

Master of Social Work Program Campus-Based Track



**School of Social Work
College of Health Professions and Sciences
University of Central Florida**

**Student Handbook
2022 - 2023**



**School of
Social Work**

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WELCOME

A Note from the MSW Program Director

Welcome to the University of Central Florida School of Social Work! The UCF School of Social Work has a long-standing reputation of preparing quality master level clinical social workers. Our academic program prepares graduates to assist people of all ages, from all walks of life, in a variety of settings. We have outstanding faculty members engaged in instruction and in a wide range of research projects [Social Work Faculty & Staff - UCF College of Health Professions and Sciences](#). The program emphasizes clinical work with clients while also integrating the value of diversity and the importance of promoting social and economic justice, and we are committed to the success of your educational experience.

The School of Social Work has an MSW Program with two tracks: a campus-based track and a fully online track. Students admitted to either of these programs must adhere to all school policies and to the specific expectations of each track. Each of our MSW handbooks has specific information that is unique to that track within the MSW Program. This handbook provides information on the campus-based track.

Core courses and electives in the MSW Program provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills, behaviors, and values of the social work profession. Social work courses offer students opportunities to develop competence in skills and component behaviors essential for social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations.

While this handbook provides information on the MSW Program, it is not possible to elaborate on every School, College or University rule relevant to graduate students. It is therefore important that students stay up to date with graduate program regulations and expectations and consult with the MSW Advisor or the MSW Program Director. The College of Graduate Studies will not waive exceptions to program regulations based on a student's lack of knowledge about a specific regulation or requirement. These policies and procedures are in the 2022-2023 graduate catalog [View Policies \(ucf.edu\)](#).

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK MSW MISSION STATEMENT

The UCF School of Social Work MSW Program prepares generalist and advanced clinical social work students to become practitioners who promote optimal well-being, human rights, and social and economic justice. The school focuses on social change from a regional and global perspective with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations in diverse practice settings through research informed practice.

MSW PROGRAM GOALS

To prepare professional MSW clinical social work practitioners to:

Goal #1: Apply professional knowledge, skills, and values with diverse individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Goal #2: Engage in ethical practice grounded in human rights and social and economic justice.

Goal #3: Promote the optimal well-being of vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized populations by building on their strengths and resilience through collaborative community partnerships.

Goal #4: Integrate research informed practice in generalist settings and assess, intervene, and evaluate in advanced clinical practice settings.

Goal #5: Advocate for policies and services that promote social change and the quality of professional social work practice.

The MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) through October 2024. The MSW's curriculum is based upon the competencies for accreditation explicated by CSWE. These competencies are listed below:

CSWE 2015 EPAS COMPETENCIES AND COMPONENT BEHAVIORS

The Council on Social Work Education has operationalized these competencies by identifying practice behaviors defined as “a set of measurable component behaviors that are comprised of knowledge, value and skills.” The internship plays a key role in teaching practice behaviors to students while measuring and reflecting the student's ability to demonstrate capacity in the nine core competency areas identified by CSWE below:

COMPETENCIES

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, and Groups. Organizations, and Communities

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Below is a summary of the Competencies and Component Behaviors identified above.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers:

- Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
- Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
- Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
- Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
- Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Social workers:

- Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro-levels;
- Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
- Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers:

- Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and
- Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

Social workers:

- Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research;
- Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings; and
- Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy,

and service delivery.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers:

- Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;
- Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services;
- Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers:

- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
- Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers:

- Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies;
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies;
- Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies; and
- Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers:

- Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies;

- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies;
- Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes;
- Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies; and
- Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers:

- Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;
- Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;
- Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and
- Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

Per the Council on Social Work Education, programs that offer specialized practice extend the learning and skill development of the nine generalist competencies by preparing students to engage in practice with a “specific population, problem area, method of intervention, perspective, or approach to practice” (CSWE EPAS 2015, p. 12). The UCF School of Social Work MSW Program offers a specialization in clinical social work. The clinical social work specialization provides advanced clinical courses to develop competent social work practitioners that demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to promote health, mental health, and well-being of individuals, families, and groups in diverse communities.

In the clinical year, students are provided with opportunities to develop and demonstrate culturally responsive, evidence-based clinical practice skills in a range of practice settings. They apply the knowledge, skills, and values of the social work profession to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate client systems. Students in the advanced clinical courses also learn that competent clinical practitioners view clinical problems within a person in environment perspective, recognizing the importance of promoting human rights and social and economic justice. Below are the specific advanced competencies associated with the advanced clinical curriculum:

Advanced Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

- Develop, manage and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients within the Person-in- Environment (PIE) and Strengths Perspective
- Understand and identify professional strengths, limitations, and challenges

Advanced Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

- Identify and use practitioner/client differences from a strength's perspective
- Work effectively with diverse populations and model culturally competent behavior with client groups, community partners and other professionals

Advanced Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

- Advocate for the creation and revision of practices and tools that support anti- oppressive practice

Advanced Competency 4: Engage in Practice-inform Research and Research-informed Practice

- Use the evidence-based practice process in clinical assessment and intervention with clients
- Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

Advanced Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

- Advocate with and inform legislators to influence policies that impact clients and service

Advanced Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities

- Develop a culturally responsive therapeutic relationship
- Establish a relationally based process that encourages clients to be equal participants in the establishment of treatment goals and expected outcomes

Advanced Competency 7: Assess individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Use multidimensional biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment tools
- Assess clients' readiness for change

Advanced Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

- Collaborate with other professionals to coordinate treatment interventions
- Demonstrate the use of appropriate clinical techniques for a range of presenting concerns identified in the assessment, including crisis intervention strategies as needed

Advanced Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities

- Use clinical evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practice interventions for a range of biopsychosocial-spiritual conditions

In addition to the competencies explicated above students are also expected to perform the essential functions below.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR STUDENTS IN THE MSW PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the University of Central Florida Master of Social Work program must perform certain functions in order to participate in and complete essential program requirements to obtain the MSW degree. The minimal professional, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for successful program completion as well as entry-level social work practice are outlined in this document.

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program prepares generalist and advanced clinical social work students to become practitioners who promote optimal well-being.

The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking skills, empirically based accountable practice, and ethical services for clients experiencing a wide range of psychosocial issues. Students learn preventive and therapeutic interventions aimed at enhancing human functioning and quality of life. Graduates of the program have the ability to work with diverse clients in a variety of agency settings.

