

SOCIAL WORK, M.S.W.

Program Description

The M.S.W. program has two tracks – Generalist (social work foundation) and Area of Specialization. Generalists are required to complete 2 calendar years to include summers. Those admitted to the one-year Advanced Standing program will be required to complete 1 calendar year to include 1 summer.

M.S.W. students will graduate in August of each year and will attend the Marshall University December graduation.

Generalist Curriculum

Those who enter the MSW program with other than a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree are eligible to enter the Generalist 2 calendar year program. The 2-year curriculum promotes a generalist perspective in which the simultaneous impact of many systemic levels (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities) on clients' lives is critically analyzed and recognized. The foundation builds upon a liberal arts base that fosters an understanding of society as a complex organization of diverse people and ideas.

Social problems are understood as occurring within the nexus of culture, conflict, development, ecology, and systems and as such, efforts to help or intervene must include consideration of these forces. Students will be able to critically identify and assess social problems, specifically attending to:

1. how such problems are maintained;
2. how they impact the quality of people's lives;
3. cultural sensitivity and appreciation of marginalized people; and
4. how to actively promote social and economic justice. In the foundation year, the focus is on the development of critical thinking skills in all the areas mentioned.

M.S.W. Advanced Curriculum-Advanced Social Work Practice

The advanced practice curriculum seeks to develop the utilization and application of critical thinking, relative to behavioral health, on all levels - in reading professional writing and research, in students' practice, in the classroom, and in the students' own thinking.

Consistently monitoring practice ethically, evaluating theoretical principles and epistemologies, and utilizing technological advances become basic practice patterns. Specific skill sets developed include:

1. Creating, organizing and integrating ideas and action on engaging diverse client systems effectively in change;
2. Assessing, conceptualizing and analyzing theoretical, practice and research problems from multiple perspectives and utilize critical thinking skills to formulate impressions based upon the data;
3. Analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating the evidence available to guide advanced social work practice;
4. Synthesizing, formulating and implementing a plan of action for social work practice that addresses complex issues and problems, builds consensus and incorporates multiple-level forces on client systems;

5. Analyzing and evaluating data of client progress and outcomes and sees implications and consequences of this progress and outcomes;
6. Synthesizing, creating, and organizing ideas from theory, research and practice for social justice;
7. Demonstrating the ability to integrate culturally competent skills into all aspects of social work practice;
8. Demonstrating the knowledge of the roles of behavioral health providers working in primary care settings, theories and models of care, and cross-cultural issues; and
9. Demonstrating skills in engagement, assessment, intervention planning and implementation, and practice evaluation in the primary and behavioral health care setting.

M.S.W. Practicum Education

All Generalist students admitted to the 66 credit hour program are required to satisfactorily complete 900 clock hours (18 credit hours) at approved practicum sites. Advanced Standing students are required to satisfactorily complete 450 clock hours (9 credit hours).

If employed in a human services agency meeting the department's criteria as a placement site, the student may apply to undertake the practicum at her/his place of employment. This may be accomplished when the agency is willing to shift the student's work role and supervision in such a manner as necessary to meet the school's educational objectives for practicum instruction.

M.S.W. Electives

The Marshall University Department of Social Work provides electives as enrichment to the specialized learning in the advanced year. M.S.W. students are required to take 2 3-credit hour electives in their Generalist year and 2 3-credit hour electives in the Specialization year. For example, behavioral health care workers are asked to know psychopathology, substance abuse, managed care, AIDS, and a range of other substantive areas. Many school social workers share the need for the same content.

In addition, it is noted that social workers frequently change jobs, often to another field of practice. Social work education seeks to teach students to think critically, analyze systematically, and know where to find information and resources within the context of social work history, development and values. It is this type of education that best prepares students to function in a rapidly changing society.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should follow the admissions process described in this catalog or at the Graduate Admissions website: www.marshall.edu/graduate (<http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/>). Applications are received in the Department of Social Work for the M.S.W. by the priority date of March 30.

