PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA AND SOCIAL WORK, MSW (MPA/MSW)

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

Vision Statement
The MPA/MSW dual degree program is a collaborative effort between the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the School of Public Administration. This program offers interdisciplinary preparation in the fields of social work and public administration leading to the master of social work and the master of public administration degrees, with fewer required credit hours than it would take to obtain these degrees independently.

The program prepares students to provide a variety of advanced direct and indirect social work services and assume leadership in the public service sector, specifically in administrative and policy work with governmental units and nonprofit organizations.

Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the MSW Foundation level must complete 81 credit hours total. Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the Advanced Standing level must complete 57 credit hours total.

Program Contact Information

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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 as it struggles to “provide for the general welfare,” as well as to help people, families, groups 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).

Admissions
Application Deadlines (Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020)
• Fall: January 15
Note: If admitted to the Master of Social Work program and you wish to become a dual degree MSW/MPA student you will need to adhere to the MPA deadline date which is June 1 (fall) or October 1 (spring).

Program-Specific Requirements
• Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
  • The minimum TOEFL requirement is 550 (written), 80 internet-based, 6.5 IELTS, or 53 PTE.
• The general prerequisite for admission to the program is a four-year bachelor’s degree with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in the junior and senior years (last 50-60 hours).
• Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score
  • Applicants to the UNO School of Public Administration (MPA) program may be granted a waiver from the GRE requirement, under one or more of the following circumstances:
    • The applicant is enrolled in the UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work (MSW) program and has completed at least four courses with a minimum GPA of 3.2 and no less than a “B” in any course.
    • The applicant is enrolled in the UNO College of Information Science and Technology MS in MIS program and has completed at least four courses with a minimum GPA of 3.2 and no less than a “B” in any course.
• 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 MPA/MSW program.
• Two (2) Statements of Purpose, one for the School of Public Administration and one for the Grace Abbott School of Social Work
  • For Social Work, please answer the following statements/questions in a total of five 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 degree?
• 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?

For Public Administration, the essay should answer the following questions:
• Please tell us about the factors in your background that will help us understand your interest in a profession in the public or nonprofit sectors.
• What are your professional goals? Ten years from now, what do you hope to be doing professionally?
• How can this dual degree from UNO help you achieve these goals?
• Resume
• Current resume detailing employment history, nature of duties and responsibilities, accomplishments, leadership roles, and community involvement.

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 MPA/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 MPA/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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8070</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8150</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8160</td>
<td>GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I</td>
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#### Required Social Work Courses

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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8170</td>
<td>GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II</td>
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Total Credits: 24

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

#### Required Public Administration Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 8050</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8090</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION THEORY AND BEHAVIOR</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA/AVN 8100</td>
<td>ADVANCED MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8300</td>
<td>POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8400</td>
<td>PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT BUDGETING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8530</td>
<td>PLANNING AND EVALUATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 8990</td>
<td>CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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#### Public Administration Elective

Select one of the following:

- PA 8320  PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION 3
- PA 8550  INTRODUCTION TO THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR 3
- PA 8410  PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 3
- PA 8480  SEMINAR IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION 3
- PA 8520  SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING 3
- PA 8566  INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT 3
- PA 8600  ADMINISTRATIVE LAW 3
- PA 8740  HEALTH CARE POLICY 3
- PA 8470  ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP 3

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8190</td>
<td>RESEARCH &amp; COMPUTER APPLICATIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8220</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8230</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8540</td>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SOWK 8290</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8650</td>
<td>HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8940</td>
<td>EVALUATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8400</td>
<td>ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 8410</td>
<td>ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II</td>
<td>3</td>
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#### Social Work Community Practice Elective

Select one of the following:

- SOWK 8550  SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY 3
- SOWK 8560  ADVANCED COMMUNITY PRACTICE 3
- SOWK 8570  ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES (Social Work Elective) 3

#### Social Work Elective

Select one of the following:

- 3
SOWK 8016  SOCIAL WORK WITH AMERICAN INDIANS
SOWK 8026  SOCIAL WORK WITH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
SOWK 8046  WORKING WITH MINORITY ELDERLY
SOWK 8056  ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOWK 8240  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN
SOWK 8250  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES
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
SOWK 8516  TREATMENT ISSUES IN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
SOWK 8536  SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
SOWK 8600  PERMANENCE FOR CHILDREN
SOWK 8610  FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
SOWK 8626  TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE
SOWK 8686  MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF ALCOHOL/DRUG USE AND ADDICTION
SOWK 8696  ASSESSMENT AND CASE ASSESSMENT IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SOWK 8806  SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW
SOWK 8816  SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOWK 8826  GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE
SOWK 8836  CRISIS INTERVENTION
SOWK 8856  HOSPICE & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE DYING PATIENT/FAMILY
SOWK 8886  TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK

Total Credits 57

1 A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8400, SOWK 8410 and SOWK 8420).

**Exit Requirements**

- **Capstone - 3 Credits PA 8990**
- **Comprehensive Examination**
  - Students will complete a social work comprehensive exam focused on advanced generalist social work practice, administered by the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. The comprehensive exam is offered twice each academic year, during the Fall and Spring semesters. It is recommended that students take the comprehensive exam during the semester of graduation, but they may take it earlier, provided no more than 9 semester hours are remaining to complete after the semester in which the comprehensive exam is taken.

**Academic Policies and Standards**

- The *Academic Policies and Standards* can be found here [here](https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/social-work/student-resources).