The MSW program strives to educate students to become successful practitioners in the field of clinical social work. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics (2017) is reinforced throughout the academic curriculum. Students who violate the NASW Code of Ethics may be subject to academic sanctions up to and including dismissal from the program.

The practice of social work includes the examination and treatment of individuals, families, and groups. Social workers must be prepared to conduct components of clinical practice in a timely manner.

Graduates of the MSW program are required to possess a broad base of clinical practice knowledge and skills requisite for the practice of social work, as required by the Council of Social Work Education. Social workers must possess the intellectual, communicative, behavioral-social, observational, and motor abilities to meet the standard of practice.

Intellectual Abilities

Intellectual skills include the ability to recall and comprehend large amounts of information and to apply this information to the client's complex problems.

The MSW student has the ability to:

1. Recognize and define problems, develop, and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills and appropriate clinical decision making with

ability to differentiate relevant vs. irrelevant information

3. Memorize, analyze, synthesize, and apply large volumes of information.

Communication Abilities

Effective communication skills enable a social worker to obtain appropriate information from clients and to effectively explain treatment procedures to clients and other professionals.

The MSW student has the ability to:

1. Effectively process and comprehend written and verbal communications, in the English language at a level consistent with full participation in academic and professional clinical coursework.
2. Utilize appropriate and effective verbal, written, and non-verbal communication.
3. In all situations, respond appropriately verbally and in writing, in the English language, when communicating with any personnel.
4. Respond to situations that indicate an individual's need for assistance.
5. Participate in group and individual discussions, present oral and written reports and provide constructive feedback in the English language.

Behavioral – Social Abilities

A social worker must demonstrate the ability to practice in a professional and ethical manner and possess the emotional stability to practice in a stressful work environment.

The MSW student has the ability to:

1. Appropriately handle the physical, emotional, and mental challenges of a rigorous curriculum and varied clinical environments.
2. Demonstrate flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing environments.
3. Demonstrate empathy, compassion, integrity, honesty, and concern for others of all cultures and backgrounds.
4. Demonstrate the ability to respond appropriately to unpredictable or stressful situations.
5. Demonstrate behaviors and attitudes that protect the safety and well-being of others, especially patients, clients, and classmates.
6. Demonstrate professional, ethical, and legal behavior in academic and clinical environments.

Reasonable Accommodations

All applicants are required to perform these essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation refers to ways in which the university can assist students with disabilities to accomplish program requirements; as an example, providing support services to significantly decrease or eliminate barriers caused by disability.

Reasonable accommodation does not mean that students with disabilities will be exempt from program requirements. Prospective MSW students, who can perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation are not required to disclose their disabilities prior to an admission decision.

Prospective MSW students who cannot complete these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation are ineligible for consideration for admission. If admitted, a student with a disability, who requires reasonable accommodation must register with UCF Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

An offer of admission may be withdrawn, or an enrolled student may be dismissed at any time from the program, if it becomes apparent: that the student cannot complete these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation; or that the student's performance of these functions would create a significant risk of harm to the health or safety of self or others.

The School of Social Work reserves the right to terminate a student after admission to the MSW Program, if in the judgement of the faculty, the student demonstrates behaviors incongruent to working in the field of social work and/or violates the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MSW degree requires 62 credit hours for full-time and part-time tracks. **Fifty percent (50%) of coursework must be at the 6000 level.** Students accepted into the advanced standing track who completed a BSW at an accredited social work program is required to complete 32 credit hours. Students who have completed some MSW credits at an accredited social work program will have transferred credits evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the MSW Program Director.

Educational standards for all social work programs are established by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accreditation body for professional social work education. The first two years of study in the three-year curriculum provide students with the theoretical generalist perspective. Classes are completed in Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Social Work Practice, Social Welfare Policies and Services, Social Work Research, and Social Work Field Education. The third year of the curriculum is the specialization year.

While enrolled in courses, students will complete field education internships in community agencies or organizations. Students are assigned one field education site internship in their first year and in their second year they are placed in a clinical internship. For more information on the field education internships, please consult your Field Education manual.

DEGREE PLAN OF STUDY

The Plan of Study lists the courses and the sequence of courses (by semester) required for the student's program track (e.g., full-time, part-time, or advanced standing full-time, part-time). All degree requirements must be met within six years from beginning the program. See the Graduate Catalog for specific degree requirements and course descriptions. The specific degree Program of Study varies depending on whether students are full-time, part-time or advanced standing full-time, part-time. **Students are expected to follow the**

sequence and timing of courses in their Program of Study.

Required courses are offered only in the semester indicated. Due to the cohort nature of the program, students are unable to take courses out of sequence. Students must use the online course registration system to enroll in courses and must enroll by the drop/add deadlines posted on the UCF Academic Calendar. **Students are not permitted to switch from the campus-based track to the fully online track.** Students are responsible for knowing all deadlines related to their program of study.

Advanced Standing, Full-time Track (Only for those students who have earned a BSW):

First Semester (Summer)

- SOW 6123 Psychosocial Pathology (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6424 Theories for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Social Work (3 credit hours)

Second Semester (Fall)

- SOW 6324 Clinical Practice with Groups (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6348 Clinical Practice with Individuals (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6612 Clinical Practice with Families (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6531 Full-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I (2 credit hours)
- SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Third Semester (Spring)

- SOW 6433 Clinical Evaluation in Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6536 Full-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II (2 credit hours)
- SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Advanced Standing, Part-time Track (Only for those students who have earned a BSW):

First Semester (Summer)

- SOW 6123 Psychosocial Pathology (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6424 Theories for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Social Work (3 credit hours)

Second Semester (Fall)

- SOW 6348 Clinical Practice with Individuals (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6612 Clinical Practice with Families (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6561 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I (2 credit hours)
- SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Third Semester (Spring)

- SOW 6433 Clinical Evaluation in Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
- SOW 6xxx Clinical elective (3 credit hours)

- SOW 6562 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II (1 credit hour)
 SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (1 credit hour)

Fourth Semester (Summer)

- SOW 6424 Clinical Practice with Groups (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6563 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar III (1 credit hour)
 SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (1 credit hour)

Full-time track (For students that have a bachelor's degree in another discipline):

First Semester (Fall)

- SOW 5107 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5132 Diverse Client Populations (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policies and Services (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5305 Social Work Practice I: Generalist Practice (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5538 Full-Time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar I (1 credit hour)
 SOW 5940 Generalist Field Education (2 credit hours)

