

# SOCIAL WORK, MSW

**Banner Code:** HH-MSW-SOCW

## Academic Advising

Website: <https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising#sw>

This program opened its doors in fall 2002 and was fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in spring 2006. The MSW program prepares students for advanced practice in social work. Following completion of a generalist year of study, students complete a specialized concentration in social change or clinical practice. All social work students are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. No academic credit toward field experience or coursework is given based on previous work or life experience.

MSW courses are offered during the day and evening hours. Students must be available morning, afternoon, and evening two days a week to attend classes. Additionally, students are required to successfully complete 1,050 hours of supervised field practicum in agencies approved by the Department of Social Work: 450 hours during the foundation year and 600 hours during the concentration year. Field placements generally require availability during regular daytime hours. The Department of Social Work will make reasonable efforts to work with a student to secure an appropriate field placement, but it does not guarantee a placement. The MSW program may be completed in a two-, three-, or four-year plan of study. All courses are sequenced and must be taken in the order designated. Students should meet with their academic advisor to ensure timely completion of all degree requirements.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

#### Requirements

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in the Admissions and apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<http://admissions.gmu.edu>). The application process is competitive, and applications are considered for the fall semester only. In addition to holding an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university, applicants must have a minimum of 30 undergraduate credits in the liberal arts to include at least 3 credits in each of the following: English composition, history or government, social sciences, and statistics. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Admissions website (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines>).

#### Requirements for MSW students with Advanced Standing

Students with a BSW degree who demonstrate superior academic achievement and excellence in social work practice will be considered for advanced standing. Advanced standing students begin the MSW Program in the summer and upon successfully completing SOCW 670, move directly into the concentration year. Advanced standing students

must successfully complete 600 hours of supervised field practicum in agencies approved by the Department of Social Work.

All other academic policies for the advanced standing program are identical to those for the regular MSW Program.

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid>). The application process is competitive, and applications are considered for the fall admissions cycle only, with advanced standing students beginning courses in the summer. In addition to holding a BSW in Social Work earned within the past five years from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, applicants must have a minimum of 30 undergraduate credits in the liberal arts to include at least 3 credits in each of the following: English composition, history or government, social sciences, and statistics. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines>).

To graduate with the MSW degree, advanced standing students must successfully complete the foundation course (SOCW 670) in the summer prior to beginning the concentration year and complete the courses for one concentration.

### Policies

#### Transfer of Credit

Students who began MSW programs at another CSWE-accredited MSW program may transfer a maximum of 29 graduate credits into the MSW program, with the exception of SOCW 670 and the concentration year courses: SOCW 630, SOCW 640, SOCW 645, SOCW 674, SOCW 684, SOCW 685, SOCW

SOCW 695, and SOCW 697. Transfer credit is subject to university and college policies and must be approved by the program director and the dean. Students must note on the MSW Departmental Form and MSW Application Checklist that they are applying as transfer students.

#### Non-Degree Students

Admission to the MSW program is offered once a year for the fall semester only. Non-degree students may apply through the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.gmu.edu/nonDegree>) and be admitted in the fall and spring and, as space allows, enroll in classes as appropriate. Please contact the program director for more information.

#### Program Requirements

Students must earn a grade of B- or above in each course and must achieve a GPA of 3.0 over all courses applied to the degree. A prerequisite must be satisfied with a B- or better before registering for the next course in a sequence. A course in which the student earns a C may be repeated once. No more than 6 total credits of C may be repeated overall.

Social Work faculty members evaluate each student's performance periodically and may terminate the student from the program when, in their judgment, performance is not satisfactory. The decision is based on the quality of academic and field performance, as well as on personal fitness for the profession of social work. The student has the right to appeal.

A student with a criminal history may find it difficult to obtain a field placement or employment in a human service agency depending on the specific charge. It is possible that a student with a criminal background may not be able to be placed in a field practicum or complete their degree program. The Criminal Background Policy is available on the Social Work Department website (<https://socialwork.gmu.edu>).

## Insurance Coverage

Students engaged in internships are covered for liability under the Commonwealth of Virginia's Self-Insured Liability Insurance Plan and covered for medical malpractice under the Medical Malpractice Insurance Plan, as established by the Department of General Services, Division of Risk Management. Only practicum activities that have been determined by the field instructor to be part of the course are covered. Students are encouraged to obtain professional liability coverage through the National Association of Social Workers, although this additional coverage is optional.

