

MSW Program of Study – Curriculum Overview

54 required hours + 6 *elective* hours = 60 total credit hours

NOTES:

Required courses are listed first in each semester. Electives are in *italics*.

Students may take Soc W 595R (Directed Readings) for 1-3 elective credits. See <https://socialwork.byu.edu/soc-w-595r-directed-readings> for additional information.

Any outside electives must be pre-approved by the Graduate Coordinator or Director.

Research Emphasis Students take research electives

Fall, 1 st year			Credit Hrs
	Soc W 603	Research Methods in Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn how to find, read, and understand peer-reviewed articles, and to discern when it is applicable to one's practice. ● Learn what questions can be answered with different research designs. ● Learn how to write the Introduction and Method sections of a research paper. 	2
	Soc W 620	Human Behavior and Social Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn the theoretical approaches used in social work to conceptualize client problems at micro, mezzo and macro levels. ● Learn how interactions between the individual and larger systems affect human behavior at various stages of development ● Learn the essential social work skill of meeting the client where they are 	3
	Soc W 623	Social Justice & Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine theoretical and conceptual foundations, seeking ongoing awareness around topics such as oppression, power, and difference. ● Explore experiences and nuances of specific types of oppression and discrimination based on race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, social class, and intersectional identities. ● Learn about and begin to apply strategies for anti-oppressive social work practice. 	2
	Soc W 660	Social Work Direct Practice Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Work Values & Ethical Social Work Practice ● Over-View of the Helping Process from Intake to Termination ● Bio-Psycho-Social Spiritual Assessment & Foundation Practice Skills ● Management of Relational Reactions (Transference and Countertransference) ● Clinical Case Management 	3
	Soc W 661	Social Work Practice Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief overview of major practice models ● Intensive training in Motivational Interviewing ● Broad training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), including 1st Wave CBT (Behavior Therapy), 2nd Wave CBT (Cognitive Therapy) and 3rd Wave CBT (Mindfulness and Acceptance) 	3
		Required Hours Total:	13
<i>Electives</i>	<i>Soc W 582</i>	<i>Refugee Services (only Fall even years)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Become informed and involved in responding to forced displacement ● Examine drivers of forced migration, transit and asylum seeking experiences, policy and programmatic interventions, and resettlement processes. ● Support migrant communities through service and advocacy efforts 	2
	<i>Soc W 671</i>	<i>Play Therapy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand and witness the child's inherent and intuitive drive towards healing. ● Understand and recognize that play is the most natural means of expression for children. ● Learn to apply theoretically sound therapeutic powers of play. Experience the power of relationship and its role in the healing process.	2
	<i>Soc W 680R</i>	<i>Pharmacology (online course)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examines the therapeutic effects of medications ● Possible problems that can result from medication intervention ● Understanding of individual mental health medications and their impact on client functioning 	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (online course) (Certification available)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View mental distress symptoms through a trauma lens ● Core concepts for understanding traumatic stress responses ● Traumatic responses within multiple diverse populations and cultures ● Therapeutic interventions with clients who have experienced diverse forms of trauma ● Completion of multiple nationally recognized trauma certifications *Completion of this course is a required element in the BYU MSW Trauma-Informed Clinical Social Work Practice Certificate.	2
<i>Research Elective</i>	<i>MFHD 605</i>	<i>Structural Equation Modeling</i>	3
		Semester Hours total:	13

