SOCIAL WORK (SOWK)

Courses

SOWK 513. Human Behavior and Cross-Cultural Environment. 5 Units.
Provides the basis for understanding human development and life transitions throughout the life span within an ecological perspective. Orient the student to the generalist social work approach to understanding human behavior in a cross-cultural context, with a focus on normal behavior from birth through senescence. Provides a theoretical foundation on which to build social work-practice skills.

SOWK 514. Social Welfare Policies and Services. 5 Units.
Provides students with an understanding of the historical foundations of the social work profession, including its influence in the development of the U.S. system of social welfare. Examines the societal perspectives and contradictions that have affected the development and evolution of contemporary social policies and services in the U.S. Emphasizes understanding of the role of race, gender, and perception of human needs in shaping social policy. Analyzes programs, policies, and issues as responses to long-term changes in social and economic conditions in the U.S. and the needs and demands of oppressed groups. Orient students to the structure and process of policy development and legislative advocacy at both the state and federal levels, including the development of UN conventions and the varied international frameworks and challenges affecting policy advocacy and change within international environments.

SOWK 517. Practice I: Individuals. 3 Units.
Facilitates understanding of generalist practice in microsystems. Students conduct a biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment, along with a full range of beginning intervention strategies for working with individuals. Emphasizes the special problems experienced by populations at risk, women, and minorities; the unique skills necessary for goal setting and successful interventions; and the cultural values that influence the development and resolution of psychosocial problems. Prerequisite to or concurrent with social work practicum.

SOWK 518. Practice II: Groups. 3 Units.
Provides students with an understanding of generalist social work practice with groups. Includes a survey of small-group constructs, research, and principles of ethical application. Emphasizes differentiation among the types of individuals, situations, and presenting problems best served through group processes and intervention methods.

SOWK 519. Practice III: Organizations and Communities. 3 Units.
Provides students with an understanding of generalist social work practice in organizational and community settings. Utilizes an ecological systems framework and an empowerment practice model in discussion within the macro context. Students examine neighborhood and community conditions that affect outcomes for populations at risk. Students also examine the role of social service agencies within urban communities, including relationships with other neighborhood institutions and organizations. Students define concepts of community and organization as they develop community organizing and organizational leadership skills that are culturally sensitive and based in social work values.

SOWK 520. Practice IV: Families. 3 Units.
Introduces family interventions. Examines views and issues regarding contemporary family structure and function, and focuses on concepts and techniques used to promote change in family functioning. Course meets state requirement for content in family violence.

SOWK 521. Global Practice. 3 Units.
Introduces students to social work practice in a global context. Examines the ethical and practice issues associated with utilizing traditional interventions in underdeveloped and developing environments lacking established social services systems. Gives critical attention to interactions with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, importance of impact research, and ethical responsibilities regarding sustainability. Additional topics and issues addressed include: globalization, human rights, social justice, diffusion of innovation and social development versus ecological demise, social exclusion, poverty, movements of people across borders, mental and physical health disparities, human trafficking, effects of war and violence and their aftermath, and disaster response.

SOWK 548. Research Methods. 5 Units.
Reviews quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in order to provide students with an understanding of the scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Employs computer-based statistical analysis and data interpretation to assist students in integrating research into social work practice.

SOWK 578. Field Orientation. 1 Unit.
Provides students with the policies and procedures for completing the program’s practicum requirements. Begins the process of examining social work values and ethics as students are introduced to the NASW code of ethics and fundamental principles of professional behavior prior to beginning their field practicum.

SOWK 584. Special Topics in Social Work. 1-4 Units.
Lecture and discussion, under the direction of a faculty member, on a current topic in social work. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 units applicable to degree program.

SOWK 595. Professional Development. 2 Units.
Tutorial course work aimed at ameliorating difficulties associated with meeting the professional performance competencies of the M.S.W. degree program (see M.S.W. Student Handbook). Students enrolled in the course as a result of a corrective action plan developed with the Department of Social Work’s Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 599. Directed Study. 1-4 Units.
Limited to matriculating master’s degree students in social work who wish to pursue independent investigations in social work practice or policy under the direction of a department faculty member.

SOWK 610. Diversity Theory in Practice and Research. 3 Units.
Examines contemporary theories of diversity from a critical perspective that includes intersectionality. Using a cultural humility framework for engaging diverse populations at all levels of practice, as well as policy and research, provides students the opportunity to apply the concepts learned. Gives students the opportunity to build self-awareness and self-regulation and to grow beyond the influence of personal biases and values in order to work more effectively with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.

SOWK 613. Psychopathology, Psychopharmacology, and Diagnosis of Behavioral Health Conditions. 4 Units.
Focuses on understanding and application of the DSM-5 and Mental Status Examination, as organized from a person-in-the-environment perspective. Integrates recovery and a review of psychopharmacology into the diagnostic process, while enhancing awareness of sociocultural needs and issues of populations at risk. Students enhance their analytic writing and verbal skills via presentations based on the biopsychosocialspiritual perspective of psychopathologies, and engage in experiential activities aimed at increasing practice skills encountered as a clinical social worker.
SOWK 648. Co-occurring Processes and Interventions. 3 Units. Builds on the practice experiences and foundation courses of the first year by increasing competency in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals experiencing mental, emotional, and/or behavioral disturbances with co-occurring chemical dependency. Students learn to utilize behavioral health-treatment strategies and substance-abuse counseling techniques from within a biopsychosocial-spiritual paradigm that integrates an understanding of the recovery process.

SOWK 651. Medical Social Work. 2 Units. Orientes students to medical social work in hospitals and other health care environments. Gives attention to the ecological practice perspective, the application of biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment, along with other interventions used to assist patients and families. Examines additional interventions, including connecting patients and families to resources and supports in the community; providing psychotherapy, supportive counseling, grief counseling; practice modalities for populations with various diseases/conditions, or helping patients expand and strengthen their network of social supports. Addresses roles and responsibilities of membership in an interdisciplinary team of health professionals, as well as requirements of follow-up care. Focuses on the needs of high-risk populations (including the poor, ethnic and racial minorities, recent immigrants, and children from high-risk environments). Reviews medical social work’s role in the development of community health care systems as an aspect of accountable health care environments.

SOWK 653. Child Welfare Practice. 2 Units. Focuses on practice with children and families in relationship to environmental stability. Examines the association between the physical and mental health of children and family and environmental permanency. Emphasizes development of parental and social support capacities, as well as the requisite professional knowledge and skills to help children deal with identity issues and concerns of joining a new family. Addresses the impacts of race, ethnicity, gender, economic deprivation, physical illness, and disability.

SOWK 655. Children’s Psychotherapy. 2 Units. Considers treatment techniques appropriate for young children with a wide range of diagnoses and behavior problems. Emphasizes the integration of theory and practice of psychotherapy with the ecological perspective of social work practice. Discusses diagnosis, phases of treatment, and special communication issues. Research, ethical, and value issues addressed.

SOWK 659. Recovery in Behavioral Health. 2 Units. Facilitates understanding of the issues, theories, and recovery-oriented interventions used with persons experiencing severe and persistent behavioral health conditions. Presents an overview of the historical development of behavioral health perspectives and interventions. Emphasizes understanding and application of contemporary wellness-recovery action plans and techniques.

SOWK 661. Psychodynamic Therapies. 3 Units. Basis for understanding psychodynamic therapy (from object relations therapy to interpersonal therapy to short-term psychodynamic therapy), the concepts and techniques of various types of psychodynamic interventions, and the empirical data regarding the efficacy of this treatment orientation. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 661L. Psychodynamic Practice Lab. 1 Unit. Supervised practice simulations observing and/or engaging in psychodynamic therapy. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 662. Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. 4 Units. Provides understanding and practice of cognitive-behavioral therapies (CBT). Reviews CBT theories and interventions, including a range of cognitive-behavioral strategies such as systematic desensitization, cognitive restructuring, and contingency management. Emphasizes more progressive models, such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 662L. Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Practice. 1 Unit. Supervised practice simulations observing and/or engaging in cognitive/behavioral therapies. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 663. Crisis and Trauma Interventions. 3 Units. Examines the nature and characteristics of crisis, as well as traumatic events, for their long-term effects on psychosocial functioning. Presents crisis theories and interventions for working with children and adults who have been exposed to man-made or natural traumas such as violence or loss; along with ethical, legal, and cultural factors of crisis intervention. Introduces students to specific strategies for responding to community, national, and international crises. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 671. Social Work Administration. 3 Units. Provides macropractice knowledge, skills, and perspectives of administrative practices with which to develop, support, and maintain effective service delivery. Topics include role identification and development, situational leadership, strategic planning, levels and types of decision making, management of organizational behavior, use of information systems, budgeting, documentation and reporting, resource development and utilization, and community networking.

