

M.S.W. PROGRAM

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Program mission and profession purpose and values

The VCU School of Social Work offers a graduate professional curriculum accredited by the Council on Social Work Education leading to the Master of Social Work degree. The mission of the M.S.W. program at VCU is to educate students for advanced practice in either clinical social work or social work administration, planning and policy practice under the guiding principle of promoting a more just society that includes a commitment to the values of diversity, ethics and competent social work practice in a multicultural society. The M.S.W. program's mission is strongly aligned to the purpose of the social work profession in that it fully embodies and promotes the worth and dignity of the person and the empowerment and self-determination of individuals, families and communities. In addition, a strong focus on the values of diversity; social, economic and environmental justice; cultural competence/sensitivity; and the importance of human relationships are the cornerstone of the M.S.W. program mission statement. This mission is consistent with and reflected throughout the NASW Code of Ethics.

Upon completion of the M.S.W. program, students will possess the knowledge, skills, values and ethics that guide the core practice standards of the VCU School of Social Work, NASW and CSWE's Educational Policy and Accreditation standards. The curriculum fosters student learning about human rights through course work that addresses poverty and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons. The program curriculum promotes human and community well-being by providing courses focused on service to and empowerment of people who experience oppression or vulnerability due to inadequate or inequitable distribution of personal, social or institutional resources. This perspective is infused across the curriculum. Within this context, social work practice is defined as the application of professional knowledge, skills and values across a range of settings and populations for the prevention and amelioration of personal and social problems. The curriculum connects with the profession's purpose of using scientific inquiry within the practice setting by providing students with practice knowledge based upon the analysis of critical application of qualitative and quantitative research from within the profession and related social, behavioral and biological sciences. The interactions among persons and their environments are the primary targets of social work practice and students obtain critical skills to provide services including the restoration, rehabilitation, maintenance and enhancement of the functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations.

- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) with a concentration in administration, planning and policy practice (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/social-work-msw-concentration-administration-planning-policy-practice/>)
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) with a concentration in clinical practice (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/social-work-msw-concentration-clinical-practice/>)

Opportunities exist to combine the M.S.W. with certification and degree programs within the university as well as programs offered in conjunction with other institutions. See the Opportunities tab for additional information.

- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [dual degree] (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/social-work-msw-aging-studies-certificate/>)
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Gender Violence Intervention, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [dual degree] (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/social-work-msw-gender-violence-intervention-certificate/>)
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Nonprofit Management, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [dual degree] (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/social-work-msw-nonprofit-management-certificate/>)
- Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)/Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) [dual degree] (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-social-work/msw-program/public-health-mph-social-work-msw/>)
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/school social work practice certification [dual degree]
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Divinity, Master of from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond or the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University [dual degree]
- Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Juris Doctor with the University of Richmond [dual degree]

SLWK 601. Human Behavior in the Social Environment I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits. Provides a multidimensional theoretical and evidence-based approach to understanding the complex interactions of biological, psychological, spiritual, economic, political and sociocultural forces on the lives individuals, families and groups in a multicultural society. Required core curriculum course.

SLWK 602. Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: SLWK 601. First of two generalist courses on social policy, policy practice and practice in communities and organizations. Surveys historical evolution of social welfare policy and contemporary provision of social welfare services, including the role of values in policy formulation and principles of social and economic justice. Introduces the social work role as change agent in legislative, community and organizational arenas. Uses social/behavioral knowledge and social work intervention models and applies analytical frameworks for assessing program, organizational and policy effectiveness. Develops skills in identification of need, designing strategies for change and policy analysis.

SLWK 603. Social Work and Social Justice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits. Enhances understanding of and appreciation for diversity in self and others. Addresses issues of power, inequality, privilege and resulting oppression. Analyzes oppression resulting from persistent social, educational, political, religious, economic and legal inequalities. Focuses on the experiences of oppressed groups in the U.S. in order to understand their strengths, needs and responses. Uses a social justice perspective for the study of and practice with oppressed groups. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 604. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SLWK 602 and SLWK 603, both with minimum grade of C. Introduces basic knowledge, skills and values necessary to provide a range of restorative, rehabilitative, maintenance and enhancement services in social work practice with individuals, families and groups. Introduces selected practice theories and models to guide intervention. Emphasizes the multidimensional and diverse contexts in which problems and needs are assessed and in which intervention occurs. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 605. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 604 with minimum grade of C. Extends application of beginning knowledge and skills to the phases of intervention with groups and families. Presents knowledge and skills of environmental intervention and termination. Introduces additional selected theories and models for social work practice with individuals, families and groups with attention to special populations and practice evaluation. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 606. Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 602 with minimum grade of C. The second of two generalist courses on social policy, policy practice and practice in communities and organizations. Examines values and ethical dilemmas facing professional social workers in organizations, communities and policy-making arenas. Explores legislative/political processes. Develops skills in legislative lobbying, advocacy, design of change strategies and tactics, policy analysis and task group leadership. Emphasizes reciprocal effects of policy on social work practice and implications for social and economic justice.

