

Master of Social Work

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Social workers help individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities survive and thrive. With a focus on enhancing the social, racial, economic, and environmental wellbeing of disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and marginalized people, social workers can help children and adults resolve problems in living, increase emotional and behavioral health, enhance psychological and social wellbeing, and change policies and programs to better serve communities.

Built upon a commitment to helping identify and enhance the strengths of individuals, families and communities, the Master of Social Work program (<https://socwel.ku.edu/MSW-catalog/>) offers professional education with learning opportunities in the classroom and in the field for students who want to work to increase the quality of life for all people.

Some students have earned a B.S.W. degree before beginning the M.S.W. program, while other students come with different educational backgrounds and undergraduate degrees. We encourage people with all undergraduate degrees to apply to the M.S.W. program if they are passionate about helping others by providing social services and working to achieve social justice.

Full-time students who have already earned a B.S.W. from a CSWE-accredited program are able to complete the M.S.W. in as little as one year (summer, fall, and spring terms) with an advanced standing plan of study. Students with an advanced standing plan of study can also earn their M.S.W. degree on a part-time basis.

Students with undergraduate degrees in fields other than social work can complete the M.S.W. program with a traditional plan of study in as little as two years full-time. We also allow students with traditional plans of study the opportunity to earn their M.S.W. degree part-time in three or four years.

The first year of the traditional plan of study in the M.S.W. program prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Generalist courses include content on human rights; social, racial, economic, and environmental justice; policy and advocacy; applied research; professional ethics; theory for practice; and anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition, students learn how to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate their interventions at all levels of practice in generalist M.S.W. courses and in their first practicum placements.

Following generalist courses and practicum, M.S.W. students advance to one of two areas of social work specialized practice: (1) clinical practice or (2) macro practice. The clinical practice specialization prepares students for social work with individuals, families, and groups in diverse therapeutic settings. The macro specialization prepares students for leadership positions in organizations and communities. Macro specialized courses include advanced content in the administration of programs and agencies, as well as community practice and advocacy.

The M.S.W. program is offered in Lawrence, at the Edwards Campus in Overland Park, in other Kansas communities including Salina, and online through Jayhawk Global.

Master of Social Work

Traditional M.S.W. Plan of Study - Full-Time or Part-Time

Applicants must have undergraduate degrees from accredited universities before beginning the M.S.W. program. Most students with a traditional plan of study do not have B.S.W. degrees. However, some students with a B.S.W. degree want a traditional plan of study in order to get up to speed after a number of years away from social work education and/or two different practicum placements to bolster their M.S.W. education.

Advanced Standing Plan of Study - Full-Time or Part-Time

Advanced standing requires a bachelor's degree from a CSWE-accredited social work program with a recommended grade-point average of at least 3.0. We are interested in references from instructors who can speak to your academic abilities and readiness for graduate education. In addition, applicants with volunteer and/or work experience in human services and/or social justice are encouraged to submit letters of recommendation from supervisors who can address your competencies in the field. Current seniors who are applying for advanced standing should submit their fall semester transcript and documentation of their successful undergraduate practicum experience.

For both the traditional and advanced standing plans of study, we have a holistic approach to admission decisions. We admit students based on a review of several factors including successful completion of undergraduate liberal arts courses, measures of academic achievement including undergraduate GPA, prior work experience in human services or social justice, and strong references from instructors and supervisors. All applications to the MSW program become the property of the University of Kansas.

Learn more about the M.S.W. programs. (<https://socwel.ku.edu/MSW-catalog/>)

Admission to the M.S.W. Program

Standard Admission Requirements for all Graduate Programs

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

School of Social Welfare M.S.W. Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university (Traditional M.S.W.). Bachelor's of social work degree from a CSWE-accredited social work program (Advanced Standing).

- Undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or above preferred. The admissions committee takes into account special circumstances such as improvement of grades in upper-division or graduate courses. We look for evidence of an applicant's commitment to the well-being of people and communities; a well-developed sense of self; emotional maturity and the ability to think clearly, creatively, and independently.
- Online application including three electronic reference forms, transcripts from all previously attended schools regardless of degree status, narrative statement of purpose, and resume.
- All applicants who have been employed in a social work setting should submit an electronic M.S.W. reference form from at least one supervisor who can address the applicant's knowledge, skill and readiness for graduate social work education as one of the three references.
- Non-refundable application fees for domestic and international students.
- Graduate Record Examination scores are not required. Applicants are evaluated on undergraduate grade-point average, graduate course work (if any), volunteer and/or work experience especially related to social work, and evidence of potential for a social work career in the application narrative and references.

Deadlines

Posted application deadlines for the Advanced Standing and Traditional M.S.W. Plans of Study may be found on the program website (<https://socwel.ku.edu/master-social-work-msw/>).

Admission Process

M.S.W. degree program students are admitted for summer semester for Advanced Standing and fall semester for Traditional plans of study. Applications may be submitted anytime between **Oct. 1 and the appropriate application deadline**. All fully completed applications are reviewed upon receipt. Admission decisions are made in the spring of each year. M.S.W. students admitted for the Advanced Standing plan of study begin in June; MSW students admitted for the Traditional plan of study (full time and part time) begin in August. A summer term start may be available for M.S.W. students admitted to the Traditional plan of study. Contact the Coordinator for Graduate Admissions for more information.

Learn more about the application process (<https://socwel.ku.edu/msw-apply/>).

International Students

International students from all regions of the world are encouraged to apply. Prior to applying, international students should review eligibility of in-person and online programs (<https://socwel.ku.edu/>). For more information about international student applications and resources and regulations contact International Support Services (<https://iss.ku.edu/>) and the Applied English Center (<https://aec.ku.edu/>).

All graduate applicants who are non-native speakers of English must demonstrate English proficiency to be considered for M.S.W. admission. This includes both international students who reside in the U.S. and outside the U.S. at the time of application. Please consult the KU Graduate Admissions English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

To begin M.S.W. practicum, full English proficiency must be met. If full proficiency requirements are not met at the time of admission, and additional English language courses are required from the KU Applied

English Center, MSW classes and/or practicum may be delayed. Any English language proficiency coursework required by the KU Applied English Center may increase time to complete the full-time Traditional MSW plan of study from two years to three years.

M.S.W. Traditional Plan of Study Degree Requirements

The School of Social Welfare requires a total of 64 credit hours for the MSW degree, consisting of

- 36 credit hours of classroom work maintaining a grade-point average of 3.0 (B).
- 28 credit hours of practicum with an (S) grade for satisfactory performance.
- Recommendation of the faculty of the School of Social Welfare to the University Registrar that the master's degree be granted.

M.S.W. Generalist Curriculum

The following courses are required (32 credit hours):

Code	Title	Hours
SW 701	Generalist Practicum (taken fall and spring semester)	14
SW 708	Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice	3
SW 710	Multi-Level Engagement and Assessment	3
SW 711	Multi-Level Intervention & Evaluation	3
SW 720	Social Policy Analysis and Advocacy in Social Work	3
SW 740	Applied Research in Multi-Level Social Work	3
SW 755	Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Social Work Practice	3
Total Hours		32

M.S.W. Specialization Curriculum

Following generalist courses and practicum, students advance to one of two areas of specialized practice: (1) clinical practice or (2) macro practice. This selection is based on their goals of working clinically with individuals, families, and groups or at the macro-level of practice with organizations and communities. With the exception of study abroad courses offered by the School of Social Welfare and SW 863, students may not enroll in specialized classes before completing generalist requirements without approval from the M.S.W. Program Director. Students should consult their academic advisor for enrollment guidance.

All students completing the M.S.W. degree are eligible to apply for the Kansas and Missouri Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW). Students who anticipate working towards meeting the requirements for a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW) examination are encouraged to enroll in the clinical social work practice specialization.

Refer to specific state licensure boards for educational and supervision requirements for social work licensure.