Second Semester (Spring)

- SOW 5217 Foundations of Behavioral Health Policy and Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5306 Social Work Practice II: Intervention Approaches (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5404 Social Work Research (3 credit hours)
 SOW xxxx Elective (clinical or non-clinical) (3 credit hours)
 SOW 5539 Full-Time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar II (1 credit hour)
 SOW 5940 Generalist Field Education (2 credit hours)

Third Semester (Summer)

- SOW 6123 Psychosocial Pathology (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6424 Theories for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Social Work (3 credit hours)

Fourth Semester (Fall)

- SOW 6324 Clinical Practice with Groups (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6348 Clinical Practice with Individuals (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6612 Clinical Practice with Families (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6531 Full-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I (2 credit hours)
 SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Fifth Semester (Spring)

- SOW 6433 Clinical Evaluation in Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6536 Full-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II (2 credit hours)
 SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Part-time Track (For students that have a bachelor's degree in another discipline):**First Semester (Fall)**

SOW 5107 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3 credit hours)

SOW 5132 Diverse Client Populations (3 credit hours)

Second Semester (Spring)

SOW 5217 Foundations of Behavioral Health Policy and Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)

SOW 5404 Social Work Research (3 credit hours)

Third Semester (Summer)

SOW 5305 Social Work Practice I: Generalist Practice (3 credit hours)

SOW xxxx Elective (non-clinical or clinical) (3 credit hours)

Fourth Semester (Fall)

SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policies and Services (3 credit hours)

SOW 5306 Social Work Practice II: Intervention Approaches (3 credit hours)

SOW 5565 Part-Time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar I (1 credit hour)

SOW 5940 Generalist Field Education (1 credit hour)

Fifth Semester (Spring)

SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)

SOW 5566 Part-Time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar II (1 credit hour)

SOW 5940 Generalist Field Education (1 credit hour)

Sixth Semester (Summer)

SOW 6123 Psychosocial Pathology (3 credit hours)

SOW 6424 Theories for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Social Work (3 credit hours)

SOW 5567 Part-Time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar III (1 credit hour)

SOW 5940 Generalist Field Education (1 credit hour)

Seventh Semester (Fall)

SOW 6348 Clinical Practice with Individuals (3 credit hours)

SOW 6612 Clinical Practice with Families (3 credit hours)

SOW 6561 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I (2 credit hours)

SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (2 credit hours)

Eighth Semester (Spring)

SOW 6433 Clinical Evaluation in Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)

SOW 6xxx Clinical Elective (3 credit hours)

SOW 6562 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II (1 credit hour)

SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (1 credit hour)

Ninth Semester (Summer)

- SOW 6324 Clinical Practice with Groups (3 credit hours)
 SOW 6563 Part-Time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar III (1 credit hour)
 SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education (1 credit hour)

FIELD EDUCATION

1. Integrative Seminar (Generalist and Clinical)
 - a. Integrative Seminar will be graded A-F.
 - b. Full-time generalist students will enroll in SOW 5538 and SOW 5539 during their first year of study
 - c. Part-time generalist students will enroll in SOW 5565, SOW 5566, and SOW 5567 during their second year of study.
 - d. Full-time clinical students will enroll in SOW 6531 and SOW 6536 during their second year, or if an advanced standing full-time student.
 - e. Part-time clinical students will enroll in SOW 6561, SOW 6562 and SOW 6563 during their third year of study, or if an advanced standing part-time student.

2. Field Education (Generalist and Clinical)
 - a. Field Education will be graded “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory.”
 - b. Generalist students will enroll in SOW 5940
 - c. Clinical Students will enroll in SOW 6940

The field education internship helps you to gain skills to apply learned theory to social work practice in the field. The student-learning contract provides a broad framework for developing an individualized learning plan that is responsive to the needs of the student and the resources of the field agency. It is designed to give direction and learning structure to the field experience and is developed around the core practice competencies and component behaviors that are designated in the 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

The MSW Advisor and the Field Education Office will provide students with additional information for registering for specific sections of field education.

MSW CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- SOW 5107 Human Behavior in the Social Environment
 Study of human development and psychosocial functioning of individuals, groups, families, and communities with particular attention to implications of human diversity
- SOW 5132 Diverse Client Populations
 Study of human diversity, focusing on the needs, resources, problems, and service issues of several identified minority client populations.
- SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policies and Services

Study of societal responses to human needs; forces shaping social welfare systems; introduces frameworks for analyzing social policies and programs.

- SOW 5305 Social Work Practice I: Generalist Practice.
Study of social work functions, knowledge, values, roles and skills; the use of a generalist model of practice.
- SOW 5306 Social Work Practice II: Intervention Approaches
Study of selected social work theories, strategies, and techniques for helping people and improving system responsiveness to human needs.
- SOW 5404 Social Work Research
Study of group research designs in social work; quantitative analyses; and related ethical issues.
- SOW 5538 Full-time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar I
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F
- SOW 5539 Full-time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar II
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 5565 Part-time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar I
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 5566 Part-time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar II
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 5567 Part-time MSW Generalist Field Integrative Seminar III
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 5940 MSW Generalist Field Education – Full-time students
Supervised practice of social work in an agency for 200 clock hours for full-time MSW generalist students. Graded S/U.
- SOW 5940 MSW Generalist Field Education – Part-time students
Supervised practice of social work in an agency for 150 clock hours for part-time MSW generalist students. Graded S/U.
- SOW 6123 Psychosocial Pathology
Study of mental and behavioral health disorders in individuals.

- SOW 6324 Clinical Practice with Groups
Focus on the theory and practice of clinical social work with groups.
- SOW 6348 Clinical Practice with Individuals
Focus on the assessment and social work intervention skills in clinical practice with individuals.
- SOW 6424 Theories for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Social Work
Study of a wide range of theoretical perspectives that support clinical social work practice.
- SOW 6433 Clinical Evaluation in Social Work Practice
Students will learn to critically analyze and apply specific research designs and analytical methods for systematic evaluation of clinical interventions, services, and programs.
- SOW 6531 Full-time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 6536 Full-time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 6561 Part-time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar I
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 6562 Part-time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar II
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 6563 Part-time MSW Clinical Field Integrative Seminar III
This course is comprised of seminars designed to facilitate student integration of clinical social work practice and theory. Graded A-F.
- SOW 6612 Clinical Practice with Families
This course is designed to develop assessment, treatment planning, and intervention skills in clinical social work practice with families.
- SOW 6940 Full-time MSW Clinical Field Education – Full-time students
Supervised practice of social work in an agency for 300 clock hours for full-time MSW clinical students. Graded S/U.
- SOW 6940 Clinical Field Education – Part-time students
Supervised practice of social work in an agency for 200 clock hours for part-time

MSW clinical students. Graded S/U.

