

SOCIAL WORK, MASTER OF (M.S.W.)/GENDER VIOLENCE INTERVENTION, CERTIFICATE IN (POST-BACCALAUREATE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE) [DUAL DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE]

Advanced study in social work and gender violence intervention is available through a dual degree program co-sponsored by the School of Social Work and the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

The program allows students to earn a Master of Social Work and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention with 60 credits rather than the 75 credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earn both degrees.

Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree and certificate program are to:

- Apply gender violence academic concepts to practice
- Guide students in the development of professional behaviors and boundaries while working in gender violence intervention settings
- Develop knowledge of common types of gender violence and related policies
- Prepare graduates to work in gender violence settings with diverse populations

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree program are the following:

- The ability to gain special knowledge and skills focused on interpersonal violence that prepares students for work in agency community settings that serve people affected by interpersonal violence
- The opportunity for social work practicums in community agencies working with multidisciplinary teams and utilizing multitheoretical frameworks specifically with cases and clients impacted by interpersonal violence.

The diplomas for this dual degree and certificate program are awarded simultaneously, after completion of the requirements for each degree program. Students receive both degrees upon graduation from VCU.

Student learning outcomes

See the individual program pages for student learning outcomes.

Other information

Advising

The student is assigned an adviser from each program to develop a plan of study. Advisers coordinate regarding program curricula as appropriate. Primarily, the coordination occurs to ensure that M.S.W. students

complete a social work field placement that aligns with the requirements of the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention.

Once students are admitted and enrolled in the certificate program, they should consult the certificate adviser when they choose their field placements to ensure that at least one placement is conducted in a setting that addresses sexual or domestic violence.

Admission requirements

Students must meet the admission requirements for each program. Admission into one program does not guarantee admission into the other. See the individual program pages for admission deadlines and other requirements, as they may vary by concentration.

To view a list of the **current admission deadlines**, visit the School of Social Work's website.

Application procedures

To enroll in the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention simultaneously with the M.S.W., students must complete a graduate application for the certificate program and pay the required fee to Graduate Admissions; however, no supporting information is required for students who are already enrolled in good standing in the M.S.W. program.

Applicants will need to **complete an online application through Graduate Admissions**, pay the application fee and submit a personal statement expressing their interest in the program and indicating that they are currently in the M.S.W. program. Students may **email the Graduate School** to arrange for references, resume/CV and transcripts already on file from the M.S.W. program to be added to the application.

Dual degree and certificate requirements

As standalone programs, the M.S.W. comprises 60 credits while the certificate requires 15 credits. The dual degree and certificate program allows students to share 15 credits, therefore decreasing total credits to completion from 75 to 60.

In the dual degree and certificate program, these courses within the M.S.W. satisfy requirements in the certificate:

Course	Title	Hours
Social work generalist courses satisfy certificate requirement PADM 650		3
SLWK 602 & SLWK 606 or SLWK 608	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I and Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-standing Students	
Social work field placements satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693 ¹		3
SLWK 693 & SLWK 694 or SLWK 695	Generalist Field Instruction I and Generalist Field Instruction II Block Generalist Field Instruction	
or		
SLWK 793 & SLWK 794 or SLWK 795	Specialization Field Instruction I and Specialization Field Instruction II Specialization Block Field Instruction	
Social work concentration requirement satisfies GVPA 623		3

SLWK 709	Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services	
Certificate courses satisfy six credits of M.S.W. electives.		6
GVPA 635	Theorizing Gender Violence	
SLWK 761	Interpersonal Violence in Clinical Social Work Practice	
Total Hours		15

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Dual degree and certificate students will complete one of their two social work field practicums in an agency providing sexual or domestic violence services.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
M.S.W. requirements		
• Generalist courses		
SLWK 601	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I	3
SLWK 602	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I (satisfies certificate requirement PADM 650)	3
SLWK 603	Power, Privilege and Oppression	3
SLWK 604	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I	3
SLWK 605	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II	3
SLWK 606	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II (satisfies certificate requirement PADM 650)	3
SLWK 609	Foundations of Research for Social Work Interventions and Services	3
SLWK 610	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II	3
Field instruction (select one option)		6
SLWK 693 & SLWK 694	Generalist Field Instruction I and Generalist Field Instruction II (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	
SLWK 695	Block Generalist Field Instruction (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	
• Concentration requirements (select one concentration)		15
Administration, planning and policy practice		
SLWK 709	Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services (satisfies certificate requirement GVPA 623)	
SLWK 710	Concentration Social Policy	
SLWK 711	Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice	
SLWK 712	Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I	

