

Master of Social Work, MSW

Requirements

The Master of Social Work requires 36 s.h. for advanced standing students—those who hold an undergraduate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)—or 54 s.h. for students who earned a bachelor's degree in a major other than a CSWE-accredited social work program. Students must maintain a graduate grade-point average of at least 3.00 and they must be in compliance with the school's student advancement policy. The degree is offered with or without a thesis.

Credit from previous graduate coursework toward the MSW may be applied if specific criteria are met, but students must earn a minimum of 36 s.h. after admission to the MSW program and agree to meet all requirements of the program.

All students complete one of two specializations (23 s.h.) and 9 s.h. in elective courses.

54 s.h. Program

Requirements	Hours
Generalist Practice	22
Specialization	23
Electives	9

Generalist Practice

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
SSW:6100	Thinking Like a Social Worker	3
SSW:6200	Development of Professional Use of Self	3
SSW:6300	Theory and Skills for Working With Individuals and Families	3
SSW:6400	Theory and Skills for Working With Organizations and Communities	3
SSW:6500	Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice I	3
SSW:6600	Engaging With Evidence	3
SSW:6700	Generalist Practicum in Social Work	3
SSW:6701	Generalist Practice Seminar	1

36 s.h. Program

Requirements	Hours
Advanced Standing Courses	4
Specialization	23
Electives	9

Advanced Standing Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
SSW:7100	Critical Thinking for Clinical Practice	2

SSW:7200	Critical Thinking for Leadership Practice	2
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Specializations

The specific mission of the Master of Social Work (MSW) program is to prepare social workers for leadership in the profession and for advanced social work practice in one of two specializations: clinical practice or leadership practice. While students are not required to declare a more specific focus, opportunities to specialize are available in areas of practice such as aging, end-of-life care, school social work, child welfare, trauma-informed practice, social work in health and mental health settings, and many others. Students in both the generalist and advanced standing programs select one of the following specializations to complete.

Clinical Practice

The clinical practice specialization will prepare students for mental health work with individuals and families in organizations such as nonprofits, hospitals, schools, hospice/end-of-life, and private practice.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
SSW:7310	Clinical Practice I: Treatment Planning and Intervention	3
SSW:7320	Clinical Practice II: Intervention, Evaluation, Termination	3
SSW:7330	Clinical Practice III: Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	3
SSW:7500	Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice II	3
SSW:7550	Program and Practice Evaluation	3
SSW:7601	Clinical Practicum Seminar I	1
SSW:7602	Clinical Practicum Seminar II	1
One of these:		
SSW:7600	Practicum With Clinical Specialization (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6
SSW:7760	Practicum in School Social Work (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6

Leadership Practice

The leadership practice specialization will prepare students to partner with communities, develop programs, lead organizations, develop and interpret policy, and advocate for social, economic, and racial justice.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
SSW:7410	Leadership Practice I: Community Relationship Building and Collaboration	3
SSW:7420	Leadership Practice II: Policy Analysis and Advocacy	3
SSW:7430	Leadership Practice III: Leading Programs and Organizations	3
SSW:7500	Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice II	3

SSW:7550	Program and Practice Evaluation	3
SSW:7751	Leadership Practicum Seminar I	1
SSW:7752	Leadership Practicum Seminar II	1
One of these:		
SSW:7750	Practicum With Leadership Specialization (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6
SSW:7760	Practicum in School Social Work (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6

Electives

Students in both the regular and advanced standing programs complete 9 s.h. in elective coursework. Electives are chosen in consultation with their advisors; options include: social work courses (prefix SSW) and aging and longevity studies courses (prefix ASP) numbered 3000 and above (excluding courses already listed), PSQF:7354 Seminar: Experimental Approaches in Counseling Research, or courses in the following list.

Course #	Title	Hours
EDTL:4137	Introduction to Educating Advanced Learners	3
EDTL:4900	Foundations of Special Education	3
EDTL:4940	Characteristics of Disabilities	3
EDTL:4950	Behavioral and Social Interventions	3
EDTL:4990	Interdisciplinary Issues in Disabilities	1-3
EDTL:7040	Advanced Topics in Teaching and Learning	arr.
EPLS:3000	Foundations of Education	3
EPLS:5130	Sociology of Education	3
EPLS:6201	Foundations of School Administration	3
EPLS:6236	Special Education Administration	3
PSQF:4133	The Adolescent and Young Adult	3
PSQF:4136	Home/School/Community Partnerships	3
PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3
PSQF:6200	Educational Psychology	3
PSQF:6206	Advanced Child Development	3
PSQF:6215	Online Instruction: Design and Facilitation	3
PSQF:7385	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3

With an advisor's permission, additional elective options are possible. Students completing a thesis are permitted to apply a maximum of 6 s.h. of SSW:7272 Thesis toward their elective requirements.

MSW Off-Campus Learning Centers

Full-time and part-time study are available in Iowa City, Des Moines, and online. Students follow a sequenced plan for their program option which may include electives in the summer. The Sioux City site only admits entering classes on a three-year cycle, beginning in the summer. Advanced standing students begin their coursework in the summer and may complete the program over one year (three semesters) or two years, following the sequenced plan.

The School of Social Work delivers the MSW curriculum in person in Iowa City and in two learning centers in Des Moines and Sioux City, Iowa, and as an online program. Each learning center is administered by the School of Social Work in cooperation with Distance and Online Education. Social work faculty members teach required courses at each center and are available for student advising. The off-campus programs have been evaluated by the Council on Social Work Education and the University of Iowa Graduate College as providing a program comparable to that available on the Iowa City campus.

Courses at each off-campus site are taught in classrooms by tenure-track, clinical, lecturers, visiting, and adjunct faculty members. Instructional connections between sites are maintained through varied technologies, including computer-based instruction.

Des Moines

The MSW program in Des Moines, in central Iowa, offers courses sequenced to accommodate both part-time and full-time study. Students complete most of their required courses in person at the Des Moines center and most of their electives online. Classes are held at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center.

Sioux City

The Sioux City part-time program is offered in classroom space at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, with additional online asynchronous components.

Online

Students in this program attend evening classes in real time using video conferencing, and asynchronous classes in which coursework is done independently, adhering to deadlines.