Winter, 1st year			
	Soc W 602	Statistical & Data Analysis in Social Work Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn when and how to use six statistical tests to make sense of data. ● Learn how to present research to both academic and non-academic audiences. ● Learn how to write the Results and Discussion sections of a research paper. 	3
	Soc W 611	Supervised Clinical Social Work Practicum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with a client at the Comprehensive Clinic to apply what you have been learning in classes. ● Practice and receive feedback on assessment skills used in individual therapy ● Practice and receive feedback on intervention skills used in individual therapy 	3
	Soc W 622	Social Work Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assessment and engagement skills ● Overview of DSM-5 and ICD-10, including limitations of DSM-5 ● Detailed study of 23 very common DSM-5 diagnoses and a briefer review of other DSM-5 diagnoses ● Suicide risk assessment and suicide crisis response plans 	3
	Soc W 666	Specialized Direct Social Work Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore therapy from an existential lens ● Explore the experiences of trauma, anxiety/depression, and addiction ● Explore one's professional identity within the context of course content 	3
		Required Hours Total:	12
<i>*Electives (choose 1)</i>	<i>Soc W 580</i>	<i>Social Work in the School Setting (Certification available)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn about the educational system and laws and policy that affect school social workers, along with many different roles social workers can take in the school. ● Develop an awareness of resources in the community that school social workers utilize. ● Understand some of the challenges facing students in our public schools and ways in which school social workers can address these challenges. <i>*Completion of this course is a required element for School of Social Work Certification through the Utah State Board of Education.</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 675</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and apply theories on the etiology and epidemiology of addiction and substance use disorders. ● Conceptualize and implement addiction treatment interventions on a micro, mezzo, and macro level in accordance with the ethics and core values of social work. ● Examine and challenge own biases regarding addiction and clients with SUDs. ● Determine the phases of recovery (early, sustained, and stable) and the role of in-person and online community-based support groups in recovery maintenance. ● Integrate holistic healing models of body, mind, and spirit in the healing process. 	2
	<i>Soc W 676</i>	<i>Spirituality in Social Work (offered only Winter odd years)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducting spiritual assessments ● Evidence based spiritual treatments 	2
	<i>Soc W 680R</i>	<i>Pharmacology (online course)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examines the therapeutic effects of medications ● Possible problems that can result from medication intervention ● Understanding of individual mental health medications and their impact on client functioning 	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (online course) (Certification available)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View mental distress symptoms through a trauma lens ● Core concepts for understanding traumatic stress responses ● Traumatic responses within multiple diverse populations and cultures ● Therapeutic interventions with clients who have experienced diverse forms of trauma ● Completion of multiple nationally recognized trauma certifications <i>*Completion of this course is a required element in the BYU MSW Trauma-Informed Clinical Social Work Practice Certificate.</i>	2
<i>Research Elective</i>	<i>MFHD 706R</i>	<i>Advanced Statistical Methods</i>	3
		Semester Hours total:	

Spring/Summer, 1st year:			
	Soc W 614R	Integrative Field Seminar 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linkage of Internship experiences with CSWE Competencies ● Broad discussion of common internship experiences and concerns ● Self-Care Curriculum (1 hr/week) 	2
	Soc W 654R	Field Internship 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 450 internship hours in a Soc W Agency ● M-F (28 to 40 hours/week) in Agency ● Focus is on Generalist competencies 	4
** additional tuition if taken Spring/Summer**	<i>Soc W 680R</i>	<i>Pharmacology (online)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examines the therapeutic effects of medications ● Possible problems that can result from medication intervention ● Understanding of individual mental health medications and their impact on client functioning 	2
** additional tuition if taken Spring/Summer**	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (online course) (Certification available)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View mental distress symptoms through a trauma lens ● Core concepts for understanding traumatic stress responses ● Traumatic responses within multiple diverse populations and cultures ● Therapeutic interventions with clients who have experienced diverse forms of trauma ● Completion of multiple nationally recognized trauma certifications *Completion of this course is a required element in the BYU MSW Trauma-Informed Clinical Social Work Practice Certificate.	2
Required Hours Total:			6

Fall, 2 nd year			
	Soc W 615R	Integrative Field Seminar 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linkage of Internship experiences with CSWE Competencies ● Broad discussion of common internship experiences and concerns ● Self-Care Curriculum (self-care of choice) 	1
	Soc W 606	Program & Practice Evaluation in Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn the basic types of program evaluation. ● Design and carry out a real program evaluation via collaboration with community partners. ● Apply study design and analysis knowledge gained in Soc W 602 and 603. ● Learn to appropriately present findings to stakeholders via evaluation reports and face-to-face presentations. 	2
	Soc W 624	Social Work Practice with Couples and Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn how to assess and treat couples and families ● Learn two clinical models: Structural Family Therapy and Emotion Focused Therapy for Couples ● Learn how think to systemically in your clinical work 	2
	Soc W 630	Social Welfare Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore social welfare policies ● Engage in policy practice ● Identify social problems and responsive policy formulations ● Help students become socially responsible consumers and advocates for change ● How policies affect disadvantaged communities and communities of color 	3
	Soc W 655R	Field Internship 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 300 internship hours in a Soc W Agency ● M, W, F (20 hours/week) in Agency ● Focus is on Specialized Clinical competencies 	2
	Soc W 663	Social Work Practice with Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore an approach to group therapy that is focused on interpersonal learning ● Participate in and facilitate group simulations during class ● Give and receive personal feedback on group facilitations 	3
		Required Hours Total:	13
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	<i>Soc W 671</i>	<i>Play Therapy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand and witness the child's inherent and intuitive drive towards healing. ● Understand and recognize that play is the most natural means of expression for children. ● Learn to apply theoretically sound therapeutic powers of play. ● Experience the power of relationship and its role in the healing process. 	2
	<i>Soc W 674</i>	<i>Human Sexuality and Social Work Practice (2nd yr MSWs only)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine different cultural perspectives, value systems and ethics in human sexuality, and demonstrate the ability to critically think about sexual issues from a variety of perspectives. ● Learn about sexual anatomy and sexual functioning in order to work with clients effectively using a sex-positive framework. ● Identify the sources, processes, and behavioral expressions of human sexual development across the lifespan. ● Demonstrate knowledge regarding the range of sexual behaviors, outcomes and potential consequences. ● Develop language and baseline comfort around topics of sexuality and demonstrate ability to effectively talk about human sexuality with clients. 	2
	<i>Soc W 680R</i>	<i>Pharmacology (online course)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examines the therapeutic effects of medications ● Possible problems that can result from medication intervention ● Understanding of individual mental health medications and their impact on client functioning 	2
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Semester Hours total:			

Winter, 2nd year			
	Soc W 615R	Integrative Field Seminar 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Linkage of Internship experiences with CSWE Competencies ● Broad discussion of common internship experiences and concerns ● Self-Care Curriculum (self-care of choice) ● Oral Case Presentation 	1
	Soc W 655R	Field Internship 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 300 internship hours in a Soc W Agency ● M, W, F (20 hours/week) in Agency ● Focus is on Specialized Clinical competencies 	2
	Soc W 664	Leadership & Community Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare for roles as leaders, advocates, managers, and community organizers. ● Explore influence through personal leadership and vision, administrative roles within social service organizations, approaches to community organizing, and strategies for influencing social policy. ● Develop unique skills and abilities to assist communities and organizations in solving social problems. 	3
	Soc W 667	Social Work Practice with Children & Adolescents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn how to use developmental sensitivity in engaging and assessing child and adolescent clients ● Learn how to recognize differential symptom manifestations of mental health disorders across different ages ● Learn to apply appropriate and evidence-based treatment modalities tailored to children's developmental level 	2
	Soc W 669	Specialized Clinical Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn how to make optimal decisions when you confront ethical dilemmas ● Learn skills to develop expertise ● Learn how to measure the impact of your work ● Become familiar with four specialized clinical models ● Gain a deep knowledge of one specialized clinical model 	2
		Required Hours Total:	10
<i>*Electives (choose 1)</i>	<i>Soc W 580</i>	<i>Social Work in the School Setting (Certification available)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn about the educational system and laws and policy that affect school social workers, along with many different roles social workers can take in the school. ● Develop an awareness of resources in the community that school social workers utilize. ● Understand some of the challenges facing students in our public schools and ways in which school social workers can address these challenges. <i>*Completion of this course is a required element for School of Social Work Certification through the Utah State Board of Education.</i>	2
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		Semester Hours total:	

TOTAL Hours: 54 (required)
6 (electives)