

**College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs  
School of Social Work  
Boise State University 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog 173**

**Degree Requirements  
Master of Social Work — Two Year Program  
Course Number and Title Credits**

<b>Year One—Foundation</b>		<b>31 Credits</b>
SOCWRK 502	Foundation of Social Welfare and Social Work: History and Philosophy	3 Credits
SOCWRK 503	Foundation Social Work Practice I: Individuals	3 Credits
SOCWRK 504	Foundation Social Work Practice II: Families and Groups	3 Credits
SOCWRK 505	Foundation of Social Welfare Policy	3 Credits
SOCWRK 512	HBSE I Human Development Through the Life Cycle	3 Credits
SOCWRK 514	Ethnicity, Gender and Class	1 Credit
SOCWRK 515	Foundation Social Work Practice III: Organizations and Communities	3 Credits
SOCWRK 521	HBSE II Social Dimensions of Human Behavior	3 Credits
SOCWRK 530	Foundations of Research I	2 Credits
SOCWRK 531	Foundations of Research II	2 Credits
SOCWRK 570	Foundation Field Work I	2 Credits
SOCWRK 572	Foundation Field Work II	2 Credits
SOCWRK 573	Foundation Practicum Seminar I	1 Credit
SOCWRK 574	Foundation Practicum Seminar II	1 Credit



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**Master of Social Work — Advanced Standing  
Course Number and Title Credits**

Applicants who are graduates of a CSWE accredited baccalaureate program in Social Work may request admission to the advanced program. The advanced standing option is a nine-month program.

Criteria for admission for Advanced Standing study in the MSW program are:

1. Graduation from a CSWE Accredited Baccalaureate Social Work Program.
2. Minimum GPA of 3.0 in social work courses from an accredited undergraduate program. Students with an individual social work course with a grade less than C will be required to complete additional equivalent content.
3. This degree must have been completed within five years of the applicant's planned entry into Boise State University's MSW program **OR** within seven years if the applicant has substantial paid social work experience.
4. All other requirements equivalent to regular admissions.

**Note:** Applicants may not receive academic credit for work experience in the field.

**31 CREDITS**

## Course Offerings

### SOCWRK — SOCIAL WORK

**SOCWRK 502 FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL WORK: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(F).** The major purpose of this course is to place the profession of Social Work within historical context. The course explores the development of social welfare institutions and the Social Work profession in the United States from its European roots, emphasizing social welfare issues and social policy and programmatic responses. This course also examines the impact of human diversity on socioeconomic and political statuses and access to social welfare resources and social work services. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program.

**SOCWRK 503 FOUNDATION SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE I: INDIVIDUALS (3-0-3)(F).** This is the first practice course within the foundation year of the MSW program. Practice I introduces students to knowledge and skills for generalist practice with individuals. Students practice key skills that include engagement, interviewing, assessment, contracting, intervention, recording, and the use of consultation and supervision in the context of social work values and ethics and affirming working relationships. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program. PREREQ/COREQ: SOCWRK 512; SOCWRK 570.

**SOCWRK 504 FOUNDATION SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE II: FAMILIES AND GROUPS (3-0-3)(S).** This is the second generalist practice course within the three course practice sequence in the foundation year. This course builds on the foundational skills gained through successful completion of Practice I. Practice II introduces the student to theories and skills required for social work practice with diverse families and groups including assessing, building upon strengths and resources within all client systems, social work values and ethics, and delivering empirically based interventions to small groups and families.

PREREQ: SOCWRK 503. PRE/COREQ: SOCWRK 512; SOCWRK 572.  
**SOCWRK 505 FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY (3-0-3)(S).** Critically examines contemporary welfare policies, in a value-analytic framework, and in the context of the United States and international political economies. Emphasis is placed on values of equity, adequacy, and universality of access to basic social and economic security. Policy practice skills include identification and evaluation of policy problems, including their empirical and value dimensions, and skills in policy advocacy with legislators and with the general public. Major importance is placed on policies and programs that impact populations-at-risk. PREREQ: Admission to MSW; SOCWRK 502.

**SOCWRK 506 ADVANCED POLICY AND LEGISLATION: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES (3-0-3)(S).** This advanced policy course is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to analyze, design, and advocate for social welfare policy and programs, with a specific focus on policies and programs which affect individuals and families. The course examines various theoretical approaches to family policy, as well as current policy issues and legislation. Research on family needs is emphasized. The cultural values and ideological orientations that undergird policy preferences are critiqued. An introduction to family policy approaches in other nations sharpens this critique. PREREQ: SOCWRK 505 or admission to Advanced Standing MSW Program.