Students also must provide *two* recommendations. The letters must be original, must be signed and be sent directly to Graduate Admissions. These may be e-mailed from a verifiable e-mail account of the person providing the reference. Reference letters sent via e-mail need to have the signature of the person providing the reference (signed and scanned). These may be sent to services@marshall.edu.

Applicants are encouraged to submit at least one academic recommendation. If the applicant has not enrolled in classes within the past 5 years, this requirement may be waived and an additional work

reference substituted. Evaluations should be submitted from persons who have been directly responsible for assessing and supervising your human service related work/volunteer experience and academic performance. Avoid personal references (coworkers, advisors, friends, clergy, personal therapists, etc.). The Marshall University Department of Social Work M.S.W. program requires two recommendation forms, however letters accompanying the forms are welcomed and strongly encouraged.

It is highly recommended that applicants who wish to be considered for the 36-hour Specialist/Advanced Standing program should submit their field evaluations if available, or one of their two letters of recommendation should be from their Director of Field Education, on-site Practicum Supervisor, or Practicum/Practice Instructor if the field evaluation is not accessible. The school reserves the right to request additional supportive material from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic and/or practice capabilities.

Program Requirements

For Conditional and/or Provisional admissions: The student and advisor will develop a Plan of Study or blueprint for graduation requirements. The Plan of Study must be on file in the Graduate College office before the student registers for the 12th semester hour.

Behavioral Health Area of Specialized Practice

The Behavioral Health Area of Specialized Practice prepares students to conduct clinical social work practice in assessing, treating, and evaluating mental health, substance abuse, and physical health in relation to one another across practice settings. A focus throughout the specialization will be on understanding the multiple factors that influence health disparities and best practices to increase health equity, particularly for marginalized populations. There will be a special emphasis on effectively serving vulnerable populations with multiple needs. The Behavioral Health specialization integrates Generalist practice by enhancing and expanding on Generalist knowledge, values, and skills in the application of the planned change process across all size systems.

The Behavioral Health specialization extends and enhances the Generalist practice skills of engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation and termination across all sized systems by incorporating clinical courses focused on Advanced Clinical Social Work in Behavioral Health with Individuals and Families.

Plan of Study

Composition of the Master of Social Work Program Generalist/Foundation

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Curriculum	15
	Field	9
	Electives	6
Total Credit Hours		30

Specialist/Advanced Curriculum

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Curriculum	21
	Field Instruction	9
	Electives	6
Total Credit Hours		36

INTO Marshall Students

The Graduate Pathway program will require INTO students who are matriculating into social work to begin work toward their degree by taking SWK 203 Intro To Social Work.

Generalist

The M.S.W. program consists of a foundation-level Generalist curriculum to include the following:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
SWK 501	Foundations of Gen Practice I	3
SWK 511	Foundations of HBSE	3
SWK 521	Foundations of Social Policy	3
SWK 531	Foundations of Gen Practice II	3
SWK 541	Foundations of Research	3
SWK 551	Foundations of Field Practicum (450 work hours)	9

All Generalist 2-year students must complete 66 credits in order to graduate from the program. All students enrolled in the regular 66 credit program must complete two separate (2-3 semesters each) academic yearlong field placements.

Advanced Standing in the Program

An applicant for admission to the Master of Social Work program who holds a baccalaureate degree from an undergraduate social work program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education may be admitted with advanced standing.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
SWK 615	Psychopathology	3
SWK 631	Int Health Models & Pract	3
SWK 633	Adv Clin SW Prac Ind Fam	3

The spring semester includes the following courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
SWK 634	Adv SW Prac Gps Com & Org	3
SWK 670	Adv Theory & Pract Child	3
SWK 673	Family & Community Violence	3
SWK 655	Comorb Ment & Phy Disorders	3
SWK 653	Adv Field Practicum (450 work hours)	9
	Electives	6

Students who enter the program with Advanced Standing (30 credit hours total) complete only one (1) academic (two semesters) year-long field placement (9 credit hours, 450 work hours).