

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Advanced Standing MSW Program in the School of Social Work

SPONSOR:

Barry Ackerson, Associate Dean, School of Social Work, 244-5223

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Standing programs for students with a recent bachelor's degree (BSW) from an accredited school of social work have become standard practice in social work programs across the country. These programs require fewer hours for graduation for students who meet specific criteria and are typically completed within a one year time period. The School of Social Work currently requires four fewer courses (16 hours) for graduation for students who have obtained a BSW degree from an accredited program in the past seven years. However, it has not been called an "Advanced Standing" program and requires more hours and a longer time to completion than is the norm for Advanced Standing programs in social work. Furthermore, our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), mandates "BSW graduates are not to repeat what has been mastered in their BSW programs. MSW programs describe the policies and procedures used for awarding advanced standing." (EPAS 2008, Standard M 3.2.3) In response to this mandate, and in order to remain competitive in recruitment of students with a BSW, we have developed the following proposal for an Advanced Standing MSW program. It requires 44 hours of graduate course work for graduation and can be completed in three semesters. Advanced standing will be offered for both on-campus students and off-campus students. The faculty of the School of Social Work have approved this proposal.

Eligibility Requirements:

- BSW from an accredited social work program in past 7 years
- GPA: Overall = 3.0, Social Work Major = 3.0
- Work and/or volunteer experience related to social work or charitable social services
- Three letters of reference: one from current employer or Chair/Director of BSW program addressing readiness for advanced standing, one from their undergraduate BSW field instructor, and one that is familiar with their either academic, work or volunteer experience.
- Personal statement (similar to current MSW program)

Program Structure: 3 semester/12 month program (exception for School Social Work) earning 44 hours of graduate credit. Students will take six advanced social work courses (8 for School Social Work) plus an internship and two seminars (one seminar for School Social Work) that accompany the internship/field placement. Students in School Social Work have an alternate schedule due to their requirement to complete their internship during the Fall semester of the public school year. Sample schedules are shown on the next page.

All MSW concentrations except School Social Work:

Fall	Spring	Summer (12 weeks)
4 advanced/graduate classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 advanced classes in their concentration area ▪ Field/internship 2 days/week ▪ Field seminar class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field/internship 4 days/week ▪ Field seminar class
16 hours	16 hours	12 hours

School Social Work:

Fall	Spring	Fall (16 weeks)
4 advanced/graduate classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 advanced classes in their concentration area ▪ 2 graduate/elective classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field/internship 4 days/week ▪ Field seminar class
16 hours	16 hours	12 hours

JUSTIFICATION:

Currently BSW students make up approximately 20% of new enrollments in the MSW program. By not having a formal Advanced Standing program that can be completed in one year we are at a recruiting disadvantage compared to other MSW programs in the state and region. In order to remain competitive in recruitment of qualified students from undergraduate social work programs we must be able to offer an Advanced Standing program. It is our goal to not only remain competitive, but to increase the number of highly qualified undergraduate social work students into our graduate program. We also need to formalize our procedures for Advanced Standing in order to remain compliant with CSWE accreditation standards.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- No additional staff will be needed as this does not represent an increase in workload or course offerings. It may have a minor impact on tuition revenue in that BSW students currently complete the program in four semesters rather than three. However, this is expected to be offset by improved competitiveness in recruitment that will result in an increase in the number of BSW graduates in the MSW program.
- No internal reallocations are anticipated. Admission applications will continue to be handled by the social work admissions office. There will be no impact on class size, although there may be a slight impact on the number of course offerings needed. No impact is anticipated on course enrollment in other departments as most MSW students take all their courses within the school.
- No impact on the University Library or other resources such as computer labs, etc are anticipated.

CLEARANCES:

Associate Dean/MSW Program Director Bang J. Achenon Date 7/30/08
Dean of the School of Social Work Shyne S. Ron Date 7-30-08
Graduate College Lydia Japparda Date 10/27/08

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Advanced Standing

Students with a Bachelors degree in Social Work (BSW) within the past seven years from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) are eligible for the advanced standing program. This is a 3 semester/44 hour program completed in 12 months by most students. Students with a concentration in school social work participate in a one semester internship during their second Fall semester for a 3 semester/44 hour program completed in 16 months.

Concentrations in Advocacy Leadership and Social Change, Children Youth and Family Services, Health Care, Mental Health:

Fall: 4 advanced social work classes

Spring: 2 concentration classes, field internship 2 days/week, field seminar

Summer: field internship 4 days/week, field seminar

Concentration in School Social Work:

Fall: 4 advanced social work classes

Spring: 2 concentration classes; 2 advanced social work classes

Fall: field internship 4 days/week, field seminar

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2008

Advanced Standing

Students with a Bachelors degree in Social Work (BSW) within the past seven years from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) are eligible for the advanced standing program. This is a 3 semester/44 hour program that may be completed in 12 months, with the exception of school social work which requires a one semester internship in the second Fall semester for a 16 month program.

ALSC, CYFS, Health Care, Mental Health Concentrations:

Fall: 4 advanced social work classes

Spring: 2 concentration classes, field internship 2 days/week, field seminar

Summer: field internship 4 days/week, field seminar

School Social Work Concentration:

Fall: 4 advanced social work classes

Spring: 2 concentration classes; 2 advanced social work classes

Fall: field internship 4 days/week, field seminar