

# SOCIAL WORK (SOWK)

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## **SOWK 110 Introduction to Social Work (3 credits)**

This course provides an overview of the social work profession, its values and ethics, fields of practice, and unique models of intervention. Topics covered include the historical roots of the profession, its mission and purpose, description of client groups, and the settings in which social workers typically operate. The profession's commitment to diverse and at-risk populations, as well as to social and economic justice will be highlighted.

## **SOWK 220 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): CHAD 100 or SOWK 110 or WRIT 105 or HONP 100. This course explores social welfare issues in the United States, in the context of their history, primary rationale, and the values supporting different approaches. Emphasis is placed on policies, programs and institutional structures affecting children, youth and families across multiple service systems. Meets Gen Ed - Social Science Perspectives.

## **SOWK 325 Helping and Engagement Skills (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 220; or CHAD 202 for CHAD major. This course provides an overview of the helping process in social work, and describes the skills necessary to work with various client systems, including individuals, families and groups. Specific emphasis will be placed on engaging vulnerable children, adolescents and their families. Ethical considerations, essential values and theories, and the "use of self" in the helping process will be discussed.

## **SOWK 425 Seminar in Social Work (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 325 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. This course is designed to meet the needs of students who seek an in depth, integrative understanding of the field of social work and its relationship to other disciplines that serve the needs of children, adolescents and families. This course will rely on specialists in the field to present research, knowledge of their field, career opportunities, and entry level requirements involved in becoming a social work professional.

## **SOWK 500 Generalist Social Work Practice I: Individuals, Families and Groups (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course provides foundation knowledge for generalist social work practice with individuals, families and groups. An emphasis is placed on a range of skills needed at various stages of the intervention process, while incorporating diversity and multicultural perspectives. Ethical considerations, essential social work values and theories, and the "use of self" in the helping process are discussed.

## **SOWK 501 Diversity, Oppression and Social Justice (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. To become effective practitioners, social workers must understand the context of clients' lives, including their worldviews which have been influenced by their cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender identities, as well as other diversity factors. This course provide students with beginning tools to be able to fully appreciate and work with clients of various backgrounds.

## **SOWK 502 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course explores social welfare issues in the United States, in the context of their history, primary rationale, and the values supporting different approaches. Emphasis is placed on policies, programs and institutional structures affecting individuals, families and communities across multiple service systems.

## **SOWK 503 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course provides an overview of life-course development, and the ways in which individuals behave in social contexts. Ecological systems theory will frame students' understanding of social work's person-in-environment approach. Multi-dimensional aspects of change across the lifespan (biological, social, cultural, spiritual, etc.) will be explored.

## **SOWK 504 Practicum Education Seminar I (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work majors with a concentration in Children, Youth & Families only. The purpose of this course is to support students in integrating classroom learning and a supervised practice experience in a human service agency to demonstrate performance of social work competencies. This course focuses on generalist social work practice with individuals, families and groups. The requirements for this course include participation in an agency-based practicum, as well as weekly supervision sessions with a practicum instructor assigned by the agency or the program. Students enrolled in Practicum Education Seminar I are expected to complete at least 15 hours per week for a minimum total of 200 hours per semester at their assigned agency. Students participate in weekly face to face class meetings throughout the semester, providing opportunities for discussion and consultation.

## **SOWK 510 Clinical Interventions with Groups (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 500. Group work or group counseling is a widely-used and cost-effective modality for social work practice with diverse populations presenting with a range of clinical issues (Ali & Lambie, 2019; D'Amico et al., 2015; Greenfield et al., 2018; Lenz et al., 2016). This course aims to prepare graduate students with knowledge and skills for effective culturally-sensitive social work group work. Specifically, students will be introduced to the history of group work, the stages of group development, and the factors associated with effective group work. Students will build a foundational understanding of how to apply various theoretical approaches to group work, including psychoanalytic, psychodynamic, cognitive behavioral, and postmodern approaches. The course centers the use of simulation exercises designed to help students gain familiarity with both participating in and facilitating group sessions through each phase of the group process. Finally, the course emphasizes the importance of applying anti-oppressive approaches to fostering group spaces of belonging to maximize potential benefits for all group members.

## **SOWK 512 School Social Work (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Master of Social Work students and MA in Child Advocacy students only. This course will provide an overview of school social work practice and the role of the school worker. It will allow students to critically analyze and examine educational programs, policies, laws, and principles of social work practice in schools. Students will also become familiar with the school social worker's collaborations with key educational stakeholders.

## **SOWK 520 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Organizations and Communities (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 500. Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course provides students with an introduction to social work in organizational and community contexts. It examines the impact that social structure and group affiliation can have on human behavior. The role of social services, and their delivery systems, will also be explored.

**SOWK 521 Social Work Research Methods (3 credits)**

This course introduces MSW students to essential knowledge and skills that they need to understand how science, the politics of knowledge development, and scholarship can facilitate the mission of social work. This introductory course is designed to familiarize students with research concepts and give students the skills necessary to become critical consumers of social research. This course also facilitates the development of skills necessary to become beginning producers and critical consumers of social work research. Multicultural and cross-cultural issues will be infused throughout the course.

**SOWK 522 Social Work Assessment and Diagnosis (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course will provide students a comprehensive understanding of assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders through the lifespan as they relate to social work practice. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating clients from a multidisciplinary perspective (biological, psychological, and social factors that impact incidence, manifestation, and course of mental health disorders). Ethical considerations (e.g., personal bias, cultural competency, client rights, and clinician responsibilities) will be discussed.

**SOWK 523 Practicum Education Seminar II (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 504. Restriction(s): Social Work majors with a concentration in Children, Youth & Families only. The purpose of this course is to support students in integrating classroom learning and a supervised practice experience in a human service agency to demonstrate performance of social work competencies. This course focuses on generalist social work practice with organizations and communities. The requirements for this course include participation in an agency-based practicum, as well as weekly supervision sessions with a practicum instructor assigned by the agency or the program. Students enrolled in Practicum Education Seminar II are expected to complete at least 15 hours per week for a minimum total of 200 hours per semester at their assigned agency. Students participate in weekly face to face class meetings throughout the semester, providing opportunities for discussion and consultation.

**SOWK 540 Harm Reduction Interventions in the Management of Substance Use and Misuse (3 credits)**

This course provides an overview of harm reduction approaches to substance use, and the historical and social contexts of harm reduction work in the United States and globally. Students will become familiar with a range of harm reduction interventions, their major principles, and the challenges in their implementation. Students will also learn to critically evaluate available research on harm reduction interventions and compare it with research on abstinence-based intervention programs. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits.

**SOWK 541 Engaging Individuals Affected by Substance Use and Misuse (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 540. This course discusses major principles for engagement with people who use drugs, using a non-stigmatizing, social justice-oriented, and trauma-informed approach. Students will learn how to establish trusting, collaborative relationships with people affected by drug use; how to identify bias and stigma in common interactions; and how to practice self-reflection and self-regulation to maintain effective engagement. In addition, students will be able to identify the impact of clients' intersecting identities, cultural practices, and personal histories on engagement, disengagement, and reengagement processes. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits.

**SOWK 550 Special Topics in Social Work (3 credits)**

Restriction(s): MSW students only; others by permission of the department chair. This course will focus on current and relevant issues in social work. It will rely on specialists in the field to present their research or area of expertise to interested students. It will also provide students with an opportunity to research the literature within their fields of interest. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.

**SOWK 600 Clinical Practice with Children, Youth and Families I (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 520. Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course discusses clinical interventions with children and adolescents across multiple service systems. Considering biology, psychology and the social environment, students will explore various models of intervention across different stages of child development, and advance their clinical skills to meet the needs of diverse children and adolescents.

**SOWK 601 Practice Evaluation Research (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): CHAD 603 or SOWK 522. Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course is the second in a series of required research courses in the MSW program. In this course, research is presented as a logical extension of service delivery, rooted in the ethical imperative, as noted in the NASW Code of Ethics, to not harm clients and to ensure that intervention methods employed in service delivery are effective. The course will teach students one way to evaluate their work with client systems by using single-subject research designs.

**SOWK 602 Child and Family Policy (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 502 or SOWK 522. Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course provides an advanced understanding of public policies, programs, and services that impact children and families. The formation, implementation, and evaluation of national, state, and local policies are explored in-depth. Building on knowledge acquired in SOWK 502, students will analyze these policies through formalized frameworks for analysis, with an eye towards issues of equity and efficiency.

**SOWK 603 Practicum Education Seminar III (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 523. Restriction(s): Social Work majors with a concentration in Children, Youth & Families only. The purpose of this course is to support students in integrating classroom learning and a supervised practice experience in a human service agency to demonstrate performance of social work competencies. This course focuses on specialized/advanced standing practice with children, youth and families. The requirements for this course include participation in an agency-based practicum, as well as weekly supervision sessions with a practicum instructor assigned by the agency or the program. Students enrolled in Practicum Education Seminar III are expected to complete at least 18 hours per week for a minimum total of 250 hours per semester at their assigned agency. Students participate in weekly face to face class meetings throughout the semester, providing opportunities for discussion and consultation.

**SOWK 620 Clinical Practice with Children, Youth and Families II (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 600. Restriction(s): Social Work w/conc Children, Youth & Families majors only. This course discusses clinical interventions with diverse family configurations across a range of service delivery systems. Students will be introduced to major theories and concepts in family practice, and acquire specialized knowledge and skills for intervening with families to facilitate positive change.

**SOWK 622 Practicum Education Seminar IV (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 603. Restriction(s): Social Work majors with a concentration in Children, Youth & Families only. The purpose of this course is to support students in integrating classroom learning and a supervised practice experience in a human service agency to demonstrate performance of social work competencies. This course focuses on specialized/advanced standing practice with families and weekly supervision sessions with a practicum instructor assigned by the agency or the program. Students enrolled in Practicum Education Seminar IV are expected to complete at least 18 hours per week for a minimum total of 250 hours per semester at their assigned agency. Students participate in weekly face to face class meetings throughout the semester, providing opportunities for discussion and consultation.

**SOWK 650 Special Topics in Clinical Social Work Practice (3 credits)**

Prerequisite(s): SOWK 522. Restriction(s): MSW students only; others by permission of department chair. This course will focus on current and relevant issues in clinical social work practice. It will rely on specialists in the field to present their research or area of expertise to interested students. It will also provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of specific clinical social work practice skills and interventions. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.