

## **MSSW Required Advanced Courses**

### **SW 641: Advanced Social Work Practice I (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW 605 or admission into the 30-hour program and either registration in Summer preceding SW 640 in the Fall or concurrent registration with SW 640 in the Fall. Advanced Practice I provides students with instruction and experience in assessing, engaging, planning, and executing projects for and in collaboration with organizations and communities. The course focuses on several theories of organizational and community change, leadership and management styles to facilitate learning and application. The course builds on the foundation set in SW 605 which paid special attention to particular elements of organizational and community dynamics affecting women and members of diverse ethnic and racial groups in order to expose students to an appreciation of human diversity, the promotion of social and economic justice, and empowerment of oppressed populations. Advanced Practice I will extend and deepen the knowledge gained in SW 605 by teaching practical skills in such areas as creating change, conducting assessments, networking, leadership, strategic planning, project development and management, team work, meeting management, community planning, community development, community organization, budgeting and finances, fundraising and grant writing, marketing and interfacing with the media, with a special emphasis on working with groups, and organizations that work with or on behalf of oppressed populations, and communities so as to promote social and economic justice. The tools for learning will include lecture, discussion, role-playing, case reviews, and team work on projects designed to develop and enhance specific skills. (SW 703 replaces SW 641 for students in the MSSW-MFT specialization)

### **SW 640: Advanced Social Work Practice II (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW 605 or admission into the 30-hour program and concurrent registration in SW 672. This course uses advanced problem-solving practice models and critical thinking skills designed to guide everyday decisions social workers make, whether they function as direct service providers or case managers supervisors. Social workers who are community organizers and administrators will also benefit from this course, although most of the applications will be related to individual, family and other small group level systems. Core Themes and Integration: The core themes of this course are: Engagement, Problem Formulation, Assessment, Intervention and Advanced Interviewing Skills. The course also expands on and provide more advanced understanding of the following themes in Foundation Practice: Ecological and Systems Theory, Critical Thinking in planning for Change, Multiple Systemic Levels of Change, Engagement and Evaluation. The course builds on and requires integration of Advanced Research Course material related to: Evaluation, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Planned Intervention. The case study you will be required to do in this course relies on work you do in Field with client systems.

### **SW 677: Advanced Social Work Practice III (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW 640, SW 641 and concurrent registration in SW 673. This is the 3rd course in the Advanced Practice Sequence with a focus on reinforcing, integrating and building on practice skills learned in Advanced Practice I (SW 641) and

Advanced Practice II (SW 640). It expands on and provides more advanced coursework on intervention, with special attention devoted to complex practice situations encountered by social workers in social welfare organizations, schools, health and mental health care facilities, and in the community. Students learn intervention strategies and practice skills rooted in solution oriented, cognitive, behavioral, and systemic approaches to promote change at multiple levels of social systems using a case based learning approach.

### **SW 668: Advanced Research Practice I (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW 626 or admission to the 30-hour program. Access to a social services agency where projects from this class can be implemented (via practicum, work, or other access to an agency). This course prepares students to critically appraise information gathered through literature reviews, practice wisdom, and consumer perspectives to inform best practices in social work. A plan to incorporate critically appraised information into current micro and/or macro social work practice is developed and implemented. Students will automatically be registered for the same section of SW 669 Advanced Research Practice II before early Spring registration.

### **SW 669: Advanced Research Practice II (3)**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW 668. Access to a social services agency where projects from this class can be implemented (via practicum, work, or other access to an agency). This course prepares students to disseminate best practices information to micro and macro practice settings, and evaluate the impact of their dissemination efforts via use of quantitative and qualitative methods and analysis. It is important to note that SW 668 and SW 669 are two research courses delivered in a sequence in which a yearlong project is completed in collaboration with an advanced practicum placement. If students experience any disruption in their placement before the start of the SW 669 section of this course sequence, or if students have an interruption in their studies and do not take SW 669 immediately after SW 668, students may be required to undergo an academic review with their research instructor, the research sequence chair and the director of field, to determine the best way possible in which the yearlong project can be completed. Students may be required to retake SW 668 to secure a yearlong interaction with an advanced practicum placement and successful completion of the research project.

### **SW 672 and SW 673: Advanced Social Work Practicum I (3) & II (3)**

Prerequisites: SW 672: Satisfactory completion of all foundation level courses or admission to the 30-hour program and concurrent registration in SW 640. SW 673: Successful completion of SW 672, SW 641, and SW 640 and concurrent registration in SW 677. This is an advanced level practicum designed to build on the foundation generalist practicum and all the foundation level courses, continuing the strengths model of social work practice. This advanced practicum focuses on the application of advanced theory, knowledge and skills covered in the advanced level curriculum. Students will integrate the competencies developed in their advanced year with practice experience. Students will use theoretical understanding of advanced level social work practice, social policy, social work values and ethics, and communication skills to guide practice interventions. Students will use advanced level research techniques and knowledge

along with advanced systems analysis, to assess and evaluate interventions on all levels of social work practice. Students will continue development of their critical thinking skills. This course serves as the summative practice experience. Students practice under the supervision of a qualified agency-based social worker and the guidance of a school-based faculty liaison. An integral feature of the practicum is the sharing of practicum experiences with other students in advanced classes. These classes provide opportunities to present the student's work in a guided learning environment and to strengthen the integration of theory and practice. A minimum of 225 total hours (16 hours per week) of practice within an agency setting is required for each practicum semester. The student continues in the same agency from the Fall through the Spring semester, for this two-semester field placement and a grand total of 450 hours in the advanced practicum.