**SOCWRK 512 HBSE I HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LIFE CYCLE (3-0-3)(F).** Examines the use of a biopsychosociocultural development framework, within the context of social work values and ethics, in understanding the interrelationships among human, biological, psychological, and social systems as they affect and are affected by human behavior. Examines and contrasts empirically-based theories of human development. Students learn age-related tasks commonly associated with different life stages, influenced by gender, historical time, culture, and economics. Examines unique factors affecting development of women, ethnic and racial groups, GLBT individuals, people with disabilities and other historically oppressed people. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program.

**SOCWRK 514 ETHNICITY, GENDER AND CLASS (1-0-1)(F,SU).** This experiential course in a small group format is designed to provide a positive environment for students' exploration of their attitudes toward human diversity. The major objective is that students will increase their knowledge and awareness of the experiences of people of oppressed groups, in relation to historical prejudice and discrimination. Students will gain insight in sociohistorical and familial roots of their own biases and increase their ability

to sensitively work with individuals and groups who are subjected to oppression, based on race ethnicity, gender, affectional orientation, class, and other stigmatizing characteristics. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program.  
**SOCWRK 515 FOUNDATION SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE III: ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES (3-0-3)(S).** This is the third generalist practice course within the foundation year of the MSW program. Practice III introduces students to theories and skills required for social work practice in organizational and community settings. Using organizations and communities as settings for social work practice and targets of change, and based on social work values and ethics, students learn strategies and skills for assessment and intervention. Conceptual models of macro change are examined including social planning, community organizing, social action, and community/organizational development and change. PREREQ: SOCWRK 503. PRE/COREQ: SOCWRK 504; SOCWRK 521; SOCWRK 572.

**SOCWRK 516 ADVANCED PRACTICE WITH DIVERSE POPULATIONS (2-0-2)(S).** Examines the socio-dynamics of culture, oppression, power and identity in relation to working with diverse client populations in a variety of social work settings. Requires students to reflect on the significance of their own social and cultural identities and those of their clients in practice experiences. Builds upon the foundation curriculum.

**SOCWRK 521 HBSE II SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR (3-0-3)(S).** This course explores the impact of social systems on human behavior in terms of socioeconomic, sociopolitical and sociocultural forces, from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Examines the ways in which systems promote or deter achievement and maintenance of optimal health and well-being. The effects of prejudice and discrimination on individuals and groups, based on race, ethnicity, gender, affectional orientation, class, or other stigmatizing characteristics are emphasized. PREREQ: SOCWRK 512.

**SOCWRK 525 ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS II: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES (3-0-3)(S).** This is the second practice course in the concentration year of the MSW program. Builds and expands upon knowledge gained through successful completion of all prior courses. Designed to provide students the opportunity to enhance practice skills necessary to provide effective assessment and intervention techniques regarding the more general issues and disorders, which are frequently seen by social workers, such as child maltreatment, substance abuse, and mental health. PREREQ: SOCWRK 550. COREQ: SOCWRK 576.

**SOCWRK 526 THE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS (3-0-3)(F).** Prepares students to conduct systematic biopsychosocial assessments, formulate differential diagnostic impressions in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), and recommend treatment plans informed by the state of the art. Championing the development of robust helping relationships that empower consumers by building on assets and strengths, students are taught to monitor their practice for bias related to affectional orientation, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, and spirituality. PREREQ: SOCWRK 504 or admission to Advanced Standing MSW Program.

**SOCWRK 530 FOUNDATIONS OF RESEARCH I (2-0-2)(F).** This is the first of a two-course sequence on foundations of research and analysis. It is designed to provide students with the knowledge base and skills for using scientific method to advance social work practice, knowledge, and theory. The course covers quantitative and qualitative methods. Content includes conceptualization, operationalization, design, sampling, measurement, data collection, use of results, and ethical considerations including how research affects diverse populations. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program.

**SOCWRK 531 FOUNDATIONS OF RESEARCH II (2-0-2)(S).** This is the second course in a two-course sequence on foundations of research and analysis. This course focuses on methods of analysis, and implications of quantitative and qualitative data to advance social work practice, knowledge, and theory. Students learn to use and interpret various statistical procedures for analyzing quantitative data, including univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis, and analysis for qualitative data. Students apply analytic techniques using computer software applications. PREREQ: SOCWRK 530.

