

SOCIAL WORK / MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

For more information about social work accreditation, you may contact <http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation> (<http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/>).

Department of Social Work MSW Mission Statement

The Lewis University MSW Program seeks to educate clinical social workers who exhibit integrity and follow ethical principles. Supported by a Catholic and Lasallian heritage, social work students engage in an education that is dedicated to advancing social and economic justice and the well-being and quality of life of individuals, groups, and families in urban and suburban communities. Social work students know and respect diversity, respond to context, think critically, understand, utilize, and create research, and are committed to the pursuit of truth through lifelong learning and professional development. The MSW Program mission is closely aligned with the University Mission and values.

Program Goals

1. To educate students to use critical thinking skills, informed by self-knowledge and evidence based research, in their clinical social work practice.
2. To educate students in applying ethical principles to guide their clinical practice.
3. To prepare students to work with diverse and oppressed populations, particularly individuals and communities of color, utilizing knowledge of human behavior in the social environment, to advance human rights and advocate for social justice.
4. To foster the development of a strong clinical social work identity, dedicated to the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and truth.
5. To prepare students for leadership roles with diverse populations in a changing global environment.
6. To prepare students who recognize the importance of human relationships and acknowledge and respect diversity, in keeping with the Catholic and Lasallian heritage at Lewis University.

Transfer of Credit after Matriculation

Students who are already matriculated at Lewis University and wish to transfer in a course must seek written approval from the MSW Program Director before the course is attempted. Only courses with a grade of B or better will be accepted. Students may transfer in up to 2 courses.

Course of Study Overview

The MSW is a 60 hour course of study designed to prepare students to work in a variety of clinical settings providing mental health services, therapy, counseling, clinical case management and other direct practice skills. In the foundation year, students are trained in the Generalist Practice Model of social work, where they learn foundation skills that are transferable across populations and settings, and apply them in the field placement. In the advanced clinical year, students select a population concentration (child/adolescent, adult, or older adult) and

learn advanced practice skills and knowledge, applied in their field placement. In the classroom, students learn theory and practice skills. In the field placements, students utilize their professional knowledge to develop advanced competencies in clinical social work practice. The program provides social work students with a comprehensive set of practice skills, and a commitment to evidence-based practice, clinical social work, and social justice. The development of critical thinking skills allows for the flexibility to work in complex and ever changing practice environments.

Course Formats and Credit

Courses are offered in the evening. The normal load for a full-time graduate student is 5 courses, or 15 semester hours, plus a field internship per semester. Planned part-time students take two courses, or 6 semester hours, per semester, including summer. Planned part-time students complete the MSW program in four years. In the second year of the part-time program, students complete their field internship, and take 2 courses per semester. In the advanced year, part-time students complete course work in the third year, and their field internship in the fourth year.

Field Education

- The full-time MSW program is completed in two years and includes two field placements. The Foundation year field placement is 480 hours, and the advanced clinical placement is 600 hours.
- The part-time MSW program is completed in four years and includes two field placements. The Foundation year field placement is 480 hours, and the advanced clinical placement is 600 hours. Field Internships are completed in the second and fourth year of the planned part-time program.

Advanced Standing

- The Advanced Standing program is for undergraduate social work majors from a CSWE-accredited baccalaureate social work degree; a CASWE-accredited baccalaureate social work degree from Canadian Universities; or an Internationally earned ISWDRES-evaluated degree comparable to a baccalaureate social work degree. Advanced standing students complete only the advanced clinical year. Students complete one field placement, the advanced 600 hour clinical placement. This program can be completed as a full-time student in one year or as a part-time student in two years.

Good Academic Standing

See Good Academic Standing (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#standing>).

Academic Probation and Dismissal

See Academic Probation and Dismissal (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/graduate/general-information/academic-policies/#Probation>). (See also the MSW Handbook)

Time Limitations and Resident Requirement

Students must complete all requirements within 7 years from the time of completion of the first graduate course at Lewis University. Students remain under the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of matriculation unless they discontinue attendance for two consecutive

years or more, in which case they will follow the catalog in effect upon their return.

Graduation Requirements

Students will be awarded the MSW degree when they have:

1. Completed at least 60 hours of graduate study as stipulated previously (30 hours for Advanced Standing Students), including two field internships (1 for Advanced Standing).
2. Successfully passed the capstone paper submitted in the final semester of the program.
3. Obtained a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Requirements