Clinical Social Work Specialization

This 32-credit-hour specialization prepares M.S.W. students for clinical social work with individuals, families, and groups. Students specializing in clinical social work develop the knowledge and skills to

help people resolve chronic and/or acute problems in living, increase emotional and behavioral health, and enhance psychological and social wellbeing. Clinical social work students learn advanced engagement and assessment practice skills, as well as a wide variety of interventions and how to evaluate the efficacy of those interventions. From a social work perspective, the clinical specialization prepares students to work in diverse counseling and mental health settings with clients who have personal, interpersonal, and social needs requiring theoretically grounded and evidence-based therapeutic services. Students also have the opportunity to practice their clinical skills in practicum settings as part of their graduate studies in social work. We recommend students who anticipate taking the Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Work (LSCSW) examination pursue a clinical specialization.

Please refer to specific state licensure boards (<https://socwel.ku.edu/after-graduation/>) for educational and supervision requirements for clinical level licensure.

The following courses must be taken in the clinical area of practice (32 credit hours):

Code	Title	Hours
SW 801	Advanced Practicum-Clinical Practice (taken fall and spring semester)	14
SW 810	Clinical Practice Strategies I	3
SW 811	Clinical Practice Strategies II	3
SW 863	Mental Health and Psychopathology	3
Diversity-Focused Elective - One course:		3
SW 833	Interdisciplinary Aging Practice	
SW 855	Study Abroad Topics: _____	
SW 871	Indigenous Families	
SW 873	Sexuality and Gender Diversity	
SW 874	Social Work with Womxn and Femmes	
SW 878	Serving the Black Diaspora	
Clinical Electives - One course:		3
SW 860	Loss and Grief Across the Life Course	
SW 861	Global Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Intervention	
SW 866	Children's Mental Health	
SW 868	Assessing and Treating Suicide and Self-Harm	
SW 869	Assessing and Treating Substance Misuse	
SW 885	Professional Development Seminar	3
Total Hours		32

Macro Social Work Specialization

The 32-credit-hour macro practice curriculum prepares M.S.W. students for leadership in social work agencies and social justice organizations. Students specializing in macro practice learn advanced administrative and advocacy skills and abilities for work in both the public and private sectors. The macro specialization helps students achieve competence in designing and implementing human services, community practice, and policy practice from a social work perspective. Knowledge and skills developed in this specialization include program design, managing information and resource, human resource management, community organizing, advanced advocacy, and program evaluation. This specialization prepares MSW students to be program and agency administrators, supervisors, advocates, and evaluators in public agencies and departments (local, state, and federal) and private human

services and social justice organizations. Students in the macro practice specialization are eligible to take the LMSW license examination in Kansas immediately upon graduation from the MSW program. Macro students who may seek a Kansas clinical-level licensure are encouraged to add Mental Health and Psychopathology (SW 863) to their course of study. Outside of Kansas, requirements for clinical level licensure varies for students engaging in macro coursework. Please refer to specific state licensure boards for educational and supervision requirements for clinical level licensure.

The following courses must be taken in the macro area of practice (32 credit hours):

Code	Title	Hours
SW 804	Advanced Practicum-Macro Practice (taken fall and spring semester)	14
SW 840	Multi-System Community-Engaged Program Design	3
SW 841	Advanced Policy Analysis	3
SW 842	Agency-Based Evaluation	3
SW 843	Leadership and Supervision in Program Management	3
SW 846	Advanced Justice-Centered Community and Advocacy Practice	3
SW 885	Professional Development Seminar	3
Total Hours		32

M.S.W. Advanced Standing Plan of Study

The Advanced Standing (<https://socwel.ku.edu/msw-curriculum/>) plan of study requires an enrollment of 38 credit hours, as follows:

- A summer enrollment in 2 classes (6 credit hours):
 - a. SW 712, a social work practice class organized around the school's major curriculum themes.
 - b. An elective course selected by the student to broaden the base of knowledge.
- The specialization level of the MSW program (32 credit hours). Refer to the above clinical and macro course lists.
 - a. 18 credit hours of classroom work maintaining a grade-point average of 3.0 (B).
 - b. 14 credit hours of practicum with an S grade for satisfactory performance.