## Immunizations

All students who are enrolled in a course that requires a field placement (SOCW 672, SOCW 673, SOCW 692, SOCW 693, SOCW 694, SOCW 695) must have an annual tuberculosis screening (PPD). In addition, students must complete the entire Hepatitis B immunization series in accordance with current U.S. Public Health Service recommendations. Any cost related to these requirements is the responsibility of the student. Students can register for fall classes prior to the completion of the immunizations, but documentation of completion must be submitted to the MSW administrative assistant in the Social Work Department office no later than October 1. Immunizations are program requirements and must be completed by the student even if they are not required by the agency.

## Requirements

## Degree Requirements

Total credits: 60

In order to graduate with the MSW degree, students must successfully complete the foundation courses and the courses for one concentration. Before beginning Concentration Courses, students must complete all Foundation Courses.

## Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 623	Human Behavior and Social Systems I	3
SOCW 624	Human Behavior and Social Systems II	3
SOCW 651	Social Policies, Programs, and Services	3
SOCW 652	Influencing Social Policy	3
SOCW 657	Direct Social Work Practice I	3
SOCW 658	Direct Social Work Practice II	3
SOCW 670	Social Work Program Planning, Communications, and Technology	3
SOCW 671	Research Methods for Social Workers	3
SOCW 672	Generalist Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 673	Generalist Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
Total Credits		30

## Concentration in Clinical Practice (CLNP)

### Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 640	Advanced Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 645	Community-Centered Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	3
SOCW 688	Program Evaluation for Social Workers	3
SOCW 692	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 693	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
Total Credits		18

### Advanced Clinical Practice Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
SOCW 630	Forensic Social Work Practice	
SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work	
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 677	Family Therapy	
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery	
SOCW 679	Military Social Work	
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions	
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults	
Total Credits		6

### Advanced Policy Course

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		3
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
Total Credits		3

### Elective

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from either the list below or the Advanced Clinical Practice courses or the Advanced Policy courses listed previously:		3
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
SOCW 684	Social Work and the Law	
SOCW 685	Organizational Leadership for Social Workers	
SOCW 687	Empowering Communities for Change	
SOCW 697	Thesis Project Seminar	
Total Credits		3

## Concentration in Social Change (SOCC)

### Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 684	Social Work and the Law	3
SOCW 685	Organizational Leadership for Social Workers	3
SOCW 687	Empowering Communities for Change	3
SOCW 688	Program Evaluation for Social Workers	3
SOCW 694	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 695	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
Total Credits		18

### Advanced Policy Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	6
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
Total Credits		6

### Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from either the list below or the Advanced Clinical Practice courses or the Advanced Policy courses listed previously:		
SOCW 630	Forensic Social Work Practice	6
SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work	
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
SOCW 677	Family Therapy	
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery	
SOCW 679	Military Social Work	
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions	
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults	
SOCW 697	Thesis Project Seminar	
Total Credits		6

## MSW for Students with Advanced Standing

In order to graduate with the MSW degree, advanced standing students must successfully complete the foundation course (SOCW 670) in the summer prior to beginning the concentration year and the courses for one concentration.

## Foundation Course

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 670	Social Work Program Planning, Communications, and Technology	3
Total Credits		3

## Concentration in Clinical Practice (CLNP)

### Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 640	Advanced Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 645	Community-Centered Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	3
SOCW 688	Program Evaluation for Social Workers	3
SOCW 692	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 693	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
Total Credits		18

### Advanced Clinical Practice Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select two of the following:		
SOCW 630	Forensic Social Work Practice	6
SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work	
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 677	Family Therapy	
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery	
SOCW 679	Military Social Work	
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions	
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults	
Total Credits		6

### Advanced Policy Course

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	3
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
Total Credits		3

### Elective

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from either the list below or the Advanced Clinical Practice courses or the Advanced Policy courses listed previously:		
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
SOCW 684	Social Work and the Law	
SOCW 685	Organizational Leadership for Social Workers	

SOCW 687	Empowering Communities for Change
SOCW 697	Thesis Project Seminar

Total Credits 3

### Concentration in Social Change (SOCC)

#### Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 684	Social Work and the Law	3
SOCW 685	Organizational Leadership for Social Workers	3
SOCW 687	Empowering Communities for Change	3
SOCW 688	Program Evaluation for Social Workers	3
SOCW 694	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 695	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar II	3

Total Credits 18

#### Advanced Policy Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	

Total Credits 6

#### Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from either the list below or the Advanced Clinical Practice courses or the Advanced Policy courses listed previously:		6
SOCW 630	Forensic Social Work Practice	
SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work	
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
SOCW 677	Family Therapy	
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery	
SOCW 679	Military Social Work	
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions	
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults	
SOCW 697	Thesis Project Seminar	

Total Credits 6

## Dual Degree Options

### Conflict Analysis and Resolution, MS and Social Work, MSW Dual Degree

The Department of Social Work and the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution have joined forces to offer a three year dual-degree program. Students can earn both an MSW and an MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution while taking advantage of the diversity of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and the university's proximity to the nation's capital. This is the only dual-degree program of its kind.

#### Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions and apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<http://admissions.gmu.edu>). The application process is competitive, and applications are considered for the fall semester only.

Students interested in the 3-year dual degree program submit one online Application for Graduate Admission (<http://admissions.gmu.edu>), select the MSW in Social Work as a primary program, and submit all application support materials to the Office of Graduate Admission in the College of Health and Human Services. Applicants should communicate their interest in completing the dual degree program in their essays, and recommendations should address the dual program interest. Students must be admitted to both programs in the same semester (fall only) to be admitted to the dual degree program.

For application deadlines and detailed application requirements please refer to the CHHS Admissions website (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines>). Interested students should consult the MSW program website (<https://socialwork.gmu.edu/program/view/19658>), the MSW program, and the MSW program director for additional information prior to applying.

#### Transfer of Credit

Transfer credit is governed AP.6.5.3 Transfer of Credit and AP.6 Graduate Policies. Transfer credits must be approved by the program director and the dean. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies should seek course advising through the department prior to taking a course and plan to submit their application to the dual degree program as soon as possible.

Please refer to the Transfer of Credit policy for the MSW in Social Work for departmental policy governing courses taken at another institution and the maximum number of credits allowed.

### MSW-MS Degree Requirements

Total credits: 78

#### Social Work Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 623	Human Behavior and Social Systems I	3
SOCW 624	Human Behavior and Social Systems II	3
SOCW 651	Social Policies, Programs, and Services	3
SOCW 652	Influencing Social Policy	3
SOCW 657	Direct Social Work Practice I	3
SOCW 658	Direct Social Work Practice II	3

SOCW 670	Social Work Program Planning, Communications, and Technology	3
SOCW 672	Generalist Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 673	Generalist Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
SOCW 687	Empowering Communities for Change	3
SOCW 688	Program Evaluation for Social Workers <sup>1</sup>	3
or CONF 660	Conflict Assessment and Program Evaluation	
Total Credits		30-33

<sup>1</sup> Students complete only one of SOCW 688 or CONF 660.

### Social Change Concentration (SOCC)

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 684	Social Work and the Law	3
SOCW 685	Organizational Leadership for Social Workers	3
SOCW 694	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 695	Specialist Social Change Field Practicum and Seminar II	3

Select two courses from the following. At least one course must be an Advanced Policy Course. 6

#### Advanced Policy

SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	

#### Additional Course Options

SOCW 630	Forensic Social Work Practice	
SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work	
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice	
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change	
SOCW 677	Family Therapy	
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery	
SOCW 679	Military Social Work	
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions	
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults	
SOCW 697	Thesis Project Seminar	

Total Credits 18

### Clinical Practice Concentration (CLNP)

Code	Title	Credits
SOCW 640	Advanced Clinical Practice	3
SOCW 674	Psychopathology	3
SOCW 692	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOCW 693	Specialist Clinical Field Practicum and Seminar II	3

Select two courses from the following. At least one course must be an Advanced Policy Course. 6

Advanced Policy	
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy
SOCW 665	Integrated Behavioral Health Policy
SOCW 676	Selected Topics in Social Work and Social Change

#### Additional Course Options

SOCW 664	Art Therapy and Social Work
SOCW 675	Selected Topics in Clinical Practice
SOCW 677	Family Therapy
SOCW 678	Trauma and Recovery
SOCW 679	Military Social Work
SOCW 682	Substance Abuse Interventions
SOCW 689	Clinical Practice with Older Adults

Total Credits 18

### Conflict Analysis and Resolution Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CONF 600	Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution	6
CONF 610	Conflict Inquiry	3
CONF 657	Facilitation Skills	3
CONF 625	Engaging Conflict <sup>1</sup>	3

Total Credits 15

<sup>1</sup> CONF 657 Facilitation Skills should be completed before a student takes CONF 625 Engaging Conflict.

### Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select 12 credits of CONF Electives with approval from S-CAR		12
Total Credits		12