

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Curriculum

The M.S.W. program consists of 51 semester hours of core courses plus 9 additional hours of electives. Full-time students complete the program in two years and part-time students complete the program in three or four years. For full-time students, this is typically five courses per semester, one of which is the field placement. Daytime and evening sections are offered for each required course. Certain electives are also offered in the summer and winter sessions. The required courses are designed to be taken in a set sequence. Students are expected to follow this sequence; failure to do so jeopardizes timely completion of the program. Please view Sample Course Plan (p. 1) for details.

Regular Standing

Regular Standing students are required to take 20 graduate-level courses to graduate.

Code	Title	Credits
Generalist Course Requirements		
SWG 511	The Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation	3
SWG 554	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
SWG 555	Organizations & Communities	3
SWG 533	Methods of Social Work Research	3
Generalist Field Requirements¹		
SWG 501 & SWG 596	Social Work Generalist Practice I and Generalist Field Practicum I ²	6
SWG 502 & SWG 597	Social Work Generalist Practice II and Generalist Field Practicum II ³	6
Specialized Course Requirements		
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
Specialized Field Requirements⁴		
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ²	6
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ⁵	6
Electives		9
Select 3 three-credit elective courses. May be taken any semester, and can be taken in another department (with permission of the MSW Graduate Coordinator).		
Total Minimum Credits Required		60

¹ 448 field hours required.

² The same sections must be selected for these courses.

³ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 501/SWG 596.

⁴ 504 field hours required.

⁵ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing students are required to take 12 graduate-level courses to graduate.

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Course Requirements		
SWG 503	Integrative Bridge Course ¹	3
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach ¹	3
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
Specialized Field Requirements²		
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ³	6
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ⁴	6
Electives		9
Select 3 three-credit elective courses. May be taken any semester and can be taken in another department (with permission of the MSW Graduate Coordinator).		
Total Minimum Credits Required		36

¹ These courses are completed in the summer.

² 504 field hours required.

³ The same sections must be selected for these courses.

⁴ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Sample Course Plan

To track their individual degree progress, students are advised to access their Degree Audit via RamPortal and consult their Graduate Coordinator. For more information, visit the Degree Audit FAQ webpage (<https://www.wcupa.edu/academicEnterpriseSystems/student-system-modernization/degree-audit-faqs.aspx>).

The following is a sample suggested course sequence for this program; course offerings and availability are not guaranteed. Students should consult their academic advisor with any questions.

Regular Standing, 2-Year Plan

Other than electives, all required courses must be taken in the sequential order presented below.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
SWG 511	The Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation	3
SWG 554	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 501 & SWG 596	Social Work Generalist Practice I and Generalist Field Practicum I ¹	6
Credits		15
Spring		
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
SWG 555	Organizations & Communities	3
SWG 533	Methods of Social Work Research	3

SWG 502 & SWG 597	Social Work Generalist Practice II and Generalist Field Practicum II ²	6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ¹	6
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
Elective ³		3
Credits		15
Spring		
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ⁴	6
Elective ³		3
Elective ³		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		60

- ¹ The same sections must be selected for these courses.
- ² Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 501/SWG 596.
- ³ May be taken in any semester and in other departments with permission from the MSW Graduate Coordinator.
- ⁴ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Regular Standing, 3-Year Plan

Other than electives, all required courses must be taken in the sequential order presented below.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
SWG 511	The Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation	3
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 554	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
Credits		9
Spring		
SWG 533	Methods of Social Work Research	3
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
SWG 555	Organizations & Communities	3
Credits		9
Summer		
Elective ²		3
Credits		3
Year Two		
Fall		
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 501 & SWG 596	Social Work Generalist Practice I and Generalist Field Practicum I ²	6
Elective ¹		3
Credits		12

Spring		
SWG 533	Methods of Social Work Research	3
SWG 502 & SWG 597	Social Work Generalist Practice II and Generalist Field Practicum II ³	6
Elective ¹		3
Credits		12
Summer		
Elective ²		3
Credits		3
Year Three		
Fall		
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ²	6
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
Credits		12
Spring		
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ⁴	6
Elective ¹		3
Credits		12
Total Credits		72

- ¹ May be taken in any semester and in other departments with permission from the MSW Graduate Coordinator.
- ² The same sections must be selected for these courses.
- ³ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 501/SWG 596.
- ⁴ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Regular Standing, 4-Year Plan

Other than electives, all required courses must be taken in the sequential order presented below.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
SWG 511	The Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation	3
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 554	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
Credits		9
Spring		
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
SWG 555	Organizations & Communities	3
Credits		6
Year Two		
Fall		
SWG 501 & SWG 596	Social Work Generalist Practice I and Generalist Field Practicum I ²	6
SWG 541	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3
SWG 554	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
Credits		12

Spring		
SWG 533	Methods of Social Work Research	3
SWG 502 & SWG 597	Social Work Generalist Practice II and Generalist Field Practicum II ³	6
Credits		9
Year Three		
Fall		
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ²	6
Credits		9
Spring		
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ⁴	6
Elective ¹		3
Credits		9
Year Four		
Fall		
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
Elective ¹		3
Credits		6
Spring		
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
Elective ¹		3
Credits		6
Total Credits		66

¹ May be taken in any semester and in other departments with permission from the MSW Graduate Coordinator.

² The same sections must be selected for these courses.

³ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 501/SWG 596.

⁴ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Advanced Standing, 1-Year Plan

Other than electives, all required courses must be taken in the sequential order presented below.

Course	Title	Credits
Summer Before Year 1 (May-July)		
Summer Session I		
SWG 503	Integrative Bridge Course	3
Credits		3
Summer Session II		
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
Credits		3
Year One		
Fall		
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ¹	6
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
Elective ²		3
Credits		15

Spring		
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ³	6
Elective ²		3
Elective ²		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		36

¹ The same sections must be selected for these courses.

² May be taken in any semester and in other departments with permission from the MSW Graduate Coordinator.

³ Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

Advanced Standing, 2-Year Plan

Other than electives, all required courses must be taken in the sequential order presented below.

Course	Title	Credits
Summer Before Year 1 (May-July)		
Summer Session I		
SWG 503	Integrative Bridge Course	3
Credits		3
Summer Session II		
SWG 560	Mental Health: A Recovery Approach	3
Credits		3
Year One		
Fall		
SWG 562	Specialized Social Work Practice with Families	3
SWG 561 & SWG 598	Specialized SW Practice with Individuals and Specialized Field Practicum I ¹	6
Credits		9
Spring		
SWG 534	Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation	3
SWG 563 & SWG 599	Specialized Practice: Integrative Seminar and Specialized Field Practicum II ²	6
Credits		9
Year Two		
Fall		
SWG 542	Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities	3
Elective ³		3
Credits		6
Spring		
Elective ³		3
Elective ³		3
Credits		6
Total Credits		36

¹ The same sections must be selected for these courses.

² Course sections must be the same as the sections chosen for SWG 561/SWG 598.

³ May be taken in any semester and in other departments with permission of the MSW Graduate Coordinator.