**SOCIAL WORK, MSW**

**Grace Abbott School of Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service**

**Vision Statement**

The mission of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha is to educate students to become highly qualified social workers who serve people of all ages and influence the systems that affect them; to advance knowledge through teaching and research; and to engage with diverse communities to promote socially just societies.

The primary purpose of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being. Social workers help to meet the basic human needs of all people and empower those who are vulnerable, oppressed, or affected by poverty. The social work profession was founded on a set of core principles that still guide its unique purpose and perspective today:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

Social Work maintains a dual focus on individual well-being in a social context and on the betterment of society. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs, helping people to identify and address the environmental forces that create and contribute to problems in living. For over 100 years, social workers have worked to promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities, helping millions of people to challenge their circumstances and change their lives, and promoting the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.

Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, research and evaluation.

**Program Contact Information**

Dr. Kerry Beldin, MSW Coordinator  
College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS) 205  
402-554-2941  
kbeldin@unomaha.edu

Dr. Peter Szto, Graduate Program Chair (GPC)  
College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS) 206  
402-554-2330  
pszto@unomaha.edu

**Program Website** (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/social-work/graduate-programs)

**Other Program-Related Information**

- The Master of Social Work (MSW) program prepares students for advanced social work practice. Master’s level social workers are employed in public and private agencies, including medical settings, schools, residential treatment centers, court and correctional agencies, and community planning and development agencies. Their activities and interventions are designed to promote a more effectively-functioning society to “provide for the general welfare,” as well as to help individuals, families, groups, communities, and institutions within that society achieve self-fulfillment.

- The MSW degree at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for all social work education.

- Information on certification and licensure is available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website (http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx).

- Students must enroll in a minimum of two courses (6 credit hours) per semester.

- Students must seek prior approval from the director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work if they wish to take more than 12 hours of coursework in a single semester.

- Degree must be completed within four (4) years. Exceptions can be requested from the Director.

**Admissions**

**Application Deadlines**

- Fall: January 15

**Program-Specific Requirements**

- Academic Record/Transcript-Undergraduate weighted cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation.  
  - The letters must be professional in nature. Each recommender should describe how they know you (how long and in what capacity), and why they believe you would be a good candidate for the Master of Social Work program.
- Resume  
  - Current resume detailing employment history, nature of duties and responsibilities, accomplishments, leadership roles, and community involvement.
- Statement of Purpose: Please answer the following statements/questions in a total of five (5) double-spaced, typewritten pages (12-point font). Your application is considered incomplete if these instructions are not followed.
  - A brief autobiographical statement that discusses who you are and the experiences that led you to social work. Trace the development of your interest in social work. Why have you chosen social work as a profession? Describe the key motivating figure(s), role model(s), or experience(s) important to your decision to become involved in social work.
  - Discuss your career objectives as a professional social worker as you now conceive them. What do you see yourself doing immediately after receiving your MSW?
  - Discuss a contemporary social problem. Include possible causes and potential solutions in your response. What contribution do you want to make to the pursuit of social and economic justice?
The Grace Abbott School of Social Work is committed to enrolling students who represent diverse backgrounds and have an aptitude for working with clients of diverse backgrounds. Diversity can be defined by virtue of personal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, class and religion as other characteristics. Diversity may also include personal life experiences such as class, career history, belonging to another culture, working among another culture, dealing with significant personal challenge(s), and knowledge of more than one language. Even if you have had minimal contact with people from diverse backgrounds, please address how you “think” about diversity in relation to the practice of social work and respond to the following questions: a) What are your views regarding diversity? b) How does diversity relate to experiences in your life?

The MSW Foundation Program is a 63 credit hour program available to applicants who do not hold a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

The MSW Advanced Standing Program is a 39 credit hour program available to applicants who have earned a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

Completion of the following undergraduate prerequisite courses is required before entering the MSW Program.

- A human biology course or equivalent such as anatomy
- A research methods course (Note: There is a waiver exam available for this prerequisite)
- A statistics course

## Degree Requirements

### Required Foundation Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8070</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR &amp; THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8080</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8090</td>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8110</td>
<td>INSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8130</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8150</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8160</td>
<td>GENERALIST SOWK PRACTICUM 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8170</td>
<td>GENERALIST SOWK PRACTICUM II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A student must receive grades of “B” or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8160 and SOWK 8170).

### Required Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8190</td>
<td>RESEARCH &amp; COMPUTER APPLICATIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8220</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8250</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8510</td>
<td>SUPERVISION AND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8400</td>
<td>ADVANCED SOWK PRACTICUM I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8410</td>
<td>ADVANCED SOWK PRACTICUM II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A student must receive a grade of B or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8400 and SOWK 8410).

### Advanced Research Course

Select one of the following:

- SOWK 8940 EVALUATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS
- SOWK 8950 RESEARCH METHODS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE
- SOWK 8960 RESEARCH OTHER THAN THESIS
- SOWK 8990 MASTER’S THESIS

### Concentration Requirements

See Concentrations Tab

### Electives

Select 6 credit hours for the Clinical concentration or 9 credit hours for the Advanced Generalist concentration. Students who are pursuing a graduate certificate or a graduate minor may be able to apply certain courses in those program curricula as MSW electives.

- SOWK 8026 SOCIAL WORK WITH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY 3
- SOWK 8046/GERO 8696 WORKING WITH MINORITY ELDERLY 3
- SOWK 8230 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS 3
- SOWK 8240 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN 3
- SOWK 8260 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS 3
- SOWK 8270 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SEXUAL CONCERNS 3
- SOWK 8280 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES 3
- SOWK 8290 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH 3
- SOWK 8420 ADVANCED SOWK PRACTICUM III 1-3
- SOWK 8516 TREATMENT ISSUES IN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY 3
- SOWK 8540 SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING 3
- SOWK 8550 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY 3
- SOWK 8560 ADVANCED COMMUNITY PRACTICE 3
- SOWK 8570 ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES 3
- SOWK 8600 PERMANENCE FOR CHILDREN 3
- SOWK 8610 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE 3
- SOWK 8626 TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE 3
- SOWK 8650 HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK 3
- SOWK 8668 MEDICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF ALCOHOL/DRUG USE AND ADDICTION 3
- SOWK 8696 ASSESSMENT AND CASE ASSESSMENT IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE 3
- SOWK 8806 SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW 3
- SOWK 8816 SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE 3
- SOWK 8836 CRISIS INTERVENTION 3
- SOWK 8856 HOSPICE & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE DYING PATIENT/FAMILY 3
- SOWK 8886 TOPICAL SEMINAR SOCIAL WORK 3
- SOWK 8900 SPECIAL STUDIES IN SOCIAL WELFARE 1-3

### Exit Requirements

- Comprehensive Examination
  - The comprehensive examination is offered twice each academic year, during the fall and spring semesters. It is recommended that
students take the examination during the semester of graduation, but they may take it earlier provided no more than nine (9) credit hours are remaining to be completed after the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken.

### Concentrations

#### Clinical Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8230</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8290</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8650</td>
<td>HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Clinical Practice Course**

Select one of the following:

- SOWK 8240  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN
- SOWK 8260  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS
- SOWK 8270  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SEXUAL CONCERNS
- SOWK 8280  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES

**Total Credits**

12

#### Advanced Generalist Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8540</td>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8560</td>
<td>ADVANCED COMMUNITY PRACTICE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Advanced Generalist Macro Practice Course**

- SOWK 8550  SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY
- or SOWK 8570  ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

**Total Credits**

12

### Academic Policies and Standards