

# SOCIAL WORK, M.S.W.

## Overview

A Master of Social Work prepares students for advanced practice and is considered a professional degree. MSW programs provide students with specialized knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes, and practice behaviors. Students pursue an MSW degree to become policy, administration or clinical professionals and leaders within the profession. After completion of a Master of Social Work program, graduates will be eligible to sit for the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) examination given by the State of New Jersey.

The MSW requires 65 credits for degree completion, comprised of 49 credits of course work and 16 credits of Field Practicum. The MSW offers two specializations: Direct Practice and Community Partnership.

The direct practice specialization is for students seeking to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively work with individuals, families and small groups in therapeutic settings. The community partnership specialization prepares students for leadership careers in policy, administration and community development. The curriculum was designed to meet CSWE accreditation standards.

Central to the mission of the MSW program is the promotion of human and community well-being, the prevention of conditions that limit human rights, the elimination of poverty, the quest for social and economic justice, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons. In keeping with the university's geographical, cultural, and historical context, a special emphasis is placed on vulnerable populations including women, the elderly, and Latino and Hispanic immigrants. The MSW program is committed to providing students with diverse educational practice opportunities that integrate the skills, values, and knowledge of the social work profession on both a local and global level and are guided by a person and environment construct.

## Advanced Standing

Students entering the MSW program full time with an earned BSW from a program accredited by the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) receive Advanced Standing, the equivalent of one year of full-time study, if they enroll within five years of completing their BSW program. Students who have graduated with any other major can apply for admission to the MSW program without a BSW, a route that typically takes two years of full-time study to complete.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program of studies for Master of Social Work, the student will earn a Master of Social Work degree and will have given evidence of the following program outcomes:

- Be prepared for advanced practice with diverse populations, especially those who have been marginalized and oppressed.
- Develop skills required to serve as a professional social worker grounded in global awareness, respect for diverse cultural perspectives, and the Mercy charism.
- Engage in evidence-based practice. They will understand the importance of social science research, be able to think critically, analyze data, and communicate effectively and ethically.
- Be guided toward the life-long learning and a commitment to professional development for credentialing and licensure, advocacy

for issues of social justice in social work practice, and academic research and service opportunities as inspired and guided by the Mercy Core values and Critical Concerns.

## Admission

### Requirements for Admission

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Completed self-managed application packet, including:
  - Completed application for admission
  - A check or money order for \$40 (nonrefundable) made payable to Georgian Court University
  - A reasonably complete statement of applicant's reasons for undertaking this program of graduate study. An explanation of what factors influenced applicant's decision and how this program will facilitate attainment of applicant's professional goals for the future should be addressed.
  - Sealed and signed envelopes containing the official transcripts of each undergraduate and graduate institution applicant has attended. If the official seal has been broken, the transcript is then considered to be unofficial and cannot be accepted for use toward your application.
  - Three letters of recommendation written by college professors, deans, supervisors, or other persons engaged in or familiar with the profession for which applicant wishes to prepare.
- Accepted applicants who have completed a CSWE-accredited BSW program within five years prior to enrolling in the MSW program will be given advanced standing status, which means that they are admitted into the second year of the MSW curriculum.
- Accepted students will receive a health form that must be completed and submitted to the Office of Health Services.

## Requirements

Students entering the M.S.W. program without advanced standing (traditional track students) complete an initial 33 credits of coursework, which can be finished in one year (full-time) or more than one year (part-time), which prepares them for advanced coursework. Students entering the M.S.W. program with advanced standing (advanced standing track students), and students without advanced standing who have completed their initial 33 credits of coursework, then take an additional 32 credits of coursework, which can be finished in one year (full-time) or more than one year (part-time).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Initial Coursework (Traditional Track Students Only)</b>		
SW510	Writing for the Profession	1.0
SW530	Social Work Practice I	3.0
SW536	Social Work Practice II	3.0
SW546	Social Welfare Programming & Policy	3.0
SW550	Human Behavior & Social Environment I	3.0
SW556	Human Behavior & Social Environment II	3.0
SW560	Marginalization & Oppression	3.0
SW565	Contemporary Social Problems	3.0
SW580	Social Work Research	3.0
SW590	Integrative Seminar I	4.0

SW592	Integrative Seminar II	4.0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33.0</b>

SW692	Field Inst. & Integrative Seminar IV	4.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16.0</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>65.0</b>

The curriculum below is taken by all students, both those entering with advanced standing and those who entered without advanced standing but completed the above 33-credit initial coursework curriculum.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Advanced Coursework (Advanced Standing Track and Traditional Track Students)</b>		
SW620	Ethical & Cultural Responsive Practice	3.0
SW630	Community Organization & Advocacy	3.0
SW635	SW Practice with Families and Groups	3.0
SW646	Supervision & Administration	3.0
SW664	Global Social Policy	3.0
SW670	Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis	3.0
SW676	Intervention & Treatment Planning	3.0
SW680	Specialization Thesis Experience	3.0
SW690	Field Inst. & Integrative Seminar III	4.0
SW692	Field Inst. & Integrative Seminar IV	4.0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32.0</b>

## Degree Map(s)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
SW510	Writing for the Profession	1.0
SW530	Social Work Practice I	3.0
SW546	Social Welfare Programming & Policy	3.0
SW550	Human Behavior & Social Environment I	3.0
SW560	Marginalization & Oppression	3.0
SW590	Integrative Seminar I	4.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
SW536	Social Work Practice II	3.0
SW556	Human Behavior & Social Environment II	3.0
SW565	Contemporary Social Problems	3.0
SW580	Social Work Research	3.0
SW592	Integrative Seminar II	4.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16.0</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
SW620	Ethical & Cultural Responsive Practice	3.0
SW630	Community Organization & Advocacy	3.0
SW646	Supervision & Administration	3.0
SW676	Intervention & Treatment Planning	3.0
SW690	Field Inst. & Integrative Seminar III	4.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
SW635	SW Practice with Families and Groups	3.0
SW664	Global Social Policy	3.0
SW670	Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis	3.0
SW680	Specialization Thesis Experience	3.0