Code	Title	Hours
SW 712	Social Work Advanced Standing Seminar	3
Clinical Elective - One course		3
SW 863	Mental Health and Psychopathology	
SW 866	Children's Mental Health	
SW 868	Assessing and Treating Suicide and Self-Harm	
Total Hours		6

Practicum Education

The practicum education office works with community agencies to provide practicum opportunities for students. Students are placed in these agencies through a collaborative process among the practicum education office, the student, and the agency. The practicum education office is responsible for ensuring that all placements are able to provide

the appropriate learning opportunities for students and that qualified practicum instructors will be available to the student.

Learn more about practicum education (<https://socwel.ku.edu/academics/practicum/>).

Prior Work Experience

In accordance with national curriculum policy, prior employment and life experience may not be credited toward classroom course work or practicum requirements.

Advanced Standing Plan of Study Degree Plan

Students should work with an academic advisor for enrollment guidance and for part-time plans of study.

Clinical - Full-Time

Year 1			
Summer	Hours Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 712	3 SW 801	7 SW 801	7
SW 863 or Clinical Elective	3 SW 810	3 SW 811	3
	Diversity-Focused Elective	3 Clinical Elective	3
	SW 863 or Clinical Elective	3 SW 885	3
	6	16	16

Total Hours 38

Clinical - Part-Time

Year 1			
Summer	Hours Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 712	3 SW 810	3 SW 811	3
SW 863 or Clinical Elective	3 SW 863 or Other Clinical Elective	3 SW 860 or Other Clinical Elective	3
	6	6	6

Year 2			
	Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
	SW 801	7 SW 801	7
	SW 871 or Other Diversity-Focused Elective	3 SW 885	3
		10	10

Total Hours 38

Macro - Full-Time

Year 1			
Summer	Hours Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 712	3 SW 804	7 SW 804	7
SW 863 or Clinical Elective	3 SW 840	3 SW 842	3
	SW 841	3 SW 846	3

SW 843	3 SW 885	3
6	16	16

Total Hours 38

Macro - Part-Time

Year 1			
Summer	Hours Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 712	3 SW 840	3 SW 842	3
SW 863 or Clinical Elective	3 SW 841	3 SW 843	3
	6	6	6

Year 2			
	Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
	SW 804	7 SW 804	7
	SW 843	3 SW 885	3
		10	10

Total Hours 38

Traditional Plan of Study Degree Plan

Students should work with an academic advisor for enrollment guidance and for part-time plans of study.

Clinical - Full-Time

Year 1		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 701	7 SW 701	7
SW 708	3 SW 711	3
SW 710	3 SW 720	3
SW 755	3 SW 740	3
	16	16

Year 2		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 801	7 SW 801	7
SW 810	3 SW 811	3
SW 863	3 Clinical Elective	3
Diversity-Focused Elective	3 SW 885	3
	16	16

Total Hours 64

Clinical - Part-Time

Year 1		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 708	3 SW 720	3
SW 755	3 SW 740	3
	6	6

Year 2		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 701	7 SW 701	7
SW 710	3 SW 711	3
	10	10

Year 3		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 810	3 SW 811	3
SW 863	3 SW 860 or Other Clinical Elective	3
	6	6

Year 4		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 801	7 SW 801	7
SW 871 or Other Diversity-Focused Elective	3 SW 885	3
	10	10

Total Hours 64

Macro - Full-Time

Year 1		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 701	7 SW 701	7
SW 708	3 SW 711	3
SW 710	3 SW 720	3
SW 755	3 SW 740	3
	16	16

Year 2		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 804	7 SW 804	7
SW 840	3 SW 842	3
SW 841	3 SW 846	3
SW 843	3 SW 885	3
	16	16

Total Hours 64

Macro - Part-Time

Year 1		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 708	3 SW 720	3
SW 755	3 SW 740	3
	6	6

Year 2		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 701	7 SW 701	7
SW 710	3 SW 711	3
	10	10

Year 3		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 840	3 SW 842	3
SW 841	3 SW 846	3
	6	6

Year 4		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 804	7 SW 804	7

SW 843	3 SW 885	3
	10	10

Total Hours 64

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
- Advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
- Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion in practice.
- Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
- Engage in policy practice.
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.