members make regular community presentations to diverse groups, and work with the Office of Student Affairs to link with student organizations representing women; people of color; gays and lesbians; international students; and students with disabilities. Complete admission requirements include:

1. An application submitted as instructed.
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The applicant's undergraduate education must reflect a sound liberal arts foundation, including courses in the humanities, as well as in the social and behavioral sciences.
3. An undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or better for the last 60 hours of coursework.
4. In some cases, students may be admitted on a provisional basis if they have less than 3.0 GPA, meet all other admissions requirements, and have submitted a written statement asking to be considered for admission based on: (1) completion of 6 hours of relevant graduate-level coursework, acceptable to the faculty, with a grade-point average of 3.0, reported on an official transcript or (2) evidence of sustained commitment and significant contribution in the field of human services.
5. The program does not give academic credit for life experience or previous work experience.
6. Student transfers from other accredited M.S.W. programs may apply to the program. Some or all of a student's completed coursework will be considered for transferred credit.
7. All applicants transferring from other M.S.W. programs in which they are currently enrolled must be in good standing with the program.

Degree Requirements

The graduate social work program grants the M.S.W. degree when students have completed the following degree requirements:

1. 60 credit hours of class (48 hours) and field (12 hours) for regular program students.
2. 36 credit hours of class (30 hours) and field (6 hours) for advanced standing students.
3. To remain in good standing, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
4. Part-time students must demonstrate acceptable progress towards the degree.
5. Students take four electives in the concentration year, with one elective from Integrative Content electives (Aging, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Children, Youth and Families or School Social Work) and one elective from Advanced Methods electives required.
6. Testing out of foundation courses, except for practice courses and field practicum, is an option. Students are given the opportunity to waive up to 6 credit hours by taking the equivalent of a final examination for a course, offered at the beginning of the semester. These credits must be replaced by electives.

Note: For students with disabilities or special learning needs, the program works closely with the Office of Disabled Student Services regarding special accommodations.

Student Advising

M.S.W. students can seek information and support from the faculty. After admission to the program, students attend an orientation, receive a Student Handbook, and are assigned an academic adviser from the faculty. Ongoing contact with the adviser ensures that a plan of study is meeting the expectations of the student and the guidelines of the M.S.W. program. Part-time students will find the adviser particularly helpful in planning the sequence and the timing of courses and field work. When a student selects a field placement, the field practicum director and a faculty field liaison work with the student and the agency to ensure a quality learning experience. In addition, the M.S.W. program director and the M.S.W. student organization offer opportunities for students to discuss their experience in the program and in the field.

Student Learning Outcomes

Master of Social Work

The knowledge and skill learning outcomes for graduates from the UMKC M.S.W. Program include the ability to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills within professional contexts, including synthesizing and applying appropriate theories and knowledge to practice interventions.
2. Practice within the values and ethics of the social work profession and with an understanding of, and respect for, the positive value of diversity.
3. Demonstrate the professional use of self.
4. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and the strategies and skills of change that advance social and economic justice.
5. Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its current structures and issues.
6. Apply the knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes.
7. Apply the knowledge and skills of advanced social work practice in an area of concentration.
8. Critically analyze and apply knowledge of bio-psycho-social variables that affect individual development and behavior, and use theoretical frameworks to understand the interactions among individuals and between individuals and social systems (i.e., families, groups, organizations, and communities).
9. Analyze the impact of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies and demonstrate skills for influencing policy formulation and change.
10. Evaluate relevant research studies and apply findings to practice, and demonstrate skills in quantitative and qualitative research design, data analysis, and knowledge dissemination.
11. Conduct empirical evaluations of their own practice interventions and those of other relevant systems.
12. Use communication skills differentially with a variety of client populations, colleagues, and members of the community.
13. Use supervision and consultation appropriate to advanced practice in an area of concentration.
14. Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change.

Plan of Study

The following course of study is a typical schedule for a full-time student. A student must complete all foundation level courses before taking any concentration level courses. The plan of study is subject to change.

