Master of Social Work

Program Director

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Program Description

The Master of Social Work program prepares graduates for advanced social work practice with disenfranchised clients. The organizing framework for the M.S.W. program is the strengths-based empowerment approach. This approach emphasizes helping individuals, families, and communities recognize and utilize their capacities; gain awareness of available options; understand the barriers and obstacles they may face; reinforce their hopes and aspirations; and integrate internal and external resources to improve the quality of their lives. The M.S.W. program focuses on advanced direct practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities.

A critical purpose of the M.S.W. program is to develop competent, ethical, and effective professionals capable of utilizing advanced knowledge, skills, and values to promote social justice in the delivery of social services within a diverse society. The integration social work knowledge, values, and skills are achieved through both academic coursework and field placement experiences.

Accreditation

The program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Faculty Research Interests

Shirley Keller, Ph.D., Professor
Evaluation outcome measurements; program evaluation; health care issues

Dennis Morawski, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Community mental health; welfare reform; group work; volunteerism

Thelma Silver, Ph.D., Professor
Community mental health; mental health recovery; crisis intervention; group work

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the M.S.W. program are encouraged to review the admission criteria listed below, as they exceed the minimum standards established by the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Meeting minimum criteria does not guarantee admission. Applicants are evaluated by the Social Work Department’s Graduate Admissions Committee to ensure that qualifications are evaluated in a manner consistent with the M.S.W. program’s requirements. Application packets are available through the Department of Social Work or Graduate Admissions in Coffelt Hall. Students who are admitted may enter the program only during the fall semester of each academic year.

Admission to the M.S.W. program is based on the following criteria that allow evaluation of the student’s potential to succeed in graduate-level social work education, as well as an assessment of their ability to engage in ethical and competent social work practice in a diverse society.

Regular Admission

In addition to the minimum School of Graduate Studies and Research admissions requirements, all applicants must meet the following requirements for regular admission to the Master of Social Work program:

- an undergraduate degree, preferably in a social science, from an accredited college or university;
- a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate coursework;
- work or volunteer experience related to preparation for professional social work practice;
- three letters of recommendation completed on official forms. Recommendations should include one academic
source, one professional source, and one additional source from either of the aforementioned;

- a professional statement reflecting how completion of the M.S.W. will impact upon the student’s professional goals and objectives; and
- an optional personal interview and/or additional information as requested by the program’s admission committee.

For non-B.S.W. applicants, one approved social work course OR one course each in the following is required: psychology, sociology, or political science.

Provisional Admission

Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.7 to 2.99 (on a 4.0 scale) may be admitted provisionally. Applicants with a cumulative undergraduate cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) must achieve a score at the 30th percentile or above on the Miller’s Analogy Test (MAT), or achieve a score at the 30th percentile or above on the verbal and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Examination general test (GRE). Applicants with cumulative undergraduate cumulative grade point averages of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) are not required to submit MAT or GRE scores.

Advanced Standing program (ASP) Admission

The Advanced Standing program is accelerated for highly qualified graduates of the Council on Social Work Education (C.W.S.E.) accredited Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) programs. The Advanced Standing Program permits students to complete all requirements of the M.S.W. degree in 36 semester hours. The regular program is completed in 60 semester hours.

Admission to the ASP is granted to applicants with superior academic and professional social work qualifications.

Applicants seeking admission to the Advanced Standing program must meet all admission requirements for the Master of Social Work program in addition to the following:

- possess a Bachelor of Social Work degree or its equivalent from a C.W.S.E. accredited program within six years prior to enrollment;
- have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate coursework;
- have achieved A’s and B’s in all junior and senior level social work courses; and
- have achieved a minimum of one year full-time employment experience in a social services setting prior to enrollment

Individuals who wish to take coursework for the purpose of continuing education and/or expansion of professional competencies should contact the Department of Social Work. The Social Work Department chairperson or his or her designee must approve any graduate social work courses taken by students not admitted to the M.S.W. program.

Qualified students who have been convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses may be admitted to the program. However, field internship opportunities may be restricted due to agency prohibitions pertaining to the engagement of students in agency work in possession of criminal records. Additionally, students should be aware that state licensure in social work may not be possible for individuals with past convictions. Students with convictions are advised to become informed of requirements pertaining to social work licensure and possible avenues of appeal as they consider their enrollment in the MSW program and the limitations prior convictions may impose on their ability to practice the profession of social work.

Degree Requirements

Sixty semester hours of coursework are required for completion of the Master of Social Work degree. The program may be completed in two years, three years, or five years. Foundation social work content is comprised of eight courses and a field practicum with an emphasis on the following areas: social work values and ethics, diversity, populations at risk, social and economic justice, human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research, and business skills for social workers. The foundation field practicum is
designed to provide the student with learning experiences that promote and integrate the achievement of foundation objectives. The foundation field practicum is taken in two consecutive semesters for a total of six credit hours per year. Students engage in fieldwork activities for two days a week over two semesters of 30 weeks (480 hours).