SLWK 607. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the advanced standing program. Corequisites: SLWK 608, 611 and 612. Students review approaches, principles, techniques and theories of micro social work practice and human behavior. Emphasis is on commonalities and differences among practice modalities, including differential assessment, intervention and evaluation of outcomes. Course includes weekly field instruction integrating seminar. This course is offered during the summer only. Required advanced standing program core curriculum course.

SLWK 608. Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the Advanced Standing Program. Corequisites: SLWK 607, 611 and 612. Presents social work theory and practice focusing on social policy, communities, agencies and interventions in light of principles of social and economic justice. Introduces and analyzes the social work role of policy practitioner with its specific skills and tasks. Demonstrates the importance of understanding the community and the agency in social work practice. Provides skill building in advocacy, planned change, and policy and organizational analysis, as well as weekly field instruction seminar. This course is offered during the summer only.

SLWK 609. Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits. Introduces the methods of social work research, including problem formulation, research designs, measurement, data collection and sampling. Focuses on the application of critical-thinking skills, diversity and research methods of clinical social work practice effectiveness. Covers evaluation of social work programs and services. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 610. Human Behavior in the Social Environment II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 601 minimum grade of C. Covers the life course from conception through late adulthood and/or death. Focuses on the influences of biological, psychological, spiritual, economic, political and sociocultural forces on individual and family coping and adaptation. Provides a multidimensional, multicultural perspective on the behavior of individuals and families based on theory and research with identification of the risk and protective mechanisms that influence development. Required core curriculum course.

SLWK 611. Social Work Research for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the advanced standing program. Corequisites: SLWK 607, 608 and 612. Reviews approaches to scientific inquiry in the development of knowledge for social work practice; problem formulation; concepts and operational definitions; measurement validity and reliability; selected social work research designs; planned data collection strategies and procedures. Required advanced standing program core curriculum course.

SLWK 612. Advanced-standing Field Instruction. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 field experience hours (four eight-hour days in field instruction, followed by two days per week for eight weeks and completed with a full five-day week at the field instruction agency). 3 credits. Corequisites: SLWK 607, SLWK 608 and SLWK 611. Enrollment is restricted to students admitted to the advanced standing program. Reviews generalist-level knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired through social work education at the undergraduate level. Requires application, refinement and the active use of content from the advanced standing curriculum through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the generalist foundation curriculum. Completion of course requires 200 structured field hours.

SLWK 692. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.

Semester course; 1-6 credits. Maybe be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: M.S.W. foundation standing and permission of instructor and M.S.W. program director. The student will be required to submit a proposal for study in an identified practice area or for exploration of a specific problem in social work not ordinarily included in the Master of Social Work curriculum. The results of the student's study will be presented in a format determined by the instructor and student to be most effective for assessing study educational objectives/competencies and outcomes. A maximum of four independent study courses may be included in a student's educational program.

SLWK 693. Generalist Field Instruction I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 field experience hours. 3 credits. Students meet two days/14 hours per week. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the generalist curriculum.

SLWK 694. Generalist Field Instruction II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 field experience hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 693 with minimum grade of C. Students meet two days/14 hours per week. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the generalist curriculum.

SLWK 695. Block Generalist Field Instruction. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 6 field experience hours. 6 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 605 with minimum grade of C. Students meet five days a week, 35 hours per week, for one semester. Enrollment is restricted to part-time students. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes the integration of content from all areas of the generalist curriculum. Completion of course requires 420 structured field hours.

