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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Public Health Contact Information
Office of Educational Services
UNMC College of Public Health
984359 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE. 68198-4359
Phone: 402.552.9867
coph@unmc.edu

Program Website

Other Program-Related Information
• 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 (Summer 2021, and Fall 2021)
• 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
• Transcript-Undergraduate weighted cumulative GPA of 3.0
• Three Letters of Reference
  • Recommendation requests are generated from your online application. These references should be from professional and academic sources who are directly familiar with your skills and experience. At least one reference should be from an immediate professional supervisor. If you have graduated from an academic program within the past three years, at least one reference should be from a faculty member who can speak directly to your academic preparation for graduate social work education. References from family members, family friends, personal friends, personal therapists, or other non-professional/academic sources will not be scored.
• Resume
  • Applicants are highly encouraged to have professional experience in the human service field. Please submit a professional resume that identifies:
    • Professional experiences, especially in human services
    • Educational experiences since high school
      • List start and end dates with month and year
      • Identify whether the position is part or full-time
      • Identify whether the position is paid or volunteer
    • Field placements, internships or practicums
    • Honors or distinctions received
• Statement of Purpose
  • The statement of purpose is an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of and fit for the social work profession, as well as your aptitude for graduate-level social work education. The Admissions Committee pays close attention to both content and writing skills. In your personal statement, please address each of the items listed below. Your personal statement should be no more than five (5) pages, double-spaced, in a 12-point font. Your response to each of the items should be roughly the same length. If your personal statement does not clearly and directly address each of the items or does not follow the instructions, it may not be considered.
    • Why have you chosen social work? Your response should demonstrate a basic understanding of the social work profession, including what distinguishes it from other helping professions.

Social Work, MSW and Public Health, MPH (MSW/MPH)
• Social work is a values-based profession dedicated to mitigating inequality and enhancing human wellbeing, especially for vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed populations. From the core values and ethical principles identified in the NASW Code of Ethics (https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/), identify and discuss one that resonates with you and one that may challenge you.

• Social workers are self-reflective, strengths-based, and growth-oriented. Identify a strength that you possess and an area for growth. Discuss how you become aware of these, how they show up in your current professional practice, and how they may influence your future professional practice.

• The social work profession is rooted in social justice. Social workers adopt a stance of cultural humility and strive towards cultural awareness. Discuss a time when you realized that one of your personal or cultural identities influenced your reaction to a social situation. Reflecting on that experience, how might it influence your future social work practice?

• If you have a compelling autobiographical story relevant to your application, but that falls outside of the items addressed within the statement, you may add a letter to the Admissions Committee. Your letter will be considered, but will not be scored.

• Writing Sample
  • Applicants who have a BSW or BSSW degree from a CSWE accredited program are required to submit a researched, APA-style, original essay addressing a social issue relevant to social work practice. Your social issue essay should be no more than five (5) pages of content, double-spaced, in a 12-point font, with a reference page. Your essay should address each of the following components:
    • Identify a contemporary social problem and its relevance to social work practice
    • Discuss the origins and causes of the social problem
    • Discuss potential solutions to the social problem
    • Evaluate potential solutions to the social problems in the context of the core values and ethical principles of social work
  • 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 (https://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/prospective-students/Proof%20of%20English%20Proficiency-%20International.pdf), must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
    • A minimum TOEFL score of 550 paper-based; 80 internet-based; 53 PTE, or 6.5 IELTS is required for this program.

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 54 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
  • 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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<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>
<td>3</td>
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<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>
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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>
</tr>
<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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Total Credits: 24

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

### Required Courses

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CPH 500</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health</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>
<td>3</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>
<td>3</td>
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<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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<td>SOWK 8290</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH</td>
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<td>SOWK 8540</td>
<td>PLANNING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE</td>
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<td>SOWK 8650</td>
<td>HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK</td>
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<td>SOWK 8400</td>
<td>ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8410</td>
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Choose One Social Work Clinical Elective:

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8260</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8280</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES</td>
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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**