

SOCIAL WORK – M.S.W. WITH GERONTOLOGY – M.S.

Program director

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Social work and gerontology—within a behavioral health framework—address the models of wellness, recovery, and resiliency needed for working with older adults and their caregivers. The program's multidisciplinary approach considers the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being of older adults and provides students with knowledge and skills in providing resources, clinical services, and opportunities to older adults and their families. As such, the combined M.S.W. and M.S. degree in gerontology program offers a unique opportunity for individuals interested in working with older adults within a variety of behavioral health settings.

Mission, goals, and objectives

The mission, program goals, and objectives build on elements from both the M.S.W. (<http://llucatalog.illu.edu/behavioral-health/social-work-msw/>) and M.S. degrees in gerontology (<http://llucatalog.illu.edu/behavioral-health/gerontology-ms/>).

General overview

The combined M.S.W./M.S. degrees in gerontology program is a seven-quarter, full-time curriculum that begins with the social work core coursework required for all students. Coursework during the first year of study includes the generalist practice curriculum, which is grounded in the liberal arts and the person-in-environment framework. Within this framework, students learn to promote social well-being, and build on the strength and resiliency of all human beings through a range of prevention and intervention practice methods when working with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. During their second year, students complete a clinical practice specialization along with specialized courses in gerontology and geriatric practice. An integrated practicum and specialized seminar class in gerontology typically begins in the summer quarter of the final year.

Liberal arts preparation

The combined M.S.W. and M.S. degrees in gerontology curriculum is built upon a liberal arts perspective. Individual applicants whose undergraduate degrees do not reflect this perspective may be asked to enroll in additional courses.

Please note: Any prerequisite requirements must be completed before admission to the combined degrees M.S.W/ M.S. program.

Program options

Alternate program options have been designed to address the varying needs of students. As such, the program offers two-, three-, and four-year options.

Admissions

Admissions

Students wishing to take the dual degree must be admitted to both the M.S.W. (<http://llucatalog.illu.edu/behavioral-health/social-work-msw/#admissionstext>) and the M.S. in Gerontology (<http://llucatalog.illu.edu/>)

[behavioral-health/gerontology-ms/#admissionstext](http://llucatalog.illu.edu/behavioral-health/gerontology-ms/#admissionstext)) programs separately. Applicants should refer to the admissions criteria for each program.

Program requirements

The M.S.W./M.S. in Gerontology degrees consists of 90 units of didactic coursework in addition to professional practica experiences. The dual degree program provides the mix of academic, experiential, and research activities essential for master's degree level students. Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale (a letter grade of B) in order to progress successfully through the program and complete the degree. In addition, students must meet the knowledge, skills, and professional performance competencies outlined by the program. Students must meet both course and cumulative G.P.A. standards and course repeat expectations set by the School of Behavioral Health in the general regulations (<http://llucatalog.illu.edu/behavioral-health/>) section of this CATALOG.

Generalist curriculum

SOWK 510	Diversity Theory in Practice and Research	3
SOWK 513	Human Behavior in a Culturally Diverse Environment	5
SOWK 514	Social Welfare History and Policy	5
SOWK 517	Practice I: Individuals	4
SOWK 518	Practice II: Groups	3
SOWK 519	Practice III: Organizations and Communities	3
SOWK 520	Practice IV: Families ¹	3
SOWK 548	Research Methods	5
SOWK 574	Practice V: Social Work Administration	3
SOWK 585	Legal and Ethical Aspects in Health and Behavioral Health Services	3
SOWK 578	Field Orientation ¹	0

Required cognates

RELR 540	Wholeness and Health	3
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Gerontology core courses

GERO 515	Diversity and Aging	3
GERO 615	Economics and Management Issues of Older Adult Services	4
GERO 617	Bio-psycho-social-spiritual Theories of Aging	4

Clinical specialization and geriatric practice

GERO 654	Therapeutic Interventions with Older Adults	3
SOWK 613	DSM: Diagnosis Within the Context of Diversity and Difference	4
SOWK 617	Global Practice	3
SOWK 647	Integrated Behavioral Health	2
SOWK 648	Co-occurring Processes and Interventions	3
SOWK 659	Recovery in Behavioral Health	2
SOWK 661	Psychodynamic Therapies	4
SOWK 662	Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies	4
SOWK 663	Crisis and Trauma Interventions	3
SOWK 675	Supervision	3
SOWK 681	Behavioral Health Policies and Systems	2

Degree completion options

Non-thesis option: ⁶		
SOWK 695A	Advanced Research Methods	

SOWK 695B	Advanced Research Methods	
SOWK 695C	Advanced Research Methods	
Thesis option: ²		
SOWK 697	Applied Research	
SOWK 698	Thesis	
Total Units		90

Professional practica experience ⁵

GERO 787	Advanced Professional Practicum and Seminar	4
Generalist practicum and seminar		
SOWK 757A	Generalist Practicum and Seminar ³	3
SOWK 757B	Generalist Practicum and Seminar ³	3
SOWK 757C	Generalist Practicum and Seminar ³	3
Clinical practicum and seminar		
SOWK 787A	Advanced Clinical Case Consultation ⁴	4
SOWK 787B	Advanced Clinical Case Consultation ⁴	4
SOWK 787C	Advanced Clinical Case Consultation ⁴	4
Total Units		25

¹ Not eligible for waiver.

² Thesis option is available for students meeting program criteria.

³ Hours: 160 + 20; Not eligible for waiver

⁴ Hours: 200 + 20

⁵ 700-numbered courses are not calculated into the total didactic units required for the degree.

⁶ SOWK 695ABC is equivalent to SOWK 695.

Normal time to complete the program

Seven (7) academic quarters (includes didactic courses and practicums)
 – based on full-time enrollment; part time permitted