

# SOCIAL WORK, MSW (INTENSIVE WEEKEND)

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**More Information:** <https://case.edu/socialwork/academics/master-social-work/intensive-weekend-social-work-masters-degree>

**Degree:** Master of Social Work (MSW)

## Program Overview

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program prepares students for advanced social work practice in a variety of settings. The master's curriculum is designed to address the wide range of skills and functions required of a professional social worker. Mandel School students are instructed on the various theories of individual and group behavior as well as community systems theory. The application of this knowledge, along with the appropriate use of practice principles and techniques, is a major educational objective.

The curriculum is divided into two levels: generalist and advanced. The generalist curriculum (27 credit hours) includes the knowledge, values, processes, and skills essential for the general practice of social work. It consists of generalist courses in social work methods, human development theory, social policy, research methods, and an introductory semester of field education. The advanced curriculum (33 credit hours) builds on the professional foundation and provides for advanced knowledge and practice skills in the concentration selected by the student. The Direct Practice Concentration includes specializations in substance use disorders and recovery; children, youth and families; and mental health with adults.

## Intensive Weekend Program

The Intensive Weekend Program is designed to provide graduate-level education toward the MSW to employed professionals who are maintaining full-time employment. Classes meet one weekend per month throughout the calendar year. Students complete three-four courses (including Field Education) every semester and must complete all program requirements in five years. Those who have graduated from an accredited BSW program in the last seven (7) years can complete the Intensive Weekend Program in two years

Advanced standing may be granted to students who have earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work (BSW) within the last seven years from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Students must have earned a B or better in any social work course for which advanced standing is sought.

## Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
- Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
- Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

- Engage in Policy Practice
- Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
- Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
- Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Develop as a Social Work Leader

## Ability Based Learning Environment (ABLE)

The MSW program incorporates an ability-based learning environment that enables students to develop and demonstrate mastery of eight core social work abilities. Classroom courses and field education are designed to help students develop each ability and continuously assess their learning throughout the educational experience. Mastery of the abilities is demonstrated in the field practicum and documented in a cumulative learning portfolio.

- *Identify as a Reflective Professional Social Worker:* Students will demonstrate an awareness of the potential influence of their actions and words as a professional social worker upon individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students will demonstrate the ability to reflect on practice decisions and activities, using self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- *Advocate for Social, Economic and Environmental Justice:* Graduates will advocate for human rights and social and economic justice as one of their primary responsibilities.
- *Apply Social Work Methods:* Graduates of the Mandel School's master's program are prepared to function as advanced practitioners in a changing arena of social work and social welfare. They are able to engage clients and client systems, assess client needs and strengths, provide or help arrange needed services and support, weigh intervention alternatives, implement change strategies, and evaluate results.
- *Uphold Social Work Values and Ethics:* Students will integrate social work values and ethics into their learning and professional practice.
- *Integrate Cultural, Economic and Global Diversity:* Students will integrate into their practice the knowledge, skills, and values needed for understanding and appreciation of a diverse world, and for ongoing development of competence in working with diverse populations and settings.
- *Think Critically About Theory and Research Knowledge:* Graduating students will be able to think critically about their practice and its knowledge base, and about the social problems and situations they encounter. Critical thinking in social work includes selecting appropriate theoretical approaches and strategies to apply in practice, using research findings to improve practice, evaluating one's own practice, and making contributions to knowledge in the field.
- *Communicate Effectively:* Graduating students will have the oral, written, nonverbal, and information technology skills that will enable them to communicate effectively and appropriately in professional roles and settings.
- *Develop as a Social Work Leader:* Social workers recognize that the context of practice is dynamic, and use knowledge and skill to respond proactively. Social work leaders are informed, resourceful, and proactive in responding to evolving organizational, community,

societal and global contexts at all levels of practice in ways that improve quality of life.

Mandel School faculty place a high priority on the integration of theory with practice. To facilitate this integration, fieldwork is done concurrently with coursework. Through field education, students have the opportunity to acquire new skills and apply their classroom learning in their practice setting. The school is affiliated with over 1000 agencies throughout the United States, creating a vast network of field education as well as employment opportunities. Students are required to complete a minimum of 900 clock hours of field education. The school and the affiliated agency or field setting agree on the content and conditions of field education, including the qualifications of social workers who serve as field instructors. Field placement decisions are based on educational criteria, with student interests and career objectives taken into consideration.

## Program Requirements

The Intensive Weekend program offers human service professionals who are employed full-time to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW). Classes meet one weekend per month through the calendar year and students are required to attend all classes. Students complete four courses each year (six during the first year), and complete all program requirements in three years.

Courses consist of three distinct components:

- A two-day weekend of classes once per month (Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; may vary by course)
- A four-week study period, during which additional readings and written assignments are completed
- A final study period of approximately two weeks, during which the final course assignment is completed and materials for the next course are received.

## Generalist Courses

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Foundation Courses</b>		
SASS 502	Change Agent Intensive	1
SASS 503	Foundations of Social Policy and Service Delivery	2
SASS 504	Theories of Human Development and Human Diversity	2
SASS 507	Community Theory and Practice	2
SASS 508	Individual and Family Theory and Practice	4
SASS 509	Group Theory and Practice	2
SASS 528	Evidence Informed Practice	2
<b>Advanced Courses</b>		
SASS 542	Evaluating Programs and Practice	3
SASS 547	Problem Identification, Screening and Assessment/Diagnosis	3
SASS 549	Theory/Practice Approaches in Direct Practice Social Work	3
SASS 566	Assessing and Engaging Community for Community Change	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>27</b>

## Field Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 465	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 466	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar II	1
SASS 467	Advanced Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 661	Field Education I	2
SASS 662A	Field Education II-A	1.5
SASS 662B	Field Education II-B	1.5
SASS 663A	Field Education III-A	1.5
SASS 663B	Field Education III-B	1.5
SASS 664A	Field Education IV-A	1.5
SASS 664B	Field Education IV-B	1.5

## Concentration Requirements

### Substance Use Disorders and Recovery

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 516	Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 564	Social Work Practice in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	3
SASS 576	Integrative Seminar in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment	3
Free Elective		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

### Children, Youth & Families

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 517	Family System Interventions	3
SASS 550	Trauma Informed Social Work Practice with Children & Families	3
SASS 529	Child and Family Policy and Service Delivery	3
Free Elective		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

### Mental Health with Adults

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 514	Mental Health Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 583	Social Work Practice in Mental Health Adults	3
SASS 587	Integrative Seminar in Mental Health: Adults	3
Free Elective		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

## Sample Plan of Study

First Year		Hours
Fall		
<b>Generalist Courses</b>		
SASS 502	Change Agent Intensive	1
SASS 503	Foundations of Social Policy and Service Delivery	2

SASS 504	Theories of Human Development and Human Diversity	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>5</b>

**Spring****Generalist Courses**

SASS 507	Community Theory and Practice	2
SASS 508	Individual and Family Theory and Practice	4

**Field Education Courses**

SASS 465	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 661	Field Education I	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

**Summer****Generalist Courses**

SASS 509	Group Theory and Practice	2
SASS 528	Evidence Informed Practice	2

**Field Education Courses**

SASS 466	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar II	1
SASS 662A	Field Education II-A	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>6.5</b>

**Second Year****Fall****Advanced Courses**

SASS 547	Problem Identification, Screening and Assessment/Diagnosis	3
SASS 549	Theory/Practice Approaches in Direct Practice Social Work	3

**Field Education Courses**

SASS 662B	Field Education II-B	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7.5</b>

**Spring****Advanced Courses**

SASS 542	Evaluating Programs and Practice	3
SASS 566	Assessing and Engaging Community for Community Change	3

**Field Education Courses**

SASS 663A	Field Education III-A	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7.5</b>

**Summer****Specialist Courses**

Specialized coursework or electives based on Pattern of Enrollment	6
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**Field Education Courses**

SASS 663B	Field Education III-B	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7.5</b>

**Third Year****Fall****Specialist Courses**

Specialized coursework or electives based on Pattern of Enrollment	6
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**Field Education Courses**

SASS 664A	Field Education IV-A	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>7.5</b>

**Spring****Specialist Courses**

Specialized coursework or electives based on Pattern of Enrollment	9
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**Field Education Courses**

SASS 664B	Field Education IV-B	1.5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>10.5</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>61</b>