SLWK 703. Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. This course reviews the epidemiology, etiology, classification (using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V) and course of a range of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders and conditions across the life span and the relevance of this knowledge to social work across practice settings. It emphasizes a biopsychosocialspiritual assessment, a risk and protective factors framework, a critical analysis of existing and emerging theory, the impact of difference and diversity, an appreciation of the lived experience of these challenges for clients and their families, and the practical implications of this knowledge for relationship-building and treatment planning as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. Introduces knowledge of psychopharmacology. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 704. Clinical Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Provides a multitheoretical orientation to intervention across fields of practice with individuals, families, couples and groups. Emphasizes contemporary psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral approaches and their empirical support. Focuses on multidimensional assessment and the differential application of therapeutic, supportive, educational and resource-management strategies to complex problems of children, youth and adults. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 705. Clinical Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 704 with minimum grade of C. Continues a multitheoretical orientation to intervention across fields of practice with emphasis on integrated family systems theory and multidimensional family assessment. Focuses on differential application of psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral and family systems theories to a range of complex client problems and concerns with attention to diverse populations. Introduces basic knowledge of pharmacology related to social work intervention. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 706. Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Review of statistical inference and decision-making using univariate and bivariate techniques. Introduction to computer applications for quantitative data and methods of analysis of qualitative data. Application of ethical standards for research involving human participants. Further development of critical-thinking skills in using empirical literature. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 707. Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 706 with minimum grade of C. Further development of critical-thinking skills for translating research findings into practice principles and measuring outcomes of clinical practice. Focus on data collection, data analysis, presentation of visual and statistical techniques for qualitative and quantitative research methods, and utilization of findings for improving clinical social work practice. Continued application of statistical inference, integration of empirical research findings and decision-making. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 710. Concentration Social Policy. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Focuses on advanced policy analysis through an in-depth, focused examination of a particular social policy area or population. Extends basic knowledge and skills of policy formulation, development and impact analysis/evaluation, as these affect practice on behalf of clients. Examines diversity of policy sources; value, political and economic determinants; policy formulation processes; the policy basis for current services; a broad range of potential need domains; and current programs and laws. Integrates knowledge of human behavior and the social environment relevant to the focal policy areas and pays special attention to issues of social and economic justice. Examines current policy issues, advocacy efforts related to these issues and practice strategies for effecting change.

SLWK 711. Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Develops leadership and planning skills that guide the implementation of policy and practice in community and organizational settings. Present problem-solving strategies for planning, administration and management of community and organizational resources. Emphasizes planning context for diverse settings. Provides knowledge and skill for human and fiscal resource responsibilities, including fund raising. Examines ethical and justice implications of planning and administrative practice.

SLWK 712. Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Pre- or co-requisites: SLWK 711 and SLWK 714. Presents knowledge and skills for social work leadership in administering, developing and advocating social service policies and programs that are socially and economically just. Examines underlying assumptions, political, value and ethical considerations in social service planning. Presents knowledge of organizational theories and analyzes the political context of problem solving in the internal and external environments of organizations and programs. Focuses on community and organizational planning theories and models of intervention in assessing needs, analyzing problems, determining feasibility and identifying emergent dilemmas. Emphasizes development of critical thinking and self-awareness about role responsibilities and ethical positions for organizational and community leadership at local, state, national and international levels.

SLWK 713. Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 712 with minimum grade of C. Continues development of knowledge and skills begun in prerequisite course. Examines traditional and alternative strategies in formulating proposals to address human needs. Emphasizes multiple program designs (e.g., direct service, advocacy, staff development and training, and community empowerment programs). Incorporates understandings of policies, community, and organizational behavior and change, and leadership styles and skills. Analyzes feasibility of interorganizational partnerships and community relationships. Focuses on financial and human resource acquisition and mobilization, monitoring, accountability and evaluation.

SLWK 714. Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Focuses on social work program and service evaluation including needs assessment, social indicators analysis, evidence-based practices, formative and summative evaluation designs using multiple method data collection and participatory approaches. Review of statistical inference and decision-making, introduction to computer applications for quantitative data and methods for analysis of qualitative data. Application of ethical standards for evaluation involving human participants.

SLWK 715. Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 714 with minimum grade of C. Focuses on evaluation of social work programs and services including data collection, data analysis, presentation of visual and statistical techniques for qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, and dissemination of evaluation findings. Continues review of statistical inference and decision-making. Emphasizes integrating evaluation findings into a knowledge base for social work administration, planning and policy practice using participatory approaches with stakeholders.

SLWK 716. Concentration Social Policy for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Extends SLWK 602 through 606 content on policy practice, organizations, communities and advocacy. Critically analyzes traditional and alternative theories and models of the policy-making process. Demonstrates how the policy process is the core principle for decision-making in agencies, communities and legislatures. Develops advanced skills in policy analysis, policy formulation and place practice including advocacy. Emphasizes the relationship and impact of economic policies on clients, communities and agencies in light of principles of social and economic justice. Analyzes current regulatory and agency policies and their implications for policy practice/advocacy for effecting change.

