

Child Welfare

This concentration provides students with specialized knowledge and skills for delivering social services to children and families served by the child welfare system. Students may be employed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) or by one of many private agencies that contract with IDCFS for services to children and families. Expected enrollment is 15 - 25 students per year.

Required courses (Total = 56 hours):

SOCW 516, Child Welfare Policy and Services (4 hours)

SOCW 580, Advanced Child Welfare (4 hours)

SOCW 541, Research Seminar (4 hours)

SOCW 551, HBSE II: Women's Issues **OR** SOCW 552, HBSE II: Mental Disorders (4 hours)

SOCW 589, Social Work and the Law **OR** SOCW 584, National Social Welfare Policy (4 hours)

Any two of the following "methods" courses (4 hours each, 8 hours total): SOCW 500, SOCW 501, SOCW 505, SOCW 506, SOCW 508, SOCW 522, SOCW 520, SOCW 525, SOCW 526.

An elective (4 hours): Any of the "methods" courses listed above or other relevant graduate level coursework.

Internships: SOCW 568 **and** 569, Field Instruction I & II (8 credit hours each, 16 credit hours total; Total clock hours = 30-32 hours per week for 31 weeks)

Internship Seminars: SOCW 531 **and** 532 (4 hours each, 8 hours total)

Health Care

This concentration provides students with specialized knowledge and skills for working in medical settings. Social workers in these settings collaborate with other health professionals in providing patient care and mobilizing support networks and social services on behalf of patients and their families. Students may be employed in a variety of health care settings such as hospitals, medical clinics, hospice programs, nursing homes and public health agencies. Expected enrollment is 15 - 25 students per year.

Required courses (Total = 56 hours):

SOCW 513, Delivery of Health Care (4 hours)

SOCW 553, HBSE II: Health and Rehabilitation (4 hours)

SOCW 541, Research Seminar (4 hours)

SOCW 552, HBSE II: Mental Disorders (4 hours)

SOCW 589, Social Work and the Law **OR** SOCW 584, National Social Welfare Policy (4 hours)

Any two of the following "methods" courses (4 hours each, 8 hours total): SOCW 500, SOCW 501, SOCW 505, SOCW 506, SOCW 508, SOCW 522, SOCW 520, SOCW 525, SOCW 526.

An elective (4 hours): Recommended elective course are: SOCW 415, Social Services for the Aged **OR** SOCW 420, Treatment and Prevention of Substance Abuse. Students may also choose any of the "methods" courses listed above for their elective or other relevant graduate level coursework.

Internships: SOCW 568 **and** 569, Field Instruction I & II (8 credit hours each, 16 credit hours total; Total clock hours = 30-32 hours per week for 31 weeks)

Internship Seminars: SOCW 531 **and** 532 (4 hours each, 8 hours total)

Mental Health

This concentration provides students with specialized knowledge and skills for working with individuals, families, and groups in dealing with problems that affect mental health and social functioning. It also prepares them for leadership roles in which they may plan, administer, and evaluate mental health programs. Students may be employed in community mental health agencies, counseling programs, substance abuse agencies, psychiatric inpatient settings, and programs for the developmentally disabled. Expected enrollment is 50 – 60 students per year.

Required courses (Total = 56 hours):

SOCW 514, Mental Health Policy and Services (4 hours)

SOCW 500, Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families (4 hours)

SOCW 509, Advanced Clinical Assessment and Interviewing Methods (4 hours)

SOCW 541, Research Seminar (4 hours)

SOCW 552, HBSE II: Mental Disorders (4 hours)

SOCW 589, Social Work and the Law **OR** SOCW 584, National Social Welfare Policy (4 hours)

Any one of the following “methods” courses (4 hours): SOCW 501, SOCW 505, SOCW 506, SOCW 508, SOCW 522, SOCW 520, SOCW 525, SOCW 526.

An elective (4 hours): Any of the “methods” courses listed above or other relevant graduate level coursework. SOCW 420, Treatment and Prevention of Substance Abuse, is strongly recommended for students planning an internship in substance abuse.

Internships: SOCW 568 **and** 569, Field Instruction I & II (8 credit hours each, 16 credit hours total; Total clock hours = 30-32 hours per week for 31 weeks)

Internship Seminars: SOCW 531 **and** 532 (4 hours each, 8 hours total)

School Social Work

This concentration provides students with specialized knowledge and skills to for working with school age children and their families as a school social worker in a public school system. This concentration prepares students for the Type 73 school social work certification issued by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Students are typically employed in public schools as school social workers upon graduation. Expected enrollment is 40 - 50 students per year.

Required courses (Total = 56 hours):

SOCW 519, Public School Policy and Services (4 hours)

SOCW 507, School Social Work Practice (4 hours)

SOCW 541, Research Seminar (4 hours)

SOCW 552, HBSE II: Mental Disorders (4 hours)

SOCW 589, Social Work and the Law (4 hours)

Any one of the following “methods” courses (4 hours): SOCW 500, SOCW 501, SOCW 505, SOCW 506, SOCW 508.

Two electives (8 hours total): Any of the “methods” course listed above or other relevant graduate level coursework. Courses in Special Education are recommended along with SOCW 506, SW Practice with Children and Adolescents.

Internships: SOCW 568 **and** 569, Field Instruction I & II (8 credit hours each, 16 credit hours total; Total clock hours = 30-32 hours per week for 31 weeks)

Internship Seminars: SOCW 531 **and** 532 (4 hours each, 8 hours total)

JUSTIFICATION

Including these concentrations on student transcripts will recognize the specialization areas that have been offered by the school for many years. They convey to potential employers a student's academic preparation for a particular field of practice, thus helping students compete for jobs in their specialty area. NASW, the professional association for social work, has increasingly been recognizing and licensing specialty areas of practice. Therefore, recognition of the proposed concentrations will convey to accrediting bodies, (e.g. NASW, ISBE for school social work) that a student's curriculum has prepared them to meet licensing and certification standards.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal budgetary and staff implications because these concentrations are a well established part of the MSW program. The only anticipated impact will be on the School's record officer who will need to submit information to OAR in support of each student meeting requirements for their concentration. The School already maintains this information for each student in its MSW program files.

CLEARANCES:

Bang J. Alkhusan
School of Social Work

4/10/06
Date

Graduate College

Date

STATEMENT FOR THE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Master of Social Work

The master's degree provides specialized study for advanced social work practice. Students take foundation and advanced courses in social work methods, organization and services, research, human behavior and the social environment, and field instruction. A two-semester field placement in a social service agency is required. A total of 56 to 68 graduate hours of graduate coursework is required for the M.S.W. degree, and the curriculum may be completed in 16 to 24 months of full-time study.

Students choose from one of the following concentrations: child welfare, health care, mental health, or school social work. Each concentration consists of 56 hours of coursework; students without a BSW, or whose BSW is more than 7 years old or is not from an accredited school of social work, must take four foundation courses (for a total of 16 hours) in addition to the coursework required for each concentration. With the exception of school social work, students may specialize in direct service or in policy, planning, and administration within their concentration. Students who wish to specialize in other substantive areas that are not sufficiently covered in one of the four concentrations have the opportunity to develop an individualized plan of study with a faculty adviser.

The school also offers a joint degree (M.S./M.S.W.) in marriage and family service in collaboration with the Department of Human and Community Development.