SOWK 672. Theories of Organizations and Systems. 3 Units. Explores the complexities of large organizations and bureaucratic systems. Examines formal and informal structures, communication patterns, and philosophical approaches as these affect the effectiveness and efficiency of services delivery, worker motivation, and resource procurement and allocation. Accomplishes the objectives of the course through the application of diverse organizational and diffusion theories and perspectives as a means to increase students’ understanding of their practicum experiences in the policy, planning, and administration concentration. Prerequisite: Pass qualifying review; or permission of Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 673. Program Planning and Implementation. 5 Units. Orientes students to the range of issues, knowledge, and skills required in designing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs. Students build on knowledge obtained in other concentration courses. Integrates the course focus through the development of a comprehensive program proposal for the students’ practicum agency or other identified community group. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 675. Supervision. 3 Units. Examines the supervisory process in relation to clinical, administrative, educational, and supportive functions. Emphasizes supervisory knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary for the development of staff capable of functioning creatively and independently.
SOWK 676. Human Resources Planning and Development. 4 Units.
Examines the complexities of human resources management in large organizations and/or with diverse employee populations. Strengthens students' knowledge and professional decision making relative to the implementation of federal, state, and local policies (i.e., affirmative action, nondiscrimination, sexual harassment, etc.). Deepens students' exposure to leading edge discussions on the legal and ethical aspects of human resources management and contemporary issues affecting morale and productivity in today's work environments (e.g., familial dysfunction of employees, single-parent families, care provider roles of employees, and co-worker violence). Permission of instructor required for registration by students not in the policy, planning, and administration concentration.

SOWK 678. Integrative Generalist Practice and Seminar. 2 Units.
Required of students with advanced standing. Students complete 200 hours of practicum and 20 hours of practicum seminar. Designed to provide a bridge quarter to integrate the B.S.W. degree experience with the second year of the M.S.W. degree program. Emphasizes reviewing the knowledge, values, and skills of generalist social work practice; and defines the additional competencies required for advanced practice. Assists instructor and students in identifying and addressing individualized needs for further development, including application of professional ethics and judgment, use of self as a therapeutic tool, and self-awareness. At the culmination of this course, students also formulate conceptual and experiential learning objectives for their second year of study.

SOWK 680. Children and Families Policies and Services. 2 Units.
Provides students with an understanding of the major social-policy issues affecting the current organization and delivery of human services for children and families. Analyzes current debates about the tensions between social policy and the doctrine of family privacy, with attention to the legal basis of state interventions and judicial decisions affecting family relationships, including parent to parent and child to parent.

SOWK 681. Behavioral Health Policies and Systems. 2 Units.
Provides a conceptual understanding of the development and organization of the health and mental health systems within institutional and community-based settings as they stem from national and local policy perspectives. Considers major issues dealing with the economics of health, health planning, and health legislation. Reviews health and mental health programs based on selected cross-national comparisons.

SOWK 682. Legal and Ethical Aspects in Health and Mental Health Services. 3 Units.
Focuses on those instances when legal mandates or concerns interact with and affect the practice of social work. Overviews the sources of legal authority, the judicial system, and the legal standards applicable to particular proceedings. Examines the legal implications of the social worker/client relationship. Emphasizes consent to treatment. Examines the statutes and judicial decisions that govern the confidentiality implicit in a social worker/client relationship. Examines the statutes and judicial decisions that permit or place an obligation on social workers to breach client confidentiality. Explores course content in the context of common and high-risk situations.

SOWK 683. Advanced Policy Analysis. 3 Units.
Deepens students' understanding of both the conceptual and analytical requirements of policy analysis through the integration of behavioral, political, economic, and sociometric frameworks for understanding human conditions. Students gain experience in structuring and defining policy problems, establishing criteria for policy choices, mapping alternative strategies, and applying appropriate analytical and research methods to policy questions. Use of cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and decision analysis as means toward developing formal augmentation toward sustained change. Prerequisite: Qualifying Review or permission of Academic Standards Committee.

SOWK 684. Advanced Policy Projects. 2, 3 Units.
Enhances understanding of the interconnections between politics, policy making, and policy analysis through first-hand participation in a political action campaign. Choices for projects may focus on local initiatives or those coordinated annually through the California chapter of NASW.

SOWK 685A. Advanced Research Methods. 2 Units.
The first course in a three-quarter sequence that supports the student who chooses to advance his/her knowledge through examination and application of a broad spectrum of quantitative and qualitative research methods used in professional practice settings. Didactic and laboratory experiences draw on the student's advanced practice. Develops student's capacity to differentiate and apply the most appropriate and widely used research designs and methods of practice evaluation and renewal. Gives continuous attention to current federal and state requirements for assessing intervention effectiveness. Emphasizes self-evaluation and evaluation of practice effectiveness with individuals and families.

SOWK 685B. Advanced Research Methods. 2 Units.
The second course in a three-quarter sequence that supports the student who chooses to advance his/her knowledge through examination and application of a broad spectrum of quantitative and qualitative research methods used in professional practice settings. Didactic and laboratory experiences draw on the student's advanced practice. Develops the student's capacity to differentiate and apply the most appropriate and widely used research designs and methods of practice evaluation and renewal. Gives continuous attention to current federal and state requirements for assessing intervention effectiveness. Emphasizes practice evaluation groups as well as the design and implementation of quality assurance studies for monitoring work with specific populations.

SOWK 685C. Advanced Research Methods. 2 Units.
The third course in a three-quarter sequence that supports the student who chooses to advance his/her knowledge through examination and application of a broad spectrum of quantitative and qualitative research methods used in professional practice settings. Didactic and laboratory experiences draw on the student's advanced practice. Develops the student's capacity to differentiate and apply the most appropriate and widely used research designs and methods of practice evaluation and renewal. Gives continuous attention to current federal and state requirements for assessing intervention effectiveness. Emphasizes evaluation at the program, organizational, and community levels.

SOWK 687. Applied Research. 2 Units.
Supports students choosing to complete the thesis option. Provides research matriculation in the collection and analysis of data for the thesis. Students required to register for two quarters, or a total of 4 units. Prerequisite: SOWK 547. SOWL 549.
SOWK 698. Thesis. 2 Units.
The culminating work of the student’s independent research, under the direction of the research advisor. Registration during the quarter in which student defends research and submits the final document to the department and School of Behavioral Health.

SOWK 704. Older Adult Interventions and Services. 1 Unit.
Provides subject content in the laws related to older adult interventions and services, as required by the state of California for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). Does not count toward the M.S.W. degree or the Case Management Program certificate.

SOWK 757A. Professional Foundation Practicum and Seminar. 3 Units.
Provides student with experiential learning opportunities in foundation social work practice through practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student completes 160 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. A block practicum option is available to qualified students. Prerequisite or concurrent: SOWK 578.

SOWK 757B. Professional Foundation Practicum and Seminar. 3 Units.
Provides student with experiential learning opportunities in foundation social work practice through practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student completes 160 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. A block practicum option is available to qualified students. Prerequisite: SOWK 578.

SOWK 757C. Professional Foundation Practicum and Seminar. 3 Units.
Provides student with experiential learning opportunities in foundation social work practice through practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student completes 160 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. A block practicum option is available to qualified students. Prerequisite: SOWK 578.

SOWK 787A. Advanced Professional Practicum and Seminar. 4 Units.
Provides student with advanced social work experience in his/her selected concentration. Advanced practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student required to complete 200 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. Prerequisite: SOWK 578, SOWK 757A, SOWK 757B, SOWK 757C; or SOWK 678.

SOWK 787B. Advanced Professional Practicum and Seminar. 4 Units.
Provides student with advanced social work experience in his/her selected concentration. Advanced practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student required to complete 200 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. Prerequisite: SOWK 578, SOWK 757A, SOWK 757B, SOWK 757C; or SOWK 678.

SOWK 787C. Advanced Professional Practicum and Seminar. 4 Units.
Provides student with advanced social work experience in his/her selected concentration. Advanced practicums arranged by the program’s director of field education. Student required to complete 200 practicum hours concurrent with 20 hours of practicum seminar for each of three consecutive quarters. Prerequisite: SOWK 578, SOWK 757A, SOWK 757B, SOWK 757C; or SOWK 678.