SLWK 717. Social Work Practice in the School Setting. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Emphasizes knowledge and skills of school social work practice with diverse populations in urban and rural school settings. Uses an ecological explanatory theoretical perspective to conceptualize the interdependence of school, family and community as complex interdependent systems that guide evidence-based practice interventions. Integrates a strengths-based social justice perspective for school-based concerns related to violence, racism, sexism, poverty and their impact on children and youth in educational settings. Advanced clinical elective and core curriculum course for school social work practice certification.

SLWK 718. Social Work Practice in Child Welfare. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Identifies the major social, demographic and economic changes in child welfare services that impact children – a vulnerable population – and their families. Builds on explanatory theories and related skill sets required for effective service delivery. Primary service areas are intervention, family preservation, child protection and permanency planning. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 719. Gender and Substance Abuse: Social Work Practice Issues. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online). 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Based on the social work person-in-environment explanatory multitheoretical perspective and current research to provide a multidimensional understanding of the influence of gender roles and biological sex in vulnerability to substance abuse and related problems. Evidence-based theory approaches are utilized to identify and address the effects of substance abuse and related problems for men, women and children. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 726. Social Work Practice and Health Care. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Focuses on social work practice in a variety of health care settings with a range of explanatory theories conceptualizing health care issues and identifies related interventions from prevention and health promotion to end-of-life care. Explores ethical and legal issues and introduces frameworks for addressing ethical dilemmas. Examines the role of the social worker on an interdisciplinary team. Examines the influence of economics, political decisions, technology, changing demographics and cultural, social and spiritual/religious experiences on individual health care decisions, access to health care and definitions of health and illness. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 727. Trauma and Social Work Practice: Theory, Assessment and Intervention. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Provides advanced explanatory theoretical knowledge and skills to explain, identify, assess and provide effective and competent evidence-based trauma intervention services to survivors of complex traumatic experiences. Focuses on the evidence-based biopsychosocial consequences of childhood sexual and physical abuse and military/war trauma experiences in daily functioning on individuals, families and groups. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 728. The Interdisciplinary Team in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Explores definitions and analyzes interdisciplinary team approaches. Studies the roles and functions of participants on interdisciplinary teams. Emphasizes similarities and differences between social work and other disciplines as members of teams. Explores opportunities for, and obstacles to, effective service delivery by teams.

SLWK 739. Social Work and the Law. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Overview of fundamental principles of Anglo-American law; structure and function of the legal system and its professional membership; lawyers and their working relationship with social workers. Emphasizes client-centered problems encountered in the legal community and the role social workers can play in helping clients deal with those encounters. Explores issues relative to client needs such as welfare rights, consumer protection, mental health treatment, family-related law and discrimination relative to education, housing, employment, health care. Discusses legal issues confronting social work, such as confidentiality, licensing, advocacy and witnessing.

SLWK 740. Social Work Crisis Intervention and Planned Short-term Treatment. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Examines explanatory conceptual and theoretical aspects of the differential use of crisis intervention and planned short-term social work intervention. Explores evidence-based crisis models that guide direct interventions, consultation, collaboration and service-delivery issues. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 741. Social Work Practice and the Neurosciences. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. The course introduces the social work student to the increasingly important field of neuroscience and the numerous explanatory theories which underlie this science (e.g. neuroplasticity, epigenetics, neurodevelopmental view of trauma, pharmacogenomics, neurobiology of addiction). Focus is placed on why neuroscience research is important for the discipline of social work and how specific neuroscience findings can be utilized by the social work practitioner to enhance practice interventions. Though the field of neuroscience is extensive, this course will focus on several areas that are of particular relevance to social work practice.

SLWK 742. Core Concepts of Child and Adolescent Trauma. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. This course will introduce students to the core concepts (explanatory theory and foundational knowledge) that inform evidence-based assessment and intervention with traumatized children and adolescents. Strength-based practice will be highlighted along with a focus on the identification of protective and promotive factors that foster resiliency and post-traumatic growth. Trauma is broadly defined, and subjects include children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events including, but not limited to natural disasters, war, abuse and neglect, medical trauma, and witnessing interpersonal crime (e.g. domestic violence) and other traumatic events. The course will highlight the role of development, culture and empirical evidence in trauma-specific interventions with children, adolescents and their families. It will address the level of functioning of primary caregiving environments and assess the capacity of the community to facilitate restorative processes.

