

Social Work (Professional Program: MSW)

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Administration:

Dean of the Jane Addams College of Social Work: Creasie Finney Hairston, PhD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services: Cassandra McKay-Jackson, PhD
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid: Marybel Flores, MSW

Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work degree program develops knowledge, values, and skills necessary for competent and effective social work practice.

Full-time students complete the degree in two years. A three-year master's program, known as the PM-Extended Study Option, is also available. Under the PM-Extended Study Option, students extend the usual first year of full-time study over two years, with classroom courses scheduled in the late afternoon and evening. Students in the first year of the full-time program and for the first two years of the PM-Extended Study Option are assigned a class schedule by the Jane Addams College of Social Work. In their third year, PM-Extended Study students must register for full-time study. Students in their specialization year are not preassigned a class schedule; daytime or evening class sections are offered to all specialization-year students.

For applicants who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited program the college offers admission with Advanced Standing. These students typically complete the Master of Social Work Program within two semesters.

The Master of Social Work at UIC is considered a professional program and is not administered by the Graduate College.

The college offers a curriculum for advanced social work practice in five areas of specialization:

1. Mental Health
2. Child and Family
3. Organization and Community Practice
4. School Social Work
5. Social Work within Justice Systems.

MSW/MPH Joint Degree Program

The MSW/MPH joint degree allows students interested in the field of public health social work to complete the degree in a shorter period of time than would be required if the program were taken separately and provides students opportunities to integrate the competencies and perspectives of the two disciplines in a deliberate and coordinated way.

For more information on the MSW/MPH Joint Degree Program, please consult the following website:

- [MSW/MPH joint degree program](#)

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor and receiving permission from the concentration contact. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)
- [Latin American and Latino Studies](#)
- [Survey Research Methodology](#)
- [Violence Studies](#)

Completing a concentration is in addition to, not in lieu of, selecting one of the social work specializations.

Admission Requirements

- **Prior Degrees** Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university.
- **Prerequisite Courses** Liberal arts background consisting of credit received on the collegiate level in the following area: Social and Behavioral Sciences (20 semester/30 quarter hours). Statistics course passed with a minimum grade of C.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 2.75/4.00 for the final 60 semester/90 quarter hours of undergraduate study.
- **Tests Required** None.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
 - **TOEFL** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), **OR**,
 - **IELTS** 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Resume** Required.
- **Personal Statement** Applicants may enter up to 100 words per question. All questions on the application must be submitted.
- **Academic Transcripts** Applicants must upload and submit official academic transcripts for **all** undergraduate and graduate schools attended. UIC undergraduate students will not need to submit credentials for UIC course work. A UIC transcript will post to the application within a day or two of submission.
- **Letters of Reference** Three letters of reference required. The university will automatically contact the references' email to request an electronic letter of recommendation.

- **Interviews** Required for transfer applicants. All other interviews are at the discretion of the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid.
- **Deadlines** The minimum requirements and supporting documentation **MUST** be received by the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid by June 30 **WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS**.

Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. The complete application is taken into consideration during the application review process. All complete applications submitted by the deadline are reviewed and given consideration.

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 62
- **Course Work** The program requires 28 semester hours of Generalist course work and 34 semester hours of Advanced Specialization course work.

Generalist Course Work

The Generalist portion of the MSW curriculum is completed in the first year for Full-Time students, and in the first and second year for PM-Extended students.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
SOCW 430	Practice I: Generalist Practice with Individuals and Organizations	
SOCW 410	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	
SOCW 420	Policy I: Social Welfare Policy and Services	
SOCW 570	Field Instruction I	
SOCW 431	Practice II: Generalist Practice with Families, Groups, and Communities	
SOCW 411	Critical Social Work in a Multicultural Society	
SOCW 460	Research I: Social Work Research	