Regular Program

Fall

SW5510	Foundation Field Practicum I (3)
SW5530	Human Behavior: Individuals in the Social Environment (3)
SW5532	Foundations of Social Work Practice I (3)
SW5534	Social Welfare Programs and Policies (3)
SW5536	Social Work Research Methods (3)

Spring

SW5511	Foundation Field Practicum II (3)
SW5531	Human Behavior: Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities (3)
SW5533	Foundations of Social Work Practice II (3)
SW5535	Social Welfare Policy Practice (3)
SW5537	Statistical Applications in Social Work Research (3)

Fall

SW5512	Advanced Field Practicum I (3)
SW5540	Advanced Social Work Practice I (3)
SW5550	Social Work Practice and Program Evaluation I (3)
XXX	Advanced Methods Elective (3)
XXX	Integrative Content Elective (3)

Spring

SW5513	Advanced Field Practicum II (3)
SW5541	Advanced Social Work Practice II (3)
SW5579	Capstone Seminar in Social Work (3)
XXX	Advanced Methods Elective (3)
XXX	Integrative Content Elective (3)

Advanced Standing Program

Advanced standing students must enroll in the following required summer courses; unless SW 5531, 5535 and 5537 are completed prior to summer matriculation.

SW5538	Advanced Standing Seminar: Contemporary Trends in Social Work Practice (3)
SW5539	Advanced Standing Seminar: Emerging Issues in Social Welfare Policy and Research (3)

Advanced standing students then complete a comparable advanced-level year curriculum with other program students.

Professional Status

After graduation, students are well prepared to accept a professional social work position with populations at-risk in a variety of social service, mental health, medical, or community settings.

Both Missouri and Kansas offer an exam to license specialist clinical social workers after two years of supervised practice in direct services. For social workers who plan to practice at this level, Kansas statutes require completion of graduate or continuing education courses in psychopathology and diagnostic skills. Students who are considering clinical licensure in Kansas are encouraged to take this course as an elective prior to graduation from the M.S.W. program.

Social Work (SW) Courses

5510 Foundation Field Practicum I (3). Students spend 16-hours weekly in a generalist field practicum setting under MSW supervision. Participation in a 12-hour integrated field seminar on campus led by faculty is required. Must take one human behavior course (SW5530 or SW5531) prior to entering or concurrently with field placement. Must take SW 5532 concurrently.

5511 Foundation Field Practicum II (3). Students continue the field practicum experience from SW 5510 and participation in the integrated seminar on campus. Focus on generalist knowledge, values, and skills. Prerequisite: Completion of SW 5510 and SW 5532. Must take SW 5533 concurrently.

5512 Advanced Field Practicum I (3). Students are placed in a field setting in their chosen field-of-practice concentration approximately 16 hours per week under the supervision of an MSW field instructor. SW 5540 must be taken concurrently. One concentration seminar must be taken prior to or concurrently with entering this field placement.

5513 Advanced Field Practicum II (3). Students complete a final semester in their field-of-practice concentration agency setting approximately 16 hours weekly under MSW supervision. SW 5541 must be taken concurrently.

5530 Human Behavior: Individuals In The Social Environment (3). This theory course focuses on the interactional context of human behavior essential to all social work practice. A variety of perspectives are considered in the understanding of the individual; developmental, ecosystemic, biopsychosocial, traditional, and alternative. Diversity and resiliency are the key course concepts.

5531 Human Behavior: Families, Groups, Organizations, And Communities (3). This theory course applies social work's ecosystemic framework to the understanding of human behavior in families, groups, organizations, and communities. Knowledge and applied theories and paradigms are examined that honor social justice, human diversity, strengths/assets, and community-building to enhance effective social work practice. Prerequisite: SW 5530

5532 Foundations Of Social Work Practice I (3). This course examines the fundamental knowledge, values, and skills of generalist social work practice with a focus on person-in-environment. Course topics include values and ethics, collaborative approaches to helping, stages of the helping process, and beginning practice skills with at-risk populations. Concurrent enrollment in SW5510 is required.

5533 Foundations Of Social Work Practice II (3). This second generalist social work practice course examines effective helping approaches with diverse families, small groups, and communities of identify and/or place. The course also introduces values and working styles for professional practice in organizations. Pre-requisite: SW5532 and SW 5510. Concurrent enrollment in SW5511 is required.

5534 Social Welfare Programs And Policies (3). This course examines social policies that direct current social service trends at local, state, and federal levels. Students learn a model of analysis that examines the context in which policy decisions are made and the effects that social service programs and policies have on people's lives.

5535 Social Welfare Policy Practice (3). This course prepares students with a social justice/empowerment orientation and the knowledge, skills and values needed to become an effective policy advocate, particularly with people who experience the effects of poverty, discrimination, exclusion, and oppression. Pre-requisite: SW 5534

5536 Social Work Research Methods (3). This course introduces students to the fundamental knowledge and skills of social work research such as practice evaluation, program planning, and other facets of professional social work practice. Emphasis on application of social research methods in actual practice situations will be used to assist students in skill development.