SLWK 743. Spirituality and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Designed to educate students for advanced social work practice with persons of diverse religious and nonreligious perspectives of spirituality. It provides a comprehensive introduction to spiritually sensitive social work and is intended to expand the explanatory theories that inform professional social work practice. The concepts of person-in-environment and strengths become vivid as the student in practicum assesses how individuals may use spirituality to establish meaning and purpose in relation to their goals of daily living.

SLWK 744. The Dynamics of the Social Worker/Client Relationship. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 612, SLWK 694 or SLWK 695. Enrollment restricted to students in a field placement or work setting in which they are currently delivering clinical services directly to clients. The effectiveness of all types of direct social work practice depends at least in part on the nature of the relationship between the social worker and client. This course examines in depth the many forms that such relationships can take in the context of various theories, models and strategies common to social work practice. The course reviews the positions of those theories and models with respect to the relationship with an in-depth focus on the processes of relationship development and sustainment and the complex interpersonal dynamics that can arise depending on how the social worker and client experience each other.

SLWK 745. Social Work Practice in Community Mental Health. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Provides the specialized knowledge, values and skills requisite in community mental health settings. Builds on the explanatory biopsychosocial model of mental health/illness. Focuses on current evidence-based psychotherapeutic, psychoeducational, and skill-training models and approaches used with individuals, families and groups experiencing or affected by a range of mental health problems. Examines interdisciplinary teamwork, case management, advocacy and medication management roles. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 746. Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Reviews the historical, political and ethical context of psychotropic medications in social work practice. Provides an explanatory theoretical overview of psychopharmacology and social work roles and skill sets in medication management for effective collaboration with clients, families and other mental health practitioners on medication-related issues. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 747. Social Work Intervention with Children and Adolescents. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Provides students with the opportunity for concentrated study and application of a range of specific explanatory theoretical models and evidence-based intervention strategies with children, adolescents and their families. Special attention is given to multicultural theoretical approaches that guide approaches to providing services to children and adolescents from diverse racial, ethnic, social and sexual orientation backgrounds and diverse settings. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 748. Group Methods in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Presents several conceptual models of therapeutic groups that explain group dynamics and processes, including evidence-based treatment, educational and mutual aid/self-help. Covers agency conditions affecting practice with groups, the planning of new groups, the multiple phases of group process, and related theory-based interventions and techniques of work with groups and group practice evaluation. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 749. Social Work Intervention in Substance Abuse. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Provides students with the physiological, emotional and behavioral manifestations of substance abuse, DSM-IV-TR-based assessment, a range of relevant evidence-based intervention strategies and the role of social workers in evaluation and intervention. Covers explanatory theory models that guide substance abuse intervention and presents screening, assessment and interventional techniques. Current research and controversies in the field are also emphasized. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 750. Ethics and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Examines the history and development of the values base and ethical principles of the social work profession. Investigates codes of ethics for professional practice, with special attention to the principles of human relationships, integrity, social justice and competence. Analyzes ethical dilemmas in social work practice. Considers mechanisms for the enforcement of ethical codes.

SLWK 751. Social Work Practice and AIDS. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 694; or SLWK 612. . Focuses on information, knowledge and skills needed to provide social work services to persons with ARC and AIDS and their families. Emphasizes epidemiological material, psychological and psychosocial aspects of AIDS and ARC for understanding the context of social policies and social work intervention. Addresses differential application of social work roles and functions.

SLWK 753. Social Work Practice with Oppressed Racial and Ethnic Groups. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on enhancing the student's micro and macro social work interventions with oppressed racial and ethnic groups. Addresses the social and economic context in which social work practice occurs. Examines history, ethics, values, attitudes and behaviors of the student and the profession as they relate to assessment and intervention with oppressed racial and ethnic groups. Assesses intervention frameworks and techniques for their appropriateness and effectiveness with these groups.

SLWK 755. Social Work Practice in Organizing for Social Change. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. An advanced practice course that recognizes the central role of social action in social work practice, no matter the context, and the value of social justice, no matter what client population. Built on the idea of multiple perspectives and using the Rothman model of organizing, it assumes students already possess basic policy practice and direct practice skills in order to focus on the dimensions of social action and locality development.