MSW ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following is a list of electives and descriptions offered by our program. They are classified as either clinical or non-clinical. Advanced clinical electives can only be taken after SOW 6123 and SOW 6424. **Graduates need to have two social work clinical electives to fulfill the requirements of the MSW program AND to apply for state of Florida licensure as a clinical social worker.** *All electives are not available every catalog year.*

- SOW 6109 Violence against Women: A Global Perspective (Clinical)
An introduction to the types of violence that impact women from a global perspective. Community, political, and economic issues that support violence against women will be discussed by country, ethnic group(s) within countries, and religious principles.
- SOW 6149 Military Culture and Social Work Practice (Clinical)
Thorough analysis of military and veteran systems. Provides frameworks to assist social workers in better understanding, communicating, and practicing with veterans and their families.
- SOW 6155 Human Sexuality in Social Work Practice (Clinical)
Study of human sexuality with emphasis on assessment and intervention skills for social workers with clients experiencing problems involving sexual issues.
- SOW 6383 Social Work Administration (Non-Clinical)
Designed as a general introduction to the multi-faceted nature of social work administration in public and private non-profit settings.
- SOW 6603 Social Work in Health Settings (Clinical)
Study of social work roles, interventions, and issues related to helping clients in health settings.
- SOW 6604 Medications in Social Work Practice (Advanced Clinical) *PR: SOW 6123.* The study of the effects that psychotropic medications can have within the counseling/helping relationship.
- SOW 6608 Understanding and Managing Combat Related Behavioral and Mental Health Disorders (Clinical) *PR: SOW 6149 and must be admitted to the Military Certificate Program* Advances students' knowledge about the unique nature of trauma, PTSD and other mental health disorders as they relate to combat-exposed soldiers, veterans, their families, and other military experiences.
- SOW 6610 Clinical Practice with Military and Veteran Families or Groups (Clinical)
PR: SOW 6149 and must be admitted to the Military Certificate Program

Theoretical/practical approaches to clinical practice with military families and groups. Examines the demands of military service on family/group dynamic, composition and related issues.

- SOW 6644 Interventions with Older Adults and Their Families (Clinical)
Study of concepts, skills, models and theories for intervening with aged. Special attention is given to minority populations.
- SOW 6652 Child Welfare Services (Clinical)
Provides a framework of knowledge, values, and skills necessary to work with maltreated children and their families. It serves to introduce students to the field of Child Welfare.
- SOW 6655 Child Abuse: Treatment and Prevention (Clinical)
Study of various forms of child abuse, the social worker's role and interventions with victims of child abuse and their family members.
- SOW 6670 Clinical Social Work Practice with LGBTQ+ (Clinical)
The course will focus on social work resources, social policy and clinical assessment, diagnosis, and therapeutic interventions of LGBTQ+ individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- SOW 6712 Clinical Social Work Practice with Substance Addictions (Clinical)
Strategies for working with persons who abuse drugs, alcohol, and other substances.
- SOW6713 Prevention and Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use and Misuse (Clinical)
Clinical application and analysis of prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, relapse issues and public policy regarding adolescents with substance use addictions.
- SOW 6726 Social Work Practice with Children from Birth to Age Five and Their Families (Clinical)
Social Work practice and treatment of children from birth to five years of age and their families.
- SOW 6727 Core Concepts of Child and Adolescent Trauma (Clinical)
Trauma informed concepts applied to practice with children and adolescents.
- SOW6735 Documentation Skills for Helping Professionals (Clinical)
Study of documentation skills and record keeping for helping professionals.
- SOW 6756 Forensic Social Work (Clinical)
Course develops the understanding of the role of social workers with clients within criminal justice system and legal system.

- SOW 6846 Spirituality in Clinical Social Work Practice (Clinical)
Faith development theory, study of spirituality in various settings and development of strategies for use in practice designed to heighten sensitivity to spiritual dimensions of life.
- SOW 6806 Special Topics: Behavioral Health Skills for Clinical Social Workers (Advanced Clinical) *PR: SOW 6123*. The purpose of this course is to provide comprehensive knowledge and skills for providing behavioral health interventions in medical and behavioral health settings.

For additional information on graduate course descriptions: <http://www.graduatecatalog.ucf.edu/>
Students not admitted to the MSW program will not be permitted to take SOW courses. Exceptions may be made for individuals (licensed clinical social workers) from out of state who need to satisfy the Florida licensing requirements. Permission must be granted by the MSW Program Director.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Purpose: Independent Study (IS) provides an opportunity for the student to explore in depth an area of particular interest. *It may not be taken in lieu of, or as a substitute for the courses which are specified in the curriculum as requirements (core classes or electives).* Rather the IS serves to extend the student's knowledge in a particular subject that is of interest to the student and may not have been included or covered in depth within the content of scheduled courses.

Requirements:

1. Independent Study (IS) may be requested by a social work student with a grade point average of 3.00 who has completed at least twelve hours of course work in social work.
2. The limit of IS course credit in social work is six hours, with a maximum of four hours permitted in any one semester.
3. Although IS is ordinarily taken by one student with one faculty member, there may be a special occasion when more than one student may be jointly participating in an IS project. When more than one student is involved in the project, students and faculty should clarify arrangements for meetings and should be clear about procedures to be followed with respect to grading.
4. No student may receive IS credit for covering content found in another social work course.
5. It is necessary that a plan for the IS be developed by the student and the instructor. The IS plan should include objectives, justification of study criteria, a brief content outline, bibliography, frequency of student-faculty contact, expectations for a research paper or report and the methods of evaluation.
6. MSW students may receive credit hours to meet social work requirements from an IS course taken in another department of the university. IS outside the School is acceptable if the study is related to the student's specific educational objectives. The same procedures must be followed by the student and the instructor as if the student were taking the IS in the School of Social Work (see Procedures below). It is the

student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor in the other department is acquainted with these procedures

Procedures:

1. The formal IS procedure begins with the student seeking authorization from the program advisor who establishes the student's eligibility for the IS in accordance with the policy established above.
2. The student obtains an agreement from an instructor to offer the IS under that instructor's guidance.
3. The student and the faculty member meet to arrange an appropriate course of study and the required outcome.
4. The student and faculty member complete IS agreement.
5. The instructor needs to contact the program advisor to arrange for the online permission for the student to register for the course. The program advisor will notify the student once the online permission is approved.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The School of Social Work offers a [Military Social Work Graduate Certificate \(ucf.edu\)](http://ucf.edu) that prepares students to provide behavioral health services, including: mental health counseling aimed at building psychological resilience; treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, suicide risk assessment and prevention techniques; and family therapy for strengthening military, veterans and their families during and after deployment. This certificate program requires a separate application. Please note that admission to the MSW Program does not guarantee admission to the certificate program. See the Graduate Catalog for these specific certificate requirements.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The MSW Advisor help students develop their plan of study during orientation sessions at the beginning of the year and will be available to help students monitor compliance with those plans. The Plan of Study details the sequencing of specific courses necessary for students to complete their MSW degree. Students are encouraged to meet with the MSW Advisor to ensure that they are on track with their Plan of Study and to discuss any concerns or problems with the Plan and/or with academic performance.

If a student has extraordinary circumstances that require a change in the Plan of Study, the student **MUST** meet with the academic advisor to discuss these circumstances and the necessary changes in the Plan.

Reasons Why You May Want to See the Advisor:

- Questions regarding plans of study
- Clarification of policies and procedures
- Reviewing academic requirements
- Challenges in course work that may affect academic performance
- Information needed about campus resources

Professional Advising

Social work education recognizes the importance of professional advising as students prepare to enter the field. Towards that end, students are encouraged to seek out professional advising from faculty and field education supervisors. These individuals often have extensive practice and social work education experience and can be great resources for students wishing to learn more about professional opportunities in social work.

MSW STUDENT ADVANCEMENT PROCESS AND POLICY

Advancement Requirements: To be accepted into and retained in the program, students are expected to demonstrate initiative, dependability, social concern, self-awareness, appreciation for diversity in others, problem solving ability, ease in relating with others, skill in writing and speaking, tolerance of diversity, and professional ethics. Advancement from one semester to the next is contingent upon satisfactory progress each semester. The student must maintain satisfactory progress toward meeting the following expectations:

A. Academic Performance:

1. Students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory performance in non-letter graded courses. If a student's GPA drops below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation by the College of Graduate Studies. The student will be dismissed from the program if the GPA does not rise to a 3.0 within the probationary period allowed by the College of Graduate Studies, typically 18 credit hours or the remaining hours in the program. [Academic Progress and Performance \(ucf.edu\)](#).
2. Non-advanced standing students who receive more than six (6) hours of "C" grades (C, C+ or C-) will be dismissed from the MSW Program. Advanced-standing students earning more than three (3) hours of "C" grades (C, C+ or C-) will be dismissed from the MSW Program.
3. Students earning a D or an F grade in any of their course work will be dismissed from the Master of Social Work program.
4. Students may be dismissed from the MSW Program due to a failed field placement or unsatisfactory grade in the field education course. Two failed field placements will result in an automatic recommendation of dismissal from the School of Social Work. Please see the MSW Field Manual for specific field advancement policies.
5. Students MUST successfully complete all generalist level classes and generalist field placement to move into the clinical year(s) of the program. Students who do not enroll in or complete a generalist class will not be permitted to move on to their clinical year courses until the class has been completed. Students who have an "I" grade in any generalist course must complete the required work before beginning clinical year courses or field placement.
6. Satisfactory performance also involves maintaining professional integrity and behaviors expected in a clinical program. Failure to maintain these standards may result in dismissal of the student from the program.
7. The student may appeal dismissal decisions [as outlined in The UCF Golden Rule](#).

B. Professional Behavior - The Student is expected to:

1. Uphold the NASW Code of Ethics

2. Obtain, analyze data, integrate information, and reach sound assessment judgments.
3. Implement effective interventions.
4. Relate in a positive manner with client system, colleagues, agency staff, and community systems.
5. Demonstrate a commitment to and skill in self-evaluation of practice.
6. Respond to evaluation and criticism with appropriate professional behavior in the classroom and in the field placement environment.
7. Refrain from performance that jeopardizes physical or emotional safety of clients in field placement.
8. Manifest a physical or emotional condition of a nature that affects, or is affected by, one's performance in the classroom and the field placement sites.
9. Meet attendance requirements in the classroom and complete expected number of field hours throughout the field placement.

C. Ethical Conduct - The student is expected to:

1. Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all aspects of the program.
2. Adhere to ethical professional standards in all interactions with clients, peers, faculty, field instructors, and all members of the University and practice communities.
3. Demonstrate law-abiding behavior that will not interfere with obtaining a license in the state of Florida to practice clinical social work.
4. Meet attendance requirements in the classroom and completes expected number of field hours throughout the field placement

The *National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics* outlines the standards of ethical behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual or racial harassment or harassment concerning sexual orientation, threatening behavior, plagiarism, theft, or sexual misconduct. This includes all behaviors related to the status of the student in the School of Social Work, interactions with clients, agency staff, faculty, School and University staff, and students.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Any student who is terminated from a field placement or has demonstrated unprofessional behavior in the classroom, field placement, or community will be referred to the Academic and Professional Performance Committee. This committee is comprised of faculty and staff from the School of Social Work including (but not limited to): Director(s) of Field Education, MSW Program Director/Online MSW Program Director, MSW Program Advisor/Online MSW Program Advisor, and teaching faculty who have agreed to serve on the committee.

Procedure(s) of the Academic and Professional Performance Committee are as follows:

- Committee members meet (exclusive of student) to review and examine all relevant information.
- The student shall be invited to meet with the committee and will be allowed to provide a prepared statement and to answer any questions from committee members. The student may bring a representative to the meeting who may advise the student;

however, said representative may not speak with, or address the committee under any circumstances.

- After meeting with both parties, the student will be excused from the meeting and the committee will deliberate and issue a decision by majority vote.
- The student will be contacted within 10 business days with the committee's decision.