SLWK 713	Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II	
Clinical practice concentration		
SLWK 703	Psychopathology	
SLWK 704	Clinical Social Work Practice I	
SLWK 705	Clinical Social Work Practice II	
SLWK 709	Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services (satisfies certificate requirement GVPA 623)	
SLWK 710	Concentration Social Policy	
• Field instruction (required for either concentration; select one option)		6
SLWK 793 & SLWK 794	Specialization Field Instruction I and Specialization Field Instruction II (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	
SLWK 795	Specialization Block Field Instruction (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	
SLWK 796 & SLWK 797 & SLWK 798	Specialization Field Instruction Extended Semesters I and Specialization Field Instruction Extended Semesters II and Specialization Field Instruction Extended Semesters III	
• Electives		9
Six credits satisfied by certificate requirements GVPA 635 and SLWK 761. Students must select one additional approved elective from SLWK 717-SLWK 792.		
Certificate requirements		
GVPA 623	Applied Research Methods (satisfied by SLWK 709)	3
GVPA 635	Theorizing Gender Violence (satisfies M.S.W. elective)	3
GVPA 693	Internship (satisfied by M.S.W. field placement; taken in an agency providing sexual or domestic violence services)	3
PADM 650	Principles of Nonprofit Management (satisfied by M.S.W. generalist courses, including SLWK 608 for advanced standing students)	3
SLWK 761	Interpersonal Violence in Clinical Social Work Practice (satisfies M.S.W. elective)	3
Total Hours		60

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 60.

Sample plan of study

General sequence of dual degree program

Students in the Master of Social Work and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention program spend the first year immersed in the M.S.W. curriculum. Beginning in the second year, student registration is primarily

in the M.S.W. curriculum, with an elective course in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. During the fall semester of their concentration year, students complete SLWK 761; during the spring semester of their concentration year, students complete GVPA 635. These certificate requirements satisfy the electives for the M.S.W. Students are required to complete one of their two social work field practicums in an agency providing sexual or domestic violence services during their time in the program.

Year one		Hours
Fall semester		
SLWK 601	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I	3
SLWK 602	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I (partially satisfies certificate requirement PADM 650; students must also complete SLWK 606.)	3
SLWK 603	Power, Privilege and Oppression	3
SLWK 604	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I	3
SLWK 693	Generalist Field Instruction I (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
SLWK 605	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II	3
SLWK 606	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II (satisfies certificate requirement PADM 650)	3
SLWK 609	Foundations of Research for Social Work Interventions and Services	3
SLWK 610	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II	3
SLWK 694	Generalist Field Instruction II (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	3
Term Hours:		15
Year two		
Fall semester		
Concentration year (select appropriate concentration courses)		15
• Administration, planning and policy practice		
SLWK 709	Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services (satisfies certificate requirement GVPA 623)	3
SLWK 711	Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice	3
SLWK 712	Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I	3
SLWK 793	Specialization Field Instruction I	3
Elective (satisfied by certificate requirement GVPA 635 or SLWK 761)		3
• Clinical practice		
SLWK 703	Psychopathology	3
SLWK 704	Clinical Social Work Practice I	3

SLWK 709	Specialization Research for Understanding and Assessing Social Work Interventions and Services (satisfies certificate requirement GVPA 623)	3
SLWK 793	Specialization Field Instruction I (may satisfy certificate requirement GVPA 693)	3
Elective (satisfied by certificate requirement GVPA 635 or SLWK 761)		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
Concentration year (select appropriate concentration courses)		15
• Administration, planning and policy practice		
SLWK 710	Concentration Social Policy	3
SLWK 713	Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II	3
SLWK 794	Specialization Field Instruction II	3
Elective (satisfied by certificate requirement GVPA 635 or SLWK 761)		3
Additional elective from approved list: SLWK 717- SLWK 792		3
• Clinical practice		
SLWK 705	Clinical Social Work Practice II	3
SLWK 710	Concentration Social Policy	3
SLWK 794	Specialization Field Instruction II	3
Elective (satisfied by certificate requirement GVPA 635 or SLWK 761)		3
Additional elective from approved list: SLWK 717- SLWK 792		3
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		60

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 60.

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