SLWK 757. Special Topics in Clinical Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 703 and 704. Provides knowledge and skills for intervention across fields of practice with the use of up to three clinical practice theories or intervention modalities that are not emphasized in required clinical practice courses. Focuses on the differential application of intervention strategies to problems of children, youth and adults. Examines the impact of diversity in clinical practice.

SLWK 759. Art Therapy in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Focuses on explanatory theory supporting art therapy as an evidence-based approach to clinical social work intervention. Explores the models, principles and techniques of art therapy in social work practice. Examines assessment, intervention, termination and evaluation strategies that supplement traditional social work treatment, including research and specific evidence-based practice strategies for individuals, families, groups and diverse populations.

SLWK 761. Interpersonal Violence. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and SLWK 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. The purpose of this course is to increase clinical social work students' theory-based and practice knowledge and understanding of interpersonal violence as it relates to various client systems throughout the lifespan to include: prenatal exposure to interpersonal violence, child abuse and neglect, teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, children's experience with intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. The course will highlight victim and perpetrator experiences related to interpersonal violence. The course will emphasize resiliency as well as the experiences of diverse populations from a person-in-environment perspective. The course will also consider prevention strategies and relevant policy issues related to interpersonal violence.

SLWK 765. Supervision. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Explores task components and responsibilities in supervision of the social worker. Emphasizes a conceptual framework for supervision, including knowledge base, methods and skill in supervision. Attention to affirmative action programs in social service delivery systems.

SLWK 769. Women's Issues and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Explores new perspectives on women and their changing roles as these affect social work practice; direct and indirect ways sexist attitudes are acquired and conveyed; effects of changing female roles of human behavior theory and its application, development of new life styles; social work theories and their relevance to today's world; current women's issues; and the social worker's role as counselor and advocate.

SLWK 770. International Social Work Study Abroad. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. International study. Examines social work clinical and policy practice, social pedagogy and the social welfare system of another country that includes a field trip to the country. Examines a range of issues pertaining to the country, including: society, culture and history; social work education; the social welfare system; selected social programs; social work clinical and policy practice; and comparisons of these topics between the country and the U.S. Requires completion of several course units before the study abroad program.

SLWK 773. Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 or 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Presents methods, problems and research findings related to the evaluation of social welfare programs. Examines research design options and methodologies available for program evaluation. Explores organizational and administrative contexts in which evaluation activities are initiated, supported, disseminated and utilized. Presents data processing and the roles of data analysis and the computer in the evaluation of social welfare programs.

SLWK 791. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with minimum grade of C. Presents and analyzes current social work practice theories and/or issues in specialized areas of interest to social work. Advanced clinical curriculum elective course.

SLWK 792. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.

Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694, or SLWK 695, or SLWK 612, each with a minimum grade of C. The student is required to submit a proposal, guided by theory, for investigation in an identified practice area or problem in social work not ordinarily included in the regular M.S.W. curriculum. The topic is proposed by the student; the number of credit hours is determined by the instructor and approved by the M.S.W. program director. The results of the study are presented in a format determined by the instructor and student and approved by the M.S.W. program director. Concentration year elective course.

SLWK 793. Concentration Field Instruction I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 field experience hours. 3 credits. Students spend 21 hours per week in the field. First of a two-course sequence that provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum.

SLWK 794. Concentration Field Instruction II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 field experience hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 793 with minimum grade of C. Students spend 21 hours per week in the field. Second of a two-course sequence provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum.

SLWK 795. Concentration Block Field Instruction. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 6 field experience hours. 6 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 705 with a minimum grade of C. Students meet five days a week for 40 hours per week for one semester. Advanced block field instruction (option for part-time students). Provides opportunities to master advanced social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of course requires 600 structured field hours.

SLWK 796. Concentration Field Instruction DE I. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 field experience hours. 2 credits. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or generalist curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Enrollment is restricted to students with M.S.W. concentration standing in the distance education program. Students will spend 15 hours per week in the field. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum.

SLWK 797. Concentration Field Instruction DE II. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 field experience hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 796 with minimum grade of C. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or generalist curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Enrollment is restricted to students with M.S.W. concentration standing in the distance education program. Students will spend 15 hours per week in the field. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum.

SLWK 798. Concentration Field Instruction DE III. 2 Hours.

Semester course; 2 field experience hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 797 with a minimum grade of C. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or generalist curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Enrollment is restricted to students with M.S.W. concentration standing in the distance education program. Students will spend 15 hours per week in the field. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum.