Social Work, MSW and Public Health, MPH (MSW/MPH)

Grace Abbott School of Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center

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

This dual degree program prepares students to provide the range of advanced social work services and assume leadership in the public health sector to promote and protect physical and mental health, with a focus on population-based services, prevention, collaboration, and strategies and policies grounded in basic science.

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

Program Contact Information
Social Work Contact Information
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Peter Sztto, PhD, Graduate Program Chair (GPC)
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Public Health Contact Information
Office of Educational Services
UNMC College of Public Health
984359 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE. 68198-4359
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Program Website

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 effective-functioning society as it struggles to “provide for the general welfare,” as well as to help people, families, groups, and institutions within the 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)
• Summer or Fall Start: January 15 (MSW), June 1 (MPH)
• The MPH application is completed online (http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/admissions/mphdualdegree/mph-msw.html) through the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
• The MSW Admissions Committee decides on admission to the MSW program; the MPH Admissions Committee decides on admission to the MPH program. A student not admitted to both programs may pursue the other degree if admitted.

MSW Program-Specific Requirements
1. Transcript-Undergraduate weighted cumulative GPA of 3.0
2. Three Letters of Reference
   • Recommendation requests are generated from your online application. Please indicate only professional and/or academic persons (excluding family members and personal friends) as recommenders.
   • 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 MSW/MPH program.
3. Resume
   • Current resume detailing employment history, nature of duties and responsibilities, accomplishments, leadership roles, and community involvement.
4. Statement of Purpose
   • 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.
    i. 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.
    ii. 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?
    iii. 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?
    iv. 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 well 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:
What are your views regarding diversity?
How does diversity relate to experiences in your life?
How might these views and experiences personally contribute to your work with clients in social work practice?

**MPH Program-Specific Requirements**

- **GRE**

The MSW/MPH Foundation Program is a 81 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/MPH Advanced Standing Program is a 57 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/MPH 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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8090</td>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8110</td>
<td>INSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8170</td>
<td>GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II</td>
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**Required Foundation Courses**

Total Credits: 24

**Required Courses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>CPH 500</td>
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<td>CPH 502</td>
<td>Health Service Administration</td>
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<td>CPH 504</td>
<td>Epidemiology in Public Health</td>
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<td>CPH 506</td>
<td>Biostatistics I</td>
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<td>CPH 514</td>
<td>Planning and Evaluation</td>
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<td>CPH 539</td>
<td>Leadership and Advocacy</td>
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<td>CPH 562</td>
<td>HR Management in Health Care</td>
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<td>CPH 565</td>
<td>Health Care Finance</td>
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<td>CPH 580</td>
<td>Health Care Theory and Behavior</td>
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<td>SOWK 8190</td>
<td>RESEARCH &amp; COMPUTER APPLICATIONS</td>
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<td>SOWK 8220</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8230</td>
<td>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8290</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH</td>
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**SOWK 8540** SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING 3
**SOWK 8650** HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK 3
**SOWK 8400** ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I 3
**SOWK 8410** ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II 3

Choose One Social Work Clinical Elective: 3

- SOWK 8240 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN
- SOWK 8260 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS
- SOWK 8280 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES
- SOWK 8250 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES

Total Credits: 54

1 SOWK 8400 and SOWK 8410 will include MPH Capstone Requirements.

**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 comprehensive examinations during the semester of graduation, but they may take it earlier provided no more than 12 semester hours are remaining to complete the degree after the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken.

**Academic Policies and Standards**