ENHANCEMENT OF STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The School of Social Work students will adhere to professional standards in the face-to-face, virtual, and field environments. The following guidelines define additional professional behaviors:

Classroom and Online Education:

1. Attending regularly scheduled classes and educational activities.
2. Exhibiting appropriate grooming, hygiene, and dress standards.
3. Participating actively, respectfully, and consistently in classroom discussions and assignments.
4. Writing concisely with appropriate APA documentation, correct grammar, spelling and utilization of accurate social work concepts and terminology.
5. Responding to feedback and constructive criticism with appropriate modification of behavior.
6. Demonstrating maturity and a positive attitude.
7. Consistently demonstrating flexibility and initiative.
8. Consistently taking responsibility for own learning and showing motivation for self-learning.
9. Interacting effectively and consistently with faculty, staff, and clients.
10. Demonstrating honesty, courtesy, and integrity in all aspects of interaction with faculty, staff and clients both public and private and including social media platforms.
11. Being punctual and dependable.
12. Consistently presenting a professional demeanor and attitude for field, class and community professional events.
13. Demonstrating knowledge of the NASW Code of Ethics and HIPAA policies.

Field Education:

1. Relating well to clients and establishing sensitive and professional relationships with clients.
2. Exhibiting appropriate grooming, hygiene, and dress standards.
3. Being punctual and dependable.
4. Demonstrating maturity and a positive attitude.
5. Interacting effectively and consistently with faculty, staff, and clients.
6. Responding to feedback and constructive criticism with appropriate modification of behavior.
7. Demonstrating honesty, courtesy, and integrity in all aspects of interaction with faculty, staff and clients (public and private) and including social media platforms.

8. Consistently taking responsibility for own learning and showing motivation for self-learning.
9. Consistently demonstrating flexibility and initiative.
10. Consistently presenting a professional demeanor and attitude for field education, classroom education and events.
11. Demonstrating knowledge of the NASW Code of Ethics and HIPAA policies.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK POLICIES

Academic Integrity

Social workers must demonstrate high standards of integrity. Every student is expected to do his or her own work and all the work produced will be expected to be completed in its entirety by the student who turns it in. Cheating will not be tolerated. Those found to be cheating (e.g., looking at someone's exam, using someone's paper as your own) will earn a zero grade for the assignment and possibly an "F" for the course. All such cases will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. For a description of the University's policy and procedures related to student academic behavior, please see *The Golden Rule: A Handbook for Students*, or go to the website: <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>

Plagiarism and Fraudulent Websites

Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitute plagiarism. Students are expected to familiarize with UCF's policy on plagiarism. All work students submit must be the individual student's own scholarly and creative efforts. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own." Any acts of plagiarism, including not acknowledging sources of information appropriately and in accordance with APA guidelines, may result in a failing grade in the course and program dismissal. "Copying and Pasting" even with a citation and quotation marks is considered plagiarism. You must reword and cite. School and University policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

All new/incoming students will be automatically enrolled in a Plagiarism Training Module in Webcourse. If not completed by the stated deadline, a hold that prevents future registration will be placed on the student's myUCF account.

Self-plagiarism also undermines the academic purpose of the exercise of working on course assignments (ex. students plagiarize themselves if they submit for university credit a piece of work that is the same or substantially similar to work for which they have already gained or intend to gain university credit, at this or any other university.)

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and may risk program dismissal.

Turnitin.com

Many courses will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system that instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with other of web sites, as well as a large database of student papers. Accordingly, students may be expected to submit assignments through the Canvas Assignment Tool in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, the instructor receives a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit <http://www.turnitin.com>.

MISCONDUCT

Personal Wrongdoing:

Examples of student misbehavior that may result in immediate dismissal and referral to the appropriate office (i.e., Office of Institutional Equity, law enforcement, Office of Student Conduct, etc.):

1. Forced or coerced sexual behavior of another person;
2. Sexual activity with clients including, but not limited to, kissing, fondling, or sexual intercourse;
3. Physical harm or actions directed at clients, students, faculty, or staff, such as hitting, punching, spanking, or slapping;
4. Physical or emotional threats directed toward clients, students, faculty, or staff;
5. The acceptance of gifts or money from clients that are not considered standard payment for services received on behalf of the student's agency or field setting; students shall not ask for nor expect gifts from clients;
6. Illegal or unethical behavior that limits or takes away clients' rights or results in financial, material, or emotional loss for clients or gain for social work students;
7. Drinking or taking illegal drugs at school or in field placement;
8. Being drunk or high on drugs in class or in field placement;
9. Stealing;
10. Insubordination of faculty, field instructors, school, or agency administrators.

Illness or Injury

It is the responsibility of each student to inform the program faculty of any illness or injury that may prevent him or her from performing any activity in the class or clinical setting. The instructor must agree to any modification or postponement of required coursework.

For additional policies please visit:

<http://catalog.ucf.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1228>

Policies Regarding Class Behavior

Class Participation and Attendance: Professional practice involves collegial sharing and peer support. Attendance and active participation in class, helps students develop a commitment to, and a skill in, mutual problem solving and teamwork. In some classes, part of the student's grade is based on participation, teamwork, and attendance. The School of Social Work's class attendance policy appears on every course syllabus and indicates that a student's

grade may be lowered for lack of participation, tardiness, and/or absences. Three or more absences, regardless of reason, may result in a letter grade reduction in the course.

Student Papers: Effective writing is essential for professional practitioners. Students are expected to present their ideas clearly and professionally. Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are essential in all papers submitted to faculty. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, and must conform to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) (latest edition) standards of writing. Papers not conforming to these standards of style and exactness may be returned without a grade. Please check with course instructors regarding specific guidelines.

Meeting Course Assignment Deadlines: Students are expected to submit assignments on the identified due date. Please see course syllabi for details.

Incomplete Work and “I” Grades: When students are unable to complete all requirements for a course by the end of the term due to *extenuating circumstances* (death in the family, serious injury to self or family member, etc.) they may be assigned an incomplete grade (“I”) by the instructor. An instructor may only give an incomplete grade when remaining requirements can be completed by the student in a short time after the term has ended. The student must request an incomplete grade from the instructor and complete course requirements by the deadline set by the instructor. The student and the faculty member need to sign an Incomplete Grade Agreement Form, describing the course requirements and the required date of completion. **If coursework is not completed within an academic year, the “I” automatically becomes an “F.”**

Field Education: Please refer to the field manual for policies related to field education.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Students who wish to file a grade appeal or appeal a program decision must follow the procedures found in the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule 5.016 and/or 5.017 Grievance Procedures are located at the following website: [Grade Appeal - Division of Student Learning and Academic Success \(ucf.edu\)](http://ucf.edu/grade-appeal).

