



MSW Program at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

The Master of Social Work is a strengths-based graduate education program that prepares students for advanced professional practice and leadership in both local and global practice contexts, with a commitment to evidence-based knowledge, critical thinking, and social justice values.

The Department of Social Work at UW Oshkosh offers the MSW degree. The curriculum offerings comply with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) of the Council on Social Work Education. Graduates of the UW Oshkosh MSW will be competent professionals who will meet the social service practice needs of the Fox Valley and beyond.

The UWO MSW Program has four goals:

- Prepare advanced degree social workers to assume leadership roles in clinical/mental health care and health care settings in order to meet the growing needs of the Fox Valley and beyond.
- Prepare professional social workers to engage in activities that will contribute to the development and improvement of social policy at local, regional, state, and national levels as it pertains to culturally relevant mental health and health care services.
- Engage in collaborative partnerships with other academic units and degree programs at UW Oshkosh, as well as with organizational entities in the Fox Valley region in order to improve community well-being.
- Engage in teaching, research and evaluation activities that promote best practices in mental health and health care practice and encourage innovation and discovery to improve the well-being of those in need.

Curriculum

The UW Oshkosh MSW Program offers two concentrations in the Advanced Curriculum: Clinical/Mental Health Practice and Health Care Practice.

Advanced coursework will be interdisciplinary and allow students to take relevant elective courses in Public Administration, Professional Counseling, Nursing, and Social Work. Graduates will be competent in the 9 CSWE Practice competencies and will have practice expertise specifically in mental health or health care practice.

MSW students in the Foundation Curriculum will become competent in the 9 practice competencies mandated by the 2015 Council on Social Work Education-Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. The Advanced Curriculum will build on the 9 CSWE practice competencies, which are measured by 23 Advanced Practice Behaviors.

Graduates of the UWO Master of Social Work Program will be able to:

1: Ethical and professional behavior

A.1.1 Demonstrate leadership and professionalism in social service practice settings.

A.1.2 Demonstrate initiative in professional growth and development.

A.1.3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary ethical practice within mental health and/or health care settings.

A.1.4 Successfully resolve ethical dilemmas encountered in mental health and/or physical health care settings.

A.1.5 Demonstrate professional, accurate and effective written and oral communication appropriate to the practice setting.

2: Engage diversity and difference in practice

A.2.1 Effectively employ social work knowledge and skills with diverse client systems, especially those who are vulnerable and oppressed.

A.2.2 Demonstrate cultural competency in all social work contexts.

3: Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

A.3.1 Identify and attend to resource gaps in relevant practice settings.

A.3.2 Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively with a wide array of professional helpers on behalf of client systems.

4: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research

A.4.1 Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and their application within the mental health/health care setting.

A.4.2 Critically evaluate practice interventions to determine if theory-based, best/evidence-based practices are being employed in the practice setting and suggest improvements when warranted.

5: Engage in policy practice

A.5.1 Actively engage in policy practice to improve client system outcomes for mental health/health care services.

A.5.2 Advocate for and on behalf of client systems.

6: Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

A.6.1 Demonstrate initiative and effective skills in engaging with client systems.

A.6.2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the variety of technologies employed in mental health/health care practice, critically examine these in relation to social work values, and suggest improvements when warranted.

7: Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

A.7.1 Effectively, systematically, and collaboratively assess client system needs and professionally articulate/document these findings to clients and relevant co-workers.

A.7.2 Demonstrate knowledge, and skill in the application of a wide range of assessment and intervention models relevant to mental health/health care practice, including the Person in Environment and the DSM.

8: Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

A.8.1 Effectively and collaboratively identify and employ best/evidence-based interventions to meet client system needs.

A.8.2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of theoretical and practice frameworks relevant to mental health/health care settings, including ecological systems theories and the strengths perspective.

A.8.3 Effectively and collaboratively terminate client services when goals have been met.

9: Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

A.9.1 Articulate and implement a vision for leadership regarding the promotion of best/evidence-based practice in mental health/health care policy.

A.9.2 Effectively and collaboratively evaluate client system outcomes and professionally articulate/document these findings with clients and relevant co-workers.

A.9.3 Demonstrate application of multiple methods of evaluation and assessment of service delivery.

Foundation Courses (30 credits)

Students admitted to the UWO MSW Program at the Foundation level are students who have earned an undergraduate degree in a field other than Social Work, or who earned their Social Work degree more than eight years ago. Students admitted at the Foundation level will complete the following credits prior to enrolling in the Advanced curriculum:

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
SW 701 Ethical Foundations of Social Work Practice (First seven weeks)*	2	SW 702 Generalist Practice I (First seven weeks)	3
SW 707 Human Behavior & the Social Environment (Second seven weeks)*	3	SW 703 Interviewing Lab (Second seven weeks)	2
SW 708 Social Welfare Policy (Jan Interim)*	2	SW 709 Field and Seminar I (17-weeks, 18 hours/week) +17 hours of seminar in the classroom (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	6
SW 720 Practice Competence in a Diverse Community (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	2		
Summer			

SW 704 Generalist Practice II	3	Elective (during one of these 3 semesters) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	3
SW 710 Field and Seminar II (8 weeks, 18 hours/week + 8 hours of seminar in the classroom) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)			4

Advanced Courses (22 credits)

