

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Degrees Offered

Available on the Jackson Campus

- Master of Social Work

Master of Social Work Mission Statement

The mission of the graduate program is “to prepare competent and effective professionals for leadership in advanced generalist practice. In a context of Christian higher education, the program fosters compassionate service, promotes social and economic justice, and equips students for excellence in social work practice.”

Program Outcomes

The goals of the Master of Social Work Program are:

1. To equip students with knowledge, values, and skills for excellence in social work practice within the context of Christian higher education;
2. To foster compassionate service and promote social and economic justice;
3. To prepare social workers to be leaders in communities at state, national, and international levels;
4. To increase the availability of competent master-level prepared social work professional leadership in the surrounding region.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN STUDIES

Program Delivery

In the fall semester of each year the M.S.W. Program accepts students in the program as full-time or part-time students. The M.S.W. consists of 60 credit hours that can be completed in two, three, or four years. Students who have a B.S.W. degree from a CSWE-accredited program and a GPA of at least 3.0 may be eligible for an advanced standing option of 33 credit hours that can be completed in one year. Groups pursue the degree as a cohort. This model emphasizes group cohesion, cooperation, and interactive support. Each course is offered in a hybrid in-class and on-line format. Each cohort is presented its unique calendar for the complete program. Current M.S.W. calendars are available at <http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/M.S.W./>

Accreditation

The M.S.W. program is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the program will be based on competitive selection from the pool of applicants who meet the following admission requirements:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate coursework attempted
3. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant's capabilities for graduate study.
4. Completed application, including writing sample and personal statement, with application fee of \$25.00
5. Cumulative GPA of at least 2.65 for the baccalaureate degree.
6. A completed immunization form.
7. An interview with the Social Work Admissions Committee may be requested.
8. The following personal qualities: Self-awareness, empathy, objectivity, appreciation of diversity, professional commitment, critical thinking ability, effective oral and written communication skills, and the ability to advocate for and empathize for and with others.
9. A signed statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.

Program Options:

Full-time Program (Two years):

30 credit hours per year, 15 credit hours per each fall and spring semester. The student completes 350 clock hours of field experience in the first year and 550 clock hours of field experience in the second year.

Part-time Program (Three years):

This option is a year-round program consisting of a fall, spring, and summer term of 14 weeks each for three years. The student completes 21 credit hours each in the first and second years and 18 credit hours in the third year.

Part-time Program (Four years):

This option has classes in the fall and spring terms only. The student completes 6 credit hours each term in the first and third years and 9 credit hours each term in the second and fourth years. The second and fourth years include the field practicum experiences.

Advanced Standing Program:

A student with a B.S.W. degree from a CSWE-accredited undergraduate program may apply for admission to the Advanced Standing Program. Requirements for admission to Advanced Standing include:

1. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the undergraduate program.
2. References from faculty/field supervisors in the undergraduate program that suggest readiness for advanced graduate work.
3. At least a grade of "B" in the Advanced Standing Bridge Course (SW 599) offered in the summer term prior to taking required classes.
4. All other regular requirements for admission to the M.S.W. program.

Progression in the program:

1. After being approved for admission to the graduate social work program, the student will enroll in the courses in the M.S.W. Program according to the prescribed sequence.
2. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale must be maintained, with no grade less than a B. Any required course with a grade less than a B must be repeated. Students who fail to achieve this will be placed on probation and referred to the M.S.W. Committee for Student Academic and Professional Evaluation (CSAPE) who will counsel with the student and develop a plan for continuation or suspension. If a student repeats the course and still does not achieve a "B", then the student would have violated the probationary period and would face termination from

the program. Elective courses with a grade lower than a B need not be repeated, but credit will not apply toward graduation. Field practice courses which receive less than a B will be referred to the M.S.W. faculty committee for special action, which may include termination from the program. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be referred to the M.S.W. faculty committee who will act in accordance with the policies that will be identified in the M.S.W. Student Handbook. Students who are on academic probation for two consecutive terms will be terminated. At least one term (not including summer, unless specifically stipulated otherwise in the termination decision) must elapse before re-applying.

- Continuation in the M.S.W. program is contingent upon compliance with ethical and professional standards of conduct in accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics. Reasons for dismissal can include inadequate interpersonal skills and an inability to conform to the School of Social Work's Core Performance Standards of the M.S.W. program.
- Successful completion of the required coursework, 900 clock hours in an approved social service agency, and Field Seminar class concurrent with each Social Work Field Practicum are required for graduation. All field practica must be passed, and a grade of at least a "B" must be earned in all field practica and classes to be eligible for graduation.
- Graduation requirements follow the guidelines of Union University.