Degree Offered: Master of Social Work

Total Credit Hours: 60

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundation Courses		
SCWK 50100	Foundation Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SCWK 50200	Human Behavior in the Social Environment 1: Theory and Development Across the Lifespan	3
SCWK 50300	Social Justice and Empowerment: Oppression, Privilege and Diversity	3
SCWK 50400	Social Welfare Policy and Services	3
SCWK 50500	Graduate Field Placement 1/Seminar	3
SCWK 50600	Foundation Practice with Groups, Organizations, and Communities	3
SCWK 50700	Human Behavior in the Social Environment 2: Assessment, Diagnosis and Psychopathology	3
SCWK 50800	Research Methods in Social Work	3
SCWK 50900	Graduate Field Placement 2/Seminar	3
SCWK 51000	Social Work Ethics	3
Advanced Courses		
Core Advanced Courses:		
SCWK 60400	Evaluation Research	3
SCWK 60500	Psychodynamic Theory	3
SCWK 60600	Management/Leadership/Supervision in Social Work Practice	3
SCWK 61100 & SCWK 61200	Graduate Field Placement 3/Seminar and Graduate Field Placement 4/Seminar ¹	6
	or SCWK 62000 School Social Work Field 1 and School Social Work Field 2 & SCWK 62100	
Advanced Individual Practice:		
Students should take the advance practice course that corresponds with the population served in the clinical field placement. Select one additional practice course, either the other advanced practice course, the substance use disorders course the violence course or the social emotional learning for school-based professionals course.		
SCWK 60200	Advanced Individual Practice with Adults	6
SCWK 60300	Advanced Individual Practice with Children, Adolescents and Families	
SCWK 62500	Violence Prevalence, Meaning and Treatment	

SCWK 63000	Substance Use Disorders: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment	
SCWK 64000	Social Emotional Learning for School-Based Professionals	
Advanced Policy:		
SCWK 61300	Advanced Policy in Clinical Practice: Skills and Knowledge	3
Electives		
Students will select one of the following two-course pairings:		
Advanced Clinical Social Work		
SCWK 60900	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
SCWK 61000	Family Therapy	
Advanced Child Welfare ²		
SCWK 61400	Advanced Child Welfare: An Overview of History and Practice	
SCWK 61500	Advanced Child Welfare in Applied Contexts	
Organizational Leadership		
ORGL 50900	Leadership: Theories, Practices and Context	
ORGL 51200	Assessing Leadership Skills	
School Social Work		
SCWK 61600	Social Work in the Schools	
SPED 55700	Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Communities	
Total Hours		60

¹ Students interested in School Social Work should complete SCWK 62000 School Social Work Field 1 and SCWK 62100 School Social Work Field 2 instead of SCWK 61100 Graduate Field Placement 3/Seminar and SCWK 61200 Graduate Field Placement 4/Seminar

² The successful completion of the Advanced Child Welfare two-course sequence qualifies students to be licensed upon hire by DCFS or a contract child welfare agency. Graduate sequences includes additional assignments and focuses on the special issues for MSW-credentialed child welfare workers such as management and supervision.

Additional Admission Requirements

Admissions Standards

Admission to the graduate program in Social Work (MSW) is based on academic and personal qualifications of the applicant. It is made without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, irrelevant handicap, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

All students must submit a final official transcript documenting evidence of a baccalaureate degree awarded by a regionally-accredited institution of higher education and a completed application which includes a personal statement of professional goals and two letters of reference.

Each application is reviewed holistically and after their complete application is reviewed, students are notified of admission decisions via an electronic decision letter.

Full Admission

Students in this category have:

1. Submitted a completed application with an accompanying personal statement, which serves as a writing sample..

2. Submitted two letters of recommendation from professors, employers or supervisors (at least one letter from an instructor is strongly preferred).
3. Submitted an official transcript of all academic work previously attempted or completed. An applicant's GPA should equal a 3.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with a GPA below 3.0 can address this in their personal statement. Students applying for Advance Standing should have a minimum 3.0 GPA in their social work courses.
4. Certified their proficiency in reading and writing English, if the applicant is from a non-English speaking country, by achieving a 550 on the TOEFL written exam; 213 on the computerized exam; 79 on the Internet-based exam or IELTS score of 6.0. ELS level 112 completed. Step Eiken (Japan) Pre-1 is also accepted.
5. Received acceptance by the Graduate Council of the College of Education and Social Sciences.

Provisional Admission

In select cases, a student who does not meet the requirements for full admission may be considered for provisional admission. Provisional status may change after one semester if the student maintains a GPA of 3.0 or higher in all coursework. Students may be allowed to take up to 9 graduate credit hours as a provisionally admitted student. The student must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 in these courses.

Transfer Admission Procedures

Students may apply up to 12 semester hours of graduate-level work from other CSWE accredited institutions to their program of social work prior to their acceptance into Lewis Masters of Social Work (MSW) program. A transfer student, whether admitted as full or provisional, will follow the admission criteria described above and below. The following conditions apply to the acceptance of transfer credit:

1. Only courses with a grade of B or better will be accepted.
2. Coursework must have been completed at a CSWE accredited graduate school within the last seven years.
3. Appropriateness of coursework will be decided by the MSW Program Director at the time of the student's application to the program. Field placement courses will not be accepted as transfer credits.
4. Courses from outside the United States will be considered if they are evaluated as graduate level by the Office of Admission and the International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service. Please note: The MSW Program does not grant Social Work course credit for life experience or for previous work experience.