5537 Quantitative Social Work Research Methods (3). This course is designed to prepare graduate level students to develop a comprehensive understanding of statistical method application to social work research. Students will gain a basic understanding of the research and statistical procedure that are needed for clinicians/researcher to operate within the field today. Students will become proficient in reading analyzing and assessing the results of social work publications. Prerequisite: SW 5536 Social Work Research Method

5538 Advanced Standing Seminar: Contemp Trends In Social Work Practice (3). This required seminar is designed for BSW's entering the Advanced Standing Program and serves to update and integrate social work practice approaches with contemporary perspectives of human behavior in the social environment. Restriction: Restricted to Advanced Standing Students.

5539 Adv Standing Sem: Emerging Iss In Soc Welfare Policy And Research (3). This required seminar in the Advanced Standing Program examines emerging policy issues and research developments in the field. Students prepare to choose a field-of-practice concentration and to enter the Advanced-level year of study. Restriction: Restricted to Advanced Standing Students.

5540 Advanced Social Work Practice I (3). This course prepares students with an advanced generalist social work perspective and to evaluate and integrate theory, values, and skills for assessment and direct practice with complex case situations in a rapidly changing service environment. Must Be taken concurrently with SW 5512. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation year.

5541 Advanced Social Work Practice II (3). This course extends the advanced generalist model of social work practice to working with challenging families and small groups. The course introduces leadership, organizational, and management competencies for professional practice in social service agencies and skills for coalition-building and collaboration in communities. Must be taken concurrently with SW5513. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation year.

5542 Social Services With Older Adults (3). This course provides an overview of social service practice with older adults. Students examine population demographics, identify normal and abnormal aspects of aging, and examine methods, paradigms, and approaches to effective advanced generalist practice in treatment and community settings. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation year.

5544 Families, Communities and Child Welfare (3). This course examines child centered, family centered and neighborhood based approaches to child welfare. Prerequisites: Completion of Social Work Foundation Sequence

5546 Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice (3). This course examines current practice approaches and policy/research issues in mental health and in the dually diagnosed. Students focus on service delivery systems of care with a variety of adult populations from an empowerment perspective. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation year.

5550 Program Evaluation and Management (3). this course is designed to train students in evaluation of direct practice, community needs and underserved populations. Students develop a new or enhanced model of service delivery to address needs. Strategic planning, management in theories and grant writing and major components of this course. Prerequisites: Completion of foundation year.

5560 Psychopathology: A Competency Based Assessment Model in Social Work Practice (3). The DSM will be used in conjunction with a competency-based assessment model that includes an ecological approach and systems theory to determine what biopsychosocial factors have contributed to the client's problem. The multi-axial system become a tool to gather information, that supports the competency-based assessment. Prerequisites: Foundation Coursework Offered: Every Fall

5562 Family Organization and Development: Multi-systems Interventions (3). This course examines developmental, structural, systemic family therapy and multi-system interventions. Prerequisites: Completion of Social Work Foundation

5564 Advanced Group Interventions in Social Work (3). This course provides both a didactic and experiential introduction to advanced group therapy for social work practice, explores the therapeutic factors, norms and their creation, the role of leader and termination as a group experience. Offered: On Demand

5568 School Social Work Practice (3). Students will learn the knowledge and skills required for performing roles and functions of school social work in K-12 settings. They will apply social systems and the strengths perspectives within the context of school as organizations interconnected to community environments. Offered: On Demand

5575 Advanced Generalist Community Practice (3). This seminar covers community social work practice at the advanced level addressing values, knowledge and skills essential for community social change. Models of community practice are addressed to facilitate student skill application in social planning, community development, and community collaboration strategies. Each model requires knowledge of large systems practice. Prerequisites: Completion of 30 crs or Required Foundation Curriculum Offered: Every Winter on Demand

5579 Integrative Seminar of Advanced Generalist Practice (3). This course, taken in the last semester, serves as a final integration of advanced generalist competencies in an urban environment. Students prepare a major project for presentation in a public forum.

5580 Special Topics In Social Work (1-3). These seminars are designed to examine relevant and innovative areas emerging in social work practice which are not available in the regular course offerings. Topics, instructors, and prerequisites are listed in the semester bulletin. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation year.

5590 Readings And Investigations In Social Work (1-3). Under the direction of a faculty member, individual students may pursue an in-depth area of study in generalist social work practice, including a research project of the student's choice. Prerequisite: Permission of Director and Curriculum Committee.