**SOCWRK 532 ADVANCED RESEARCH: PROGRAM AND PRACTICE EVALUATION (3-0-3)(F).** This course builds on basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. Students gain knowledge and skills to use appropriate research methods for empirically based knowledge building and to enhance program and practice effectiveness. Content includes single system and group design and formative and summative approaches to practice and program evaluation. The course is intended to prepare students to participate in and utilize outcome evaluation of practice in their agency settings. Students complete an evaluation project in this course in conjunction with their advanced practicum placement. PREREQ: Admission to MSW Program or SOCWRK 530 and SOCWRK 531 COREQ: SOCWRK 575

**SOCWRK 550 ADVANCED INTERVENTIONS I: COMPARATIVE THEORIES (3-0-3)(F).** This is the first practice course in the concentration year of the MSW Program, which focuses on individuals and families. This course builds upon the generalist foundation and advances student knowledge of theoretical frameworks used in social work practice to bring about change with individuals and families. Students will examine practice implications of different theoretical frameworks with particular attention to the efficacy of those theoretical and practice models with oppressed and at-risk populations. In addition, empirically based interventions, critical aspects of the therapeutic relationship, which promote growth and bring about change, and the application of social work values and evaluation of practice are areas of focus. PREREQ: Admission to Advanced Standing MSW Program or SOCWRK 503, SOCWRK 504, and SOCWRK 515. COREQ: SOCWRK 575.

**SOCIAL WORK 570 FOUNDATION FIELD WORK I (0-15-2)(F).** This foundation practicum provides students with a supervised social work practice experience in a social service agency under the direct supervision of a licensed social worker. It includes experiential learning in foundation social work values, skills and knowledge, and development of professional self. (Pass/Fail.) COREQ: SOCWRK 503, SOCWRK 573 and admission to the MSW Two Year Program.

**SOCWRK 571 (COUN 571)(MHLTHSCI 571) FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTHY AGING (3-0-3)(F).** Overview of gerontology presented by examining major issues related to aging. Content includes theories of aging; the impact of an aging population; and future implications at local, national, and international levels. May be taken as COUN, MHLTHSCI or SOCWRK credit, but only for one department.

**SOCWRK 572 FOUNDATION FIELD WORK II (0-15-2)(S).** Continuation of SOCWRK 570. PREREQ: SOCWRK 503, SOCWRK 570, and admission to the MSW Two Year Program. COREQ: SOCWRK 504 and SOCWRK 574.

**SOCWRK 573 FOUNDATION PRACTICUM SEMINAR I (1-0-1)(F).** Integrative seminar that facilitates development of a generalist practice perspective in social work values, skills and knowledge, and development of professional self. PREREQ: Admission to the MSW Two Year Program. COREQ: SOCWRK 503 and SOCWRK 570.

**SOCWRK 574 FOUNDATION PRACTICUM SEMINAR II (1-0-1) (S).** Continuation of SOCWRK 573. PREREQ: SOCWRK 503, SOCWRK 570, and admission to the MSW Two Year Program. COREQ: SOCWRK 504 and SOCWRK 572.

**SOCWRK 575 ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I (0-20-5)(F).** Provides students with a supervised social work practiced experience in a social service agency under the direct supervision of a licensed social worker. Includes experiential learning in direct practice with individuals and families. (Pass/Fail.) PREREQ: SOCWRK 572 or admission to the MSW Advanced Standing Program. COREQ: SOCWRK 577.

**SOCWRK 576 ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II (0-20-5)(S).** Continuation of SOCWRK 575. (Pass/Fail.) PREREQ: SOCWRK 575. COREQ: SOCWRK 578.

**SOCWRK 577 ADVANCED PRACTICUM SEMINAR I (1-0-1)(F).** Integrative seminar that facilitates development of advanced direct social work practice knowledge, skills and values with individuals and families. PREREQ: SOCWRK 572 or admission to the MSW Advanced Standing Program. COREQ: SOCWRK 575.

**SOCWRK 578 ADVANCED PRACTICUM SEMINAR II (1-0-1)(S).** Continuation of SOCWRK 577. PREREQ: SOCWRK 575, SOCWRK 577. COREQ: SOCWRK 576

#### SELECTED TOPICS:

**SOCWRK 580 SOCIAL WORK WITH DIVERSE POPULATIONS.  
SOCWRK 581 SOCIAL WORK WITH FAMILIES.  
SOCWRK 582 SOCIAL WORK WITH THE ELDERLY.  
SOCWRK 583 SOCIAL WORK WITH SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS.  
SOCWRK 584 SOCIAL WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH.  
SOCWRK 585 ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES.  
SOCWRK 586 SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS.  
SOCWRK 587 SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISION .  
SOCWRK 594 CONFERENCE OR WORKSHOP.  
SOCWRK 595 READING AND CONFERENCE.  
SOCWRK 596 INDEPENDENT STUDY.  
SOCWRK 597 SPECIAL TOPICS.  
SOCWRK 696 DIRECTED RESEARCH.**