Financial Information

The registration of a student signifies an agreement by the student to fulfill the related financial obligations.

Tuition: \$400/semester hour for the 2009-2010 M.S.W. program.

Non-degree seeking post-baccalaureate students:

.....	\$400/semester hour
Application Fee (non-refundable, one time only):	\$25
Course Drop Fee:	\$10
Graduation Fee:	\$25
Insurance fee (per year) if student does not have private insurance:	\$25
Field Instruction Fee:\$ 50 per Field Seminar enrollment
Cap and Gown Purchase:	approx. \$40-50
Criminal Background check:	\$70

There are two methods for the payment of expenses.

- Full payment for a term (winter, fall, spring, summer, or other non-regular term) prior to or on the day of registration for classes.
- Payment may be made in two equal payments, with one-half due at the time of registration and the balance due halfway through the term. A 1.5% service charge will be added to the unpaid balance following the initial payment.

Conditional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the M.S.W. program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the M.S.W. Graduate Admissions Committee. Conditional admission will require contractual agreement between the applicant and the Graduate Admissions Committee. The contract will specify the conditions and deadlines that must be met to matriculate to the regular M.S.W. program.

Transfer of Credit

Graduate credit for courses earned at a regionally accredited college or university or at a foreign college or university may be transferred to Union University if the courses are essentially the same as those required in the M.S.W. program. Such transfer credit will not be allowed for courses used to satisfy another degree at another institution. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the M.S.W. degree is nine.

No course with a grade less than "B" may be transferred. Courses taken more than five years before beginning the M.S.W. program at Union University will be considered on an individual basis.

For students who have a definite commitment of financial aid from the Student Financial Planning Office the total cost for the term and the financial aid allocation is the amount payable by the student to the university.

Any combination of the following payment is available.

- Check, cash, or credit card (MasterCard, Discover, American Express)- a 2 ½ % service charge will be applied when payment is by credit card.
- Federal Stafford loan
- Employer reimbursement
- FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)

Financial Assistance

Federal Stafford Loans

Students enrolled in Graduate Studies in Social Work for a minimum of six hours per semester, Fall or Spring, may apply for the Federal Stafford Loan. The Stafford loan application process will require that you:

- Complete and forward the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to the federal government with Union University's code of 003528.
- Complete a Union Financial Aid Application and forward to the Union University Student Financial Planning Office.

- For more information, contact the Student Financial Planning Office at 731-661-5015 or go to www.uu.edu/financialaid.

If Federal Stafford loan is not approved and available at the time of registration, the student must assume the cost by paying in full by check, cash, credit card, or FACTS.

Veterans

Union University is approved to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents who qualify for Veterans benefits. Any person who qualifies for the above should check with the Student Financial Planning Office as soon as possible upon registration.

Employer Tuition Reimbursement

- The student is responsible for providing information to the university regarding their employer's policies for reimbursement.
- If the employer reimburses the student directly, the student must pay the university in full at the time of registration.
- If the employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the university, the student must pay his/her portion of tuition at the time of registration.
- The university will provide any required information to an employer when requested by the student.

Estimated Costs during the M.S.W. Program- Full-time Program

Semester 1—Fall

Tuition	\$6000 (\$400 per credit hour)
Textbooks	\$600 approximately
Field Practicum fee:	\$50
Insurance Fee:	\$25
Background Check:	\$70

Semester 2—Spring

Tuition	\$6000
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$50

Semester 3—Fall

Tuition	\$6000 (estimated \$400 per credit hour)
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$50
Insurance fee:	\$25

Semester 4—Spring

Tuition	\$6000
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$50

These are approximate costs only and are subject to change.

Acceptance Deposits

The M.S.W. requires a \$100 tuition deposit. These deposits are non-refundable if the student elects to not enroll.

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of the course work.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the required course of study.
- File an application for graduation with the Graduate Social Work Office. The application deadline is October 1 for students who plan to complete degree requirements for December graduation. The deadline for August graduation is May 1.
- Pay in full the student's account in the Business Office
- Discharge all other obligations (fines, fees, etc.) to the University.

Student Organizations

M.S.W. Student Organization

A professional organization open to all M.S.W. students that assists in developing professional social work identity by regular meetings, educational events, and opportunities for students to lead in service to various social service agencies and the community.

Phi Alpha Honor Society

National Honor Society for Social Work Students, Eta Phi Chapter, fosters high standards of education for social work students and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement. Students with a GPA of at least a 3.8 are considered for membership. Other criteria for membership include experience in field practicum and leadership in the social work program. Students become eligible for membership after completion of 15 hours in the curriculum.

Program Calendar 2009-2010

Classes meet on Monday and Thursday evenings for full-time students. Part-time students have classes only on Monday nights. Each class includes both in-class and on-line instruction.