Advanced content areas consist of an additional eight advanced courses and an advanced field practicum with an emphasis on knowledge, skills, and values for advanced direct social work practice. Advanced-level students' field placement activities occur in three days for two semester periods totaling 30 weeks (740 hours).

Students in the Master of Social Work program must maintain all School of Graduate Studies and Research retention requirements. In addition, students must meet standards defined by the Master of Social Work program that are included in the Youngstown State University Master of Social Work Program, Student Handbook.

**Course Outline: Two-Year Full-Time Option**

**First Year—First Semester**

- SCWK 6900 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6901 Oppressed Populations 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6902 Social Welfare Policy and Program Analysis 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6903 Social Work Foundation Practice I 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6904 Field Education I 3 s.h.

**First Year—Second Semester**

- SCWK 6905 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6906 Business Skills for Social Workers 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6907 Social Work Foundation Practice II 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6908 Research 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6909 Field Education II 3 s.h.

**Second Year—First Semester**

- SCWK 7000 Advanced Direct Practice I 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7002 Adversities and Resiliencies 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7004 Practice Evaluation 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7008 Social Work in Mental Health 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7009 Field Education III 3 s.h.

**Second Year—Second Semester**

- SCWK 7003 Theory and Practice of Supervision 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7010 Advanced Direct Practice II 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7012 Field Education IV 3 s.h.
- SCWK 7013 Capstone 3 s.h.
  
  Approved elective* 3 s.h.

**Course Outline: Three-Year Full-Time Option**

**First Year—First Semester**

- SCWK 6900 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6901 Oppressed Populations 3 s.h.
- SCWK 6902 Social Welfare Policy and Program Analysis 3 s.h.

**First Year—Second Semester**

* may be taken any semester
SCWK 6905  Human Behavior and the Social Environment II  3 s.h.
SCWK 6906  Business Skills for Social Workers  3 s.h.
SCWK 6908  Research  3 s.h.

Second Year—First Semester
SCWK 6903  Social Work Foundation Practice I  3 s.h.
SCWK 6904  Field Education I  3 s.h.
SCWK 7002  Adversities and Resiliencies  3 s.h.

Second Year—Second Semester
SCWK 6907  Social Work Foundation Practice II  3 s.h.
SCWK 6909  Field Education II  3 s.h.
SCWK 7003  Theory and Practice of Supervision  3 s.h.

Third Year—First Semester
SCWK 7000  Advanced Direct Practice I  3 s.h.
SCWK 7004  Practice Evaluation  3 s.h.
SCWK 7008  Social Work in Mental Health Settings**  3 s.h.
SCWK 7009  Field Education III  3 s.h.

Third Year—Second Semester
SCWK 7010  Advanced Direct Practice II  3 s.h.
SCWK 7012  Field Education IV  3 s.h.
SCWK 7013  Capstone  3 s.h.

** may be taken any semester

COURSE OUTLINE: FOUR-YEAR PART-TIME OPTION

First Year—First Semester
SCWK 6900  Human Behavior and the Social Environment I  3 s.h.
SCWK 6901  Oppression and Cultural Competence  3 s.h.

First Year—Second Semester
SCWK 6905  Human Behavior and the Social Environment II  3 s.h.
Approved Elective  3 s.h.

Second Year—First Semester
SCWK 6902  Social Welfare Policy and Program Analysis  3 s.h.
SCWK 7002  Adversities and Resiliencies  3 s.h.

Second Year—Second Semester
SCWK 6906  Business Skills for Social Workers  3 s.h.
SCWK 6908  Research  3 s.h.

Third Year—First Semester
SCWK 6903  Social Work Foundation Practice I  3 s.h.
SCWK 7004  Practice Evaluation  3 s.h.
SCWK 6904  Field Education I  3 s.h.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 6907</td>
<td>Social Work Foundation Practice II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7003</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Supervision</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 6906</td>
<td>Field Education II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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**Fourth Year—First Semester**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7000</td>
<td>Advanced Direct Practice I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7008</td>
<td>Social Work in Mental Health Settings</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7009</td>
<td>Field Education III</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Year—Second Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7010</td>
<td>Advanced Direct Practice II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7012</td>
<td>Field Education IV</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7013</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>60 s.h.</td>
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**Course Outline: Advanced Standing Program, Full-Time Option**

**Summer Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 6910</td>
<td>Integrated Foundation</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 6909</td>
<td>Field Education</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved Elective (may be taken any of the 3 semesters)</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Fall Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7000</td>
<td>Advanced Direct Practice I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7001</td>
<td>Adversities and Resiliencies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7004</td>
<td>Practice Evaluation</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7008</td>
<td>Social Work in Mental Health Settings</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7009</td>
<td>Field Education</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring Semester**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 6906</td>
<td>Business Skills for Social Workers</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7003</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Supervision</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7010</td>
<td>Advanced Direct Practice II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7012</td>
<td>Field Education IV</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWK 7013</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>