

SOCIAL WORK, MSW

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More Information: <https://case.edu/socialwork/academics/master-social-work/campus-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 (31-33 credit hours) builds on the professional foundation and provides for advanced knowledge and practice skills in the concentration selected by the student. The Mandel School offers two Concentrations (Direct Practice and Community Practice for Social Change). The Direct Practice concentration includes these specializations: aging; substance use disorders and recovery; children, youth and families; health; mental health with children and adolescents; mental health with adults. School social work is available as a special emphasis.

On-Campus Weekly Program

The Campus-Based Weekly Program takes four semesters to complete. Students enroll for fall and spring semesters and are scheduled concurrently for classes and fieldwork on a full-time basis. This program is demanding in depth and scope of experience. It is not advisable for students to assume extensive employment during their semesters of enrollment.

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.

Part-Time Degree Program

The part-time program may be completed in three years. Students granted advanced standing may complete the program in fewer semesters. Part-time students are required to register for a minimum of six credit hours per semester. A student must complete all degree requirements in a maximum of five years.

Part-time students select classes from the full-time weekday schedule. These classes meet once a week for two-three hours. Employed

professionals may participate in this program if they can arrange a flexible work schedule.

Non-Degree Study

Some designated courses may be taken on a non-degree basis with the permission of the assistant dean of academic affairs and the course instructor. A maximum of 12 hours earned on a non-degree basis may be counted toward requirements for the master's degree if the student is subsequently admitted as a degree-seeking candidate. A bachelor's degree is required for enrollment.

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 1,000 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

On-Campus Weekly Program

The On-Campus Weekly program takes four semesters to complete. Students are scheduled for classes and field education concurrently. In the first two semesters, students complete foundation courses which are prerequisites for concentration required courses. Advanced electives are completed in the last two semesters.

Generalist Courses

Code	Title	Hours
Foundation Courses		
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
SASS 543	Collaborative Practice I-A	0
Advanced Courses		
SASS 542	Evaluating Programs and Practice	3

SASS 544	Collaborative Practice I-B	1
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
Total Hours		28

Field Education

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 495	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 496	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar II	1
SASS 497A	Advanced Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 601	Field Education I	2
SASS 602	Field Education II	3
SASS 603	Field Education III	3
SASS 604	Field Education IV	3
SASS 603A	Field Education III (Advanced Standing)	3
SASS 604A	Field Education IV (Advanced Standing)	3
Total Hours		20

Concentration Requirements

Aging

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 513	Aging Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 581	Social Work Practice with Older Adults	3
SASS 518	Social Work with Death, Grief and Loss	3
or SASS 589	Advanced Social Work Practice In Integrated Healthcare	
Free Elective		12
Total Hours		21

Children, Youth & Families

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

Children, Youth & Families: School Social Work

The School Social Work program is designed to train school social workers and provide them with the competencies to practice in a variety of traditional and non-traditional primary and secondary education settings. Such competencies include assessing children's needs; designing and implementing interventions; and making referrals to other professionals and agencies, as needed. School social workers function collaboratively with educators and other professionals to assist the schools and the communities in mobilizing resources on behalf of children and adolescents in order to help ensure academic success.

The program is consistent with the Ohio Department of Education, State of Ohio, regulations and professional standards developed by the National Association of Social Workers, and is jointly offered by the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and the Division of Education at Baldwin Wallace University. Students in the program complete the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at the Mandel School with a specialization in Children, Youth and Families. As part of the MSW degree, students complete three required education courses at Baldwin Wallace University, SASS 519 Children and Families in the School Setting, and a field practicum in an approved school social work setting. After the completion of all required coursework and field education, a student can apply to the State of Ohio Department of Education to receive a certificate in school social work.

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 517	Family System Interventions	3
SASS 519	Children and Families in the School Setting	3
SASS 529	Child and Family Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 550	Trauma Informed Social Work Practice with Children & Families	3
SASS 564	Social Work Practice in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	3
SASS 585	Social Work with Groups	3

Baldwin Wallace University Courses

EDU 510: Educational Studies	3
EDU 573: Children with Special Needs	3
EDU 584: Pupil Services and Community Resources	3

Total Hours 27

Community Practice for Social Change

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 534	Theoretical Contexts Shaping Community Practice	3
SASS 561	Community Practice Policy: Analyzing and Changing Social Policy	3
SASS 567	Strategic Power Building with Communities	3
SASS 569	Planning & Implementing Social Change	3
Free Elective		9

Total Hours 21

Health

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 511	Issues in Health Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 589	Advanced Social Work Practice In Integrated Healthcare	3
Free Elective		15

Total Hours 21

Mental Health with Children and Adolescents

Code	Title	Hours
SASS 564	Social Work Practice in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	3
or SASS 582	Social Work in Child Abuse and Family Violence	
SASS 514	Mental Health Policy and Service Delivery	3
SASS 580	Social Work Practice in Mental Health: Children and Adolescents	3
SASS 584	Integrative Seminar in Mental Health: Children and Adolescents	3

Free Elective 9

Total Hours 21

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

Total Hours 21

Substance Use Disorders & 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

Total Hours 21

Sample Plan of Study

First Year

Fall **Hours**

Generalist Courses

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
SASS 543	Collaborative Practice I-A	0

Field Education Courses

SASS 495	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar	1
SASS 601	Field Education I	2

Hours 18

Spring

Advanced Courses

SASS 542	Evaluating Programs and Practice	3
SASS 544	Collaborative Practice I-B	1
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

Field Education Courses

SASS 496	Field Education: Organizational Theory and Practice Seminar II	1
SASS 602	Field Education II	3
Hours		17
Second Year		
Fall		
Specialist Courses		
Specialized coursework or electives based on Pattern of Enrollment		12
Field Education Courses		
SASS 603	Field Education III	3
Hours		15
Spring		
Specialist Courses		
Specialized coursework or electives based on Pattern of Enrollment		9
Field Education Courses		
SASS 604	Field Education IV	3
Hours		12
Total Hours		62

Dual Degree Options

- Bioethics and Medical Humanities, MA/Social Work, MSW
- Business Administration, MBA/Social Work, MSW
- Law, JD/Social Work, MSW
- Nonprofit Organizations, MNO/Social Work, MSW
- Public Health, MPH/Social Work, MSW