

SOCIAL WORK – M.S.W. WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE – M.S.

Program director

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Loma Linda University's motto, "To make man whole," provides a powerful context for integrated practice. Both social work and criminal justice—within a behavioral health framework—emphasize recovery, healing, and restoration.

A multidisciplinary approach considers the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being of victims, offenders, and communities, and provides a deeper understanding of crime and the struggle of the modern criminal justice system in a behavioral health context. This combined degrees program offers a unique opportunity for individuals interested in working in settings such as mental health court, detention centers, forensic inpatient programs, and forensic outpatient behavioral health systems.

Mission

The mission, program goals, and objectives build on elements from the M.S.W and M.S. in criminal justice degrees. Please refer to each of these programs for this content.

General overview

The combined M.S.W./M.S. in criminal justice 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 and practicum in forensic behavioral health. Students choosing this area will focus on the needs of individuals in the criminal or juvenile justice systems who experience severe mental illness and who may also present with co-occurring substance use. Students will gain knowledge and skills in treatment programming. In addition, students will be prepared to assess and provide expert testimony regarding continued institutionalization versus readiness for community treatment.

Students gain knowledge and skills in treatment programming within a forensic mental health framework. This context prepares students to assess and provide expert testimony regarding continued institutionalization versus readiness for outpatient psychosocial rehabilitation, including the development and implementation of recovery and resiliency-informed treatment plans. An integrated practicum and seminar class in criminal justice typically begins in the Summer Quarter of the second year.

The combined degrees emphasize a thoughtful reflection about integrated issues in both social work and criminal justice, providing students with a deeper understanding of practice issues affecting the field.

Liberal arts preparation

M.S.W. and criminal justice curricula are built on a liberal arts perspective. Individual applicants whose undergraduate degree does not reflect this perspective may be asked to enroll in additional courses, which must be completed before advancement to candidacy (prior to beginning the advanced curriculum).

Unit values are stated as quarter units. Content from multiple courses may be used to meet most requirements.

Program options

Alternate program options have been designed to address the varying needs of students: namely, a full-time, two-year option; a three-year, part-time option; and a four-year, part-time option.

Admissions

Admission requirements

Students wishing to take the dual degree must be admitted to both the M.S.W. (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/social-work-msw/#admissionstext>) and the M.S. in Criminal Justice (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/behavioral-health/criminal-justice-ms/#admissionstext>) programs separately. Applicants should refer to the admissions criteria for each program.

Program requirements

The 90-unit curriculum for the M.S.W. and M.S. degrees in Criminal Justice provides a mix of academic, experiential, and research activities essential for practice. 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.llu.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	4
SOWK 514	Social Welfare History and Policy	4
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 578	Field Orientation ¹	0
SOWK 585	Legal and Ethical Aspects in Health and Behavioral Health Services	3

Required cognates

RELR 540	Wholeness and Health	3
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Core criminal justice courses

CRMJ 515	Crime and Society	3
CRMJ 517	Criminal Procedure and Rules of Evidence	3
CRMJ 519	Expert Testimony: Procedure and Practice	2

CRMJ 574	Theories of Crime and Restitution	3
Clinical specialization and forensic behavioral health		
CRMJ 620	Forensic Mental Health	3
SOWK 584	Special Topics in Social Work	2
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		6
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	
Practicum and seminar ⁵		
CRMJ 787	Advanced Professional Practicum and Seminar	
SOWK 757A	Generalist Practice Consultation ^{3,7}	
SOWK 757B	Generalist Practice Consultation ^{3,7}	
SOWK 757C	Generalist Practice Consultation ^{3,7}	
SOWK 787A	Clinical Practice Consultation ⁴	
SOWK 787B	Clinical Practice Consultation ⁴	
SOWK 787C	Clinical Practice Consultation ⁴	
Total Units		90

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 695 ABC is equivalent to SOWK 695.

⁷ SOWK 678 substitutes 757ABC for Advance Standing students with approval of the program

Normal time to complete the program

Seven (7) academic quarters (includes didactic courses and practicums)

– based on full-time enrollment; part time permitted