See <http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/> for additional information.

Course Descriptions: Social Work (SW)

500. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Theoretical Foundations (3)

A foundational course providing a framework for creating, organizing, and understanding theory, research, and practice issues of human behavior and the social environment.

501. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Assessment through the Lifespan (3)

Prerequisite: SW 500.

This course uses a person-in-environment theoretical framework to provide the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for understanding human behavior as a function of biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural systems across the lifespan.

510. Social Welfare and Social Justice (3)

An introductory background to the history, policy, programs, practice, and values of the social work profession.

520. Practice I: Communities and Organizations (3)

An examination of practice theory and methods with communities and organizations, including community organization and development, organizational theory and behavior, and advocacy.

521. Foundations for Research (3)

The conceptual foundations and methods of evidence-based research. Qualitative and quantitative research will be explored, as well as beginning practice research.

530. Practice II: Individuals and Families (3)

An examination of practice theories and methods for work with individuals and families. The course will emphasize client engagement, assessment, cultural competence, and problem-solving.

535. Policy Analysis and Advocacy (3)

Social policy focusing on major social welfare issues to equip students to analyze and evaluate policy and to develop knowledge and skills for advocacy.

540. Social Work with Groups (3)

An introduction to group theory, group development and methods of practice, various types of groups, and ethical issues that arise in work with groups.

590 and 591. Field Seminar I and II (3 each)

Students participate in Field Seminar when placed in a field practicum. Field Seminars I and II are designed to assist the student with processing the graduate level foundation year field experiences and in applying classroom learning to practice.

599. Advanced Standing Bridge Course (3)

A concentrated, rigorous seminar-styled course designed to prepare the Advanced Standing student for the concentration year of the M.S.W. curriculum. It links the student's undergraduate BSW education and practice experience in preparation for the final year of the M.S.W..

605. Psychopathology: Assessment, Diagnostics, and Treatment (3)

Preparation for clinical social work practice by establishing the knowledge and skills for assessment, diagnostics, and treatment in mental health and mental disorders.

623. Theory and Ethics for Advanced Practice (3)

The capstone course for the Masters in Social Work degree addressing the integration of professional knowledge, values, and skills under a rubric of theoretical and ethical practice.

631. Practice and Program Evaluation (3)

Advanced graduate level research course designed to offer the student an opportunity to demonstrate advanced theoretical and practical approaches to program planning, development, grant writing, evaluation, and monitoring.

650. Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families (3)

An advanced course in social work practice with individuals and families focusing on evidence-based and culturally competent practice. Various theories and methods for work with individuals and families will be explored in depth with an aim toward equipping the advanced practitioner for skilled practice.

660. Advanced Practice in Community Development and Administration (3)

This advanced course in administrative and community practice builds on the foundation practices to advance skills in planned change processes, program development and administration, assessment and evaluation, grant writing and management, and navigating ethical dilemmas that arise in practice.

690, 691. Field Seminar III and IV (3 each)

Students participate in the advanced field seminars during the graduate level concentration year field practicum. Field seminar III and IV are designed to assist the student with processing the advanced year field experiences and in applying classroom learning to practice.

The Master Class Series- Social Work Electives

The School of Social Work offers a selection of elective classes each year. Nine hours of elective credit are required for the M.S.W.. These elective classes give students an opportunity to specialize in particular fields of social work practice or to explore in depth social problems. The Master Class Series will also be available as continuing education credit for practitioners in the community. They will be 1, 2, or 3 credit hour courses dependent upon student need and academic requirements. The course syllabus will provide the details regarding variable credit course requirements.

610. Social Work Practice with HIV-Positive Affected Groups (1-3)

Acquaints the student with the emotional, physical, economic, and sociopolitical aspects of the HIV Spectrum disease and its impact on African-American women. Issues of race, class, gender, and age will be a vital part of the course. This course may be repeated for additional credit on different topics.

611. Supervision in Social Work Practice (1-3)

This elective course encompasses the work of accountability and continued training of professional social workers within and across a variety of social work practice contexts. This course may be repeated for additional credit in differing areas of practice.

612. Crisis Intervention (1-3)

Designed to equip students to rapidly assess and intervene in crisis situations and maximize safety and stability for those involved, this course will explore models of crisis development and empirically-based crisis interventions. This course may be repeated for additional credit on different topics.

Other Variable Credit and Variable Content Courses**579, 679. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)**

All courses and application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

580, 680. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

585, 586, 587. Special Studies in Social Work (1-6)

Group studies which do not appear in the School course offerings. Content will be determined by need.

655. Independent Study in Social Work (1-3)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a social work professor.