

Social Work Curriculum

SW 100 – Intercultural Communication (3) (Oral Communications – General Education)

This course is designed to teach various interpersonal skills with a direct focus on cross-cultural communication. Diversity related topics include developing self-awareness in such areas as verbal and nonverbal interactions, awareness of others, communicating in a variety of cultural contexts, emotions, relationships and the importance of time and space.

Communication topics include the process of communication, listening, putting ideas into words, communicating in social encounters and in career situations, communicating in small groups, researching ideas, understanding listeners, speech preparation and presentation as well as argumentation and debate.

SW 110 Introduction to Social Work (3)

Introduction to the field of social work as a helping profession and the micro (individual), mezzo (groups and family), and macro (organization and community) levels. The role of the generalist social worker in a variety of service settings with a focus on at-risk populations is presented. An overview of social work history, theories, values, ethics and skills necessary for the best practices of social services are also presented.

SW 120 Social Service Agency Observation (1)

This 1-semester hour course is an orientation to social work within a nonprofit social service agency.

Prerequisite: SW 110 or co-requisite

SW 240 Human Diversity & Social Justice (3) (Social Science – General Education)

An introduction to human diversity covering the areas of age, class, color, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. Concepts of social justice, covering the areas of distributive justice, human and civil rights and the global interconnections of oppression are introduced.

Common historical, personal and societal strategies to combat discrimination, oppression, economic deprivation and the promotion of social and economic justice within the United States are considered.

SW 280 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3) (Social Science –General Education)

Theories and knowledge of human bio-psycho-social-cultural development including the range of social systems in which individuals live (families, groups, organizations and communications) across the life span. The course addresses how systems promote or deter people from maintaining or achieving optimal health and well-being. Human development is viewed as a complex interaction between individuals and systems.

SW 381 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3)

This course includes content on the reciprocal relationships between human behavior and social environments. Also considered are empirically based theories and knowledge that focus on the interactions between and among individuals, groups, societies, and economic

systems; the range of social systems in which people live, individual, family, group, organizational and community; and the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well being.

Prerequisites SW 280, SOC 102

SW 300 Child Welfare (3)

This course provides an overview of the child welfare system in the United States from a generalist perspective. The history of the development of the continuum of child welfare services will be examined. Information on child abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption will be provided. The course will also review the social and organizational systems that are responsible for the delivery of child welfare services, and ways that social workers can influence those systems. Emphasis will be placed on increasing sensitivity to racial and cultural factors that affect the provision of child welfare services to various populations and their implications for social work practice.

SW 310 Social Work Practice I (3)

The basic theory, knowledge and skills required to develop micro (individual) professional relationships in generalist social work practice. Skills in defining issues, assessment, interviewing, crisis intervention, referral linkages, communication and documentation will be covered. Initiation and termination of helping relationships with diverse at-risk populations will be explored.

Prerequisites SW 110, SW 120, SW 280, full admission to the Social Work Program

SW 311 Social Work Practice II (3)

The basic theory, knowledge and skills required to develop mezzo- (group, family) level generalist social work practice. Skill building for effective interventions with families and groups of varying racial, ethnic and other cultural groups in society, identifying values and lifestyles that require divergent social work approaches and responses, and enhancement of identity as a facilitator of change for helping more than one client at a time.

Prerequisite SW 310

SW 320 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3)

Course content includes the history of social welfare and social work, the history and current structures of social welfare services, the role of policy in service delivery and attainment of individual and social well-being. Course content provides students with knowledge and skills to understand major policies that form the foundation of social

welfare as well as introductory analysis of organizational, state, national and international issues in social welfare policy and social service delivery.

Prerequisites ENG 170, PS 155 or PS 156, BA 210

SW 325 Social Work Research Methods (3)

An introduction to current research techniques offering the student an understanding and appreciation of scientific, analytic techniques to building knowledge for practice and to evaluating service delivery in all areas of practice. Ethical standards of scientific inquiry, methodological approaches and the analysis of data are presented. Students participate in designing and conducting research.

Prerequisites: MTH 141, SW 110 or consent of instructor

SW 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397 Special Topics in Social Work (3)

Specialized topics in social work will be the focus of these courses. Topics will change to reflect trends in social practice and the needs of social work students. Relevant topics may include, but are not limited to: readings and research in social work, cross-cultural practice, grief and loss, services to the elderly, service learning, etc.

Prerequisite: Junior standing, consent of Instructor. Can be taken for repeated credit with different topics.

SW 350 Group Work (3)

Basic generalist social work skills to effectively develop, plan, facilitate, and evaluate group services are examined. Theories and models of group development, types of groups, group dynamics, and phases of groups will provide the framework for practical applications of group leadership and effective group membership. A focus on group diversity and working with populations-at-risk will be presented.

SW 412 Social Work Practice III (3)

The basic theory, knowledge and skills required to develop macro- (organization, community, society) level social work practice. Systematic use of the generalist perspective to evaluate and strengthen social programs and structure, identify issues of social stratification, assess community needs and resources, facilitate capacity building, promote self-advocacy and develop methods for overcoming resistance to change will be addressed.

Co- or prerequisite SW 311

SW 421 Social Welfare Policy & Services II (3)

Course content includes advanced analysis of organizational, local, state, national and international issues in social welfare policy as well as social service delivery and application of the results of policy research relevant to those issues. Policy practice skills will be introduced with regard to economic, political and organizational systems as they are used to influence, formulate and advocate for policy consistent with various value sets. Financial, organizational, administrative and planning processes required for effective delivery of social services within various policy frameworks will be presented.

Prerequisite SW 320

SW 450 Field Practicum (9)

Students in supervised social work practice are provided opportunities to apply classroom learning in a field setting. Requires a minimum of 400 hours (25 hours per week to complete

in one semester at the same agency or 12.5 hours per week over two semesters – students can remain at same agency or change).

Prerequisites SW 310, SW 311 and SW 412 (can be concurrent), senior standing and successful submission of all required materials.

Sample Student Curriculum

Year 1 Fall Term

3 ENG 150
2 LUL 101
3 SOC 102
3 SW 100
3 General Education Course

Year 1 Spring Term

3 ENG 170
3 PSY 100
3 SW 110
3 BIO 107
3 General Education Course

Year 2 Fall Term

3 SW 240
1 SW 120
3 PS 155 or 156
9 General Education Courses

Year 2 Spring Term

3 SW 280
3 BA 210
3 MTH 141
6 General Education Courses

Year 3 Fall Term

3 SW 310
3 SW 325
9 General Education Courses/Electives

Year 3 Spring Term

3 SW 311
3 SW 320
3 SW 381
6 Electives

Year 4 Fall Term

3 SW 412
3 SW 421
9 Electives

Year 4 Spring Term

9 SW 450
6 Electives