CRIMINAL CHARGES WHILE IN THE MSW PROGRAM

While in the MSW Program (any time after accepting admission status) students arrested for a misdemeanor or felony offense must notify the MSW Program Director immediately. Students who report an arrest will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Students may be asked to provide documentation from the court system that outlines the offenses with which they have been charged. In addition, when appropriate students will provide supporting documentation (e.g., date of conviction, court mandated programs).

While criminal action is pending against a student, the student will not be allowed to enter a field placement or continue in an existing placement. Once the criminal action is resolved the MSW Program Director, Field Education Director, in consultation with the Director of the School of Social Work, will determine the student’s continuance in the MSW Program. Upon

disposition of the criminal action students will produce evidence from the court to the MSW Program Director. If a student is convicted of a crime the MSW Director may recommend dismissal from the MSW Program to the Director of the School of Social Work. Each case will be reviewed individually to determine the implications of the conviction that may affect the student's fitness to practice social work.

If upon review of the relevant documentation, it appears that a student has misrepresented the status of pending charges, a prior conviction of a misdemeanor or felony offense to the MSW Program faculty or staff, the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Master of Social Work Student Association: The MSW Student Association is comprised of all admitted MSW students and provides a forum for graduate students to organize, develop supportive relationships, to communicate with each other and faculty, and to promote the collective interests of the social work program and the profession. There is a one-time membership due (\$20, subject to change), which gives the paid member voting privileges. Once officers have been elected, the MSWSA meets monthly during the academic year. For more information, please contact the MSWSA Advisor.

Graduate Student Association (GSA): GSA is UCF's graduate organization committed to enrich graduate students' personal, educational, and professional experience. To learn more or get involved, please visit [Graduate Student Association - KnightConnect \(campuslabs.com\)](http://campuslabs.com).

Phi Alpha National Honor Society/ Nu Pi Chapter

Founded in 1962, there are 480 Phi Alpha chapters in 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The Nu Pi Chapter was established at UCF in the fall of 2006. The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Membership in the honor society recognizes those who have distinguished themselves academically among their peers and is open to those who are in the top 35% of students in the program, who have completed at least 9 credit hours in social work and 37.5% of the required coursework toward the degree, with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Membership carries the expectation of participation in service events and meetings monthly throughout the academic year and provides opportunities for networking and career mentorship. There are semester dues for membership (approx. \$30, subject to change), although financial hardship should not be a barrier to membership. Students are invited into membership in the fall and spring.

National Association of Social Workers: The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest professional social work organization in the world. Social work students at UCF are eligible and strongly encouraged to join NASW. Students who join NASW can take advantage of reduced rates while in graduate school. Special transitional dues are available for the first two years following graduation. Subscriptions to the bimonthly

social work journal and monthly NASW News/Personnel Information are included in the membership dues.

Social work students in NASW have voting privileges in national and local association elections. Students can hold office on the national board and local committees, as well as form on-campus program units. Students may be nominated for NASW's local and Florida "Student Social Worker of the Year" award.

Application forms for NASW membership are available in HPA 1 - 204.

Their website is: <http://www.naswdc.org/>

Career Services: The Career Service Office offers services and resources to aid in the career exploration and job search of master and doctoral students in every academic discipline. They can help you to assess your skills, interests, values, and experiences as they relate to your long-range career goals. Once you have defined those goals, they support you in your job search. Whether you are looking for jobs inside or outside of the academy, they can help you prepare a resume or curriculum vita, design your career portfolio, gain valuable part-time employment and graduate assistantships, and assist you in negotiating job offers. Please visit their website for additional information: www.career.ucf.edu.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There are a limited number of MSW Fellowships available for first year MSW students in the campus-based, full-time track. Please see the MSW Program office for more details on how to apply for these fellowships.

In addition, the University and School of Social Work offer a limited number of scholarships for students who meet the criteria for these specialized scholarships. Please check with the MSW Program office for information about when these scholarships are made available through the University. Students should consult with the University's Financial Aid Office <https://finaid.ucf.edu/> and the UCF College of Graduate Studies <https://graduate.ucf.edu/> for specific information regarding other opportunities for loans, scholarships, and fellowships.

Admitted MSW Students can also search for scholarship opportunities found here:

- <https://ucf.academicworks.com/opportunities>
- <https://healthprofessions.ucf.edu/scholarships/>
- [Social Work Scholarships - UCF College of Health Professions and Sciences](#)
- <https://graduate.ucf.edu/funding>

SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Bulletin Boards: Check the bulletin boards located around the classrooms HPA 1- 205, 246, 272, for announcements about the Master of Social Work Student Association events, social work activities, and other items.

Job Posting: Announcements about job openings in community agencies are posted in the School of Social Work Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ucfsocialwork> and on the bulletin board located in HPA I – 234. Students are encouraged to check the site on a regular basis for information about employment opportunities.

GRADUATION

Students who complete all academic and field requirements with a GPA of 3.0 or better are eligible to graduate with an MSW Degree. As students approach the end of their graduate career, there is some important information and several deadlines that should be noted to help the process go smoothly. Below are general guidelines for the graduation process in the College of Health Professions and Sciences. For complete policies, degree and graduation requirements, students should refer to the UCF Graduate Catalog and the “Degree Requirements” section of this handbook.

Before Filing an Intent to Graduate

- Students are encouraged to review their Graduate Plan of Study in myUCF to ensure everything is correct.
- If approval has been granted to take courses that are not part of the regular degree requirements, the substitutions should appear on the academic audit. If not, the student should contact the MSW Advisor to request course substitution paperwork.
- Students should register for all remaining classes before submitting the *Intent to Graduate* form.

Where and How to File an Intent to Graduate

Students who intend to graduate must file their intent to graduate form online through myUCF [Prepare for Graduation - Student Success and Advising \(ucf.edu\)](https://myucf.edu/prepare-for-graduation-student-success-and-advising). To access this section, login to myUCF, select *Student Self Service*, *Student Center*, and then select *Intent to Graduate: Apply* in the drop-down box under *Academics*. Once the online form is completed, students will receive e-mail communications from the College of Graduate Studies at various stages of the review process. Students can also log in to myUCF and check the status of their Intent to Graduate at any time by navigating to the Student Center - Intent to Graduate: Status.

When to File Intent to Graduate

Intent to Graduate applications open the semester before your final semester in the program. Please refer to the academic calendar in advance of your final semester for more details.

Information about Commencement

The UCF commencement website <https://commencement.ucf.edu> (updated each semester) includes important information about commencement, including schedules, how to get tickets and how to order a cap and gown.

LICENSING INFORMATION

Students who seek to become licensed in the state of Florida should visit:

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/> or contact 850-488-0595. Students applying for licensure, will need a letter from the School of Social Work once you have graduated and your degree has been conferred. **Due to the requirements of the licensing board, it is essential that you save all your syllabi for documentation of your course work.**

To request a licensure verification letter from the School of Social Work upon graduation, please email mswadvising@ucf.edu.

Please include the following information when requesting your licensure letter:

- Your PID number (or birth date if you do not remember):
- The Registered Intern Application Number (optional—if you have this number, please include it).
- Your name when you graduated from the MSW Program (please include your middle initial):
- Date when your MSW degree was awarded.
- Agency information where you completed your field placement during the clinical year of your MSW.
- ADVANCED STANDING STUDENTS ONLY:** If you received a BSW degree, name of university and date BSW degree was awarded.

The School will process your request and will send a PDF of the letter to you to upload with your application materials to the state of Florida. For licensing requirements in other states, students will need to contact the relevant office in that state and follow their procedures.

Course numbers and titles should be listed as they appear on your official transcripts. You must submit a course description photocopied from a school catalog or a course syllabus for all courses listed.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Knight's email

University policy requires that faculty and staff will communicate with students **only** through Knights e-mail (user@knights.ucf.edu). Faculty and staff will not respond to emails sent from personal (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) or employment accounts.

Courses and Schedule Changes

The University allows instructors the right to make announced changes in course requirements, content, schedule, and assignments.

Inclement Weather

Occasionally, inclement weather occurs. The University of Central Florida has a Severe Weather Plan to provide a course of action to be used during a severe weather event to minimize the potential for injury and loss of life that can result during severe weather. The School of Social Work follows the lead of the University and will not hold classes, nor will students attend internships in the community due to the closure

of the University. During this time, students need to monitor school closings on the UCF homepage (www.ucf.edu), webcourses, or TV and/or radio. You can sign up to receive alerts from UCF on myUCF: <http://my.ucf.edu> via text message or email.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Consistent with the University of Central Florida's policy regarding equal opportunity and affirmative action, the School of Social Work is committed to carrying out its program and providing opportunities to students without regard to sex, race, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This same non-discrimination policy is applied to the School's selection and use of social service agencies for the placement of field students.

Sexual Harassment

The University of Central Florida values diversity in the campus community. Accordingly, discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital status, parental status, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or genetic information is prohibited.

Sexual harassment, a form of sex discrimination, is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or enrollment;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or enrollment decisions affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or enrollment, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. Occurrences will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines above and university rules. Employees, students, or applicants for employment or admission may obtain further information on this policy, including grievance procedures, from the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) Coordinator. Policies and guidelines are available online at <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu>

Confidentiality/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974

According to FERPA:

- Personal identifiable information about students is confidential and cannot be released to any agency or outside organization without a signed consent from the student, except in mitigating circumstances.
- The University is not permitted to complete background clearance checks or driving record checks on students. If placement sites require this information, the student must have the checks performed at the students' expense.
- More information about FERPA can be found here: <https://registrar.ucf.edu/ferpa/>

Religious Observances or Military-Related Responsibilities

If you experience a scheduling conflict or need accommodation for religious observance or

military-related responsibilities, please speak with your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

UCF Cares

During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit [UCF Cares • UCF](#) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services [Counseling and Psychological Services • UCF](#) to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 or please call 911.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>. Once a student registers with the Office of Student Accessibility Services, that office will contact faculty with information on potential reasonable access and accommodations for the student. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the student's needs and accommodations needed, course design and course learning objectives.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu/> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video: <https://police.ucf.edu/active-shooter>

THE UCF CREED

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity	I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
Scholarship	I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
Community	I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
Creativity	I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
Excellence	I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

COVID-19 Policy

Below is the link to the UCF COVID-19 Policy:

<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>

Face Masks

Our expectation is that students, faculty and staff wear masks while indoors, in line with [Use and Care of Masks | CDC](#) and with [State University System of Florida](#) to help protect our campus community. However, neither the university nor individual faculty and staff members may require individuals to wear masks if they choose not to do so. The exception to this involves health-care facilities such as the Student Health Center, UCF Health, and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which still require face coverings inside their buildings. Additionally, as a simulated clinical environment, the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center at the College of Medicine also requires face coverings.

COVID SELF-CHECKER

Students and Employees

The self-checker remains available and is optional through the semester. You can complete the self-checker in the [UCF Mobile app](#)[Links to an external site.](#) and [online](#)[Links to an external site](#) as a tool for screening symptoms.

Visitors

All UCF visitors and vendors are encouraged to conduct symptom monitoring through the [COVID Self-Checker \(Links to an external site.\)](#) before arriving on campus.

For updates check: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | University of Central Florida \(ucf.edu\)](#)

Potential COVID-19 Exposure

Because risk of exposure exists in any public place where people are present and the pandemic is a reality across our broader community, we can expect that UCF will not be immune from continued impact.

If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, here are the steps you should take:

- Stay home and do not come to campus.

- Self-isolate and avoid contact with other people and social gatherings.
- Let your supervisor or faculty member know that you're ill and not able to come to work or class.
- Make arrangements with your instructor regarding making up class assignments.
- Follow the instructions of your healthcare provider to determine if testing or treatment is needed.
- Call the [UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509](tel:407-823-2509) if you test positive.

For updates check <https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/>

** Students who fail to comply with notification and /or contact of UCF Student Health Services may be deemed a professional standards violation and disciplined by CHPS academic unit for failure to comply with expectations to abide by guidelines to safeguard the public.*

University of Central Florida
Campus-based MSW Track
School of Social Work
College of Health Professions and Sciences
12805 Pegasus Drive
Orlando, Florida 32816-3358
407.823.2114
[Master Program \(MSW\) - School of Social Work \(ucf.edu\)](https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/)

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