Students admitted to the Advanced curriculum are those who have earned their BSW from an accredited program in the last eight years. Advanced students complete the following coursework, depending on their track:

Advanced Clinical/MH	Credits	Advanced Health Care	Credits
Fall			
SW 728: Advanced Policy Practice (Jan interim)*	2	SW 728: Advanced Policy Practice (Jan interim)*	2
SW 729: Field (17-weeks, 14.7 hours week + 17 hours of seminar in the classroom hrs/week) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	5	SW 729: Field (17-weeks, 14.7 hours week + 17 hours of seminar in the classroom hrs/week) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	5
SW 731: Program Evaluation, Practice Outcomes & Evidence-based Practice (Second seven weeks)*	2	SW 731: Program Evaluation, Practice Outcomes & Evidence-based Practice (Second seven weeks)*	2
SW 727: Psychopathology and Strengths –based Assessment (First seven weeks)*	3	SW 727: Psychopathology and Strengths-based Assessment (First seven weeks)*	3
Spring			
SW 733: Field (17-weeks, 14.7 hrs/week +17 hours of seminar in the classroom) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	5	SW 733: Field (17-weeks, 14.7 hrs/week +17 hours of seminar in the classroom) (PART TIME- Taken in year 2)	5
SW 724: Advanced Practice Methods in Mental Health	3	SW 723: Advanced Practice Methods in Health Care	3
SW 741 (May Interim): Qualitative Research Methods	2	SW 741 (May Interim): Qualitative Research methods	2

Elective Courses (6 credits)

All MSW students will complete six credits of elective coursework prior to graduation. At least three of these credits must be applicable to the student's concentration (Mental Health Care or Health Care). The following courses are currently approved as electives for the UWO MSW program. Courses offered by other departments may require instructor permission prior to enrolling. Students who identify possible graduate level electives outside this list should consult with their MSW advisor to determine if that course can be applied to their MSW degree.

Course No.	Title	Credits	Concentration
SW 732	Field Research Project	3	Either
SW 737	Crisis Intervention with Vulnerable Populations	3	Either
SW 747	Mental Health Theories	3	Mental Health
SW 777	Legal Aspects of Social Work Practice	3	Either
SW 643	Family Practice in Systems Perspective	3	Mental Health
SW 571	Child and Family Welfare	3	Either
SW 575	Treatment and Mistreatment of Offenders	3	Either
MPA 729	Health Care Organization and Management	3	Health Care
MPA 762	Health Care Administrative Law	3	Health Care
MPA 773	Health Care Policy	3	Health Care
Nursing 702	Health Care Systems Policy and Advocacy	3	Health Care
Nursing 703	Clinical Prevention and Population Health	3	Health Care
Nursing 719	Roles in Advanced Nursing and Interprofessional Collaboration	3	Health Care
Nursing 746	Quality Improvement & Safety	2	Health Care
Nursing 748	Assessment and Evaluation Strategies in NE	3	Health Care

Course No.	Title	Credits	Concentration
Nursing 783	Healthcare Informatics	3	Health Care
PRF CNSL 725	Trauma and Crisis in Counseling	3	Mental Health
PRF CNSL 726	Wellness, Spirituality, and Mindfulness in Counseling	3	Mental Health
PRF CNSL 776	Addictions in Counseling	3	Mental Health

Admission Requirements

The Program is particularly interested in applicants who want to develop expertise in the areas of health care and mental health care practice. Applicants should be comfortable with developing their expertise in working from a strengths-based perspective, with developing skills to work in both rural and metropolitan areas, and in working with clients from diverse cultures and circumstances.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75, with 3.0 in the last 60 credits of study;
- Have an academic background in the liberal arts and have completed a **minimum** of 18 credits in social sciences among courses in at least three of the following disciplines: psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science (BSW students meet the criterion);
- Submit personal essays which address the following (these are submit as part of the supplemental application; we recommend that you draft your responses in a word processing document):
 - Examples of how you apply social work values and principles
 - Explanation of how your skills, knowledge and abilities support a career in Social Work
 - Description of your career goals;
- Three completed electronic reference questionnaires (including one academic reference, see supplemental MSW application);
- Demonstrate relevant professional work/volunteer experiences (submit via the supplemental application):
 - Report number of hours of relevant work experience
 - Report number of hours of relevant volunteer experience;

- Have completed course work in: Biological Life Sciences, Statistics, Research Methods, and Life Span Development or submit plans for completing this work prior to taking the Advanced Curriculum in the Program. Those with a BSW from an accredited program are considered to have met these criteria. At least two of these prerequisites must be completed before entering the program.
- Advanced standing applicants are **required** to have graduated from an accredited baccalaureate social work program within the last eight years or have successfully completed the Foundation Curriculum at a CSWE accredited MSW program.
- Applicants who completed their degrees at foreign universities may be required to complete the TOEFL. For applicants who are Registered Aliens of the United States who have lived in the United States for more than one year or who have completed academic work in English, the TOEFL is not required. Registered Aliens who do not meet these criteria will enter the program on probation and give evidence of their English proficiency through satisfactory performance in their first-semester course work.
- The GRE is not required.

Keeping with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Accreditation Standard 3.2.5 (EPAS 2015) the Program does not grant social work course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

Complete applications are reviewed on a rolling basis from late September through late May, or until the cohorts fill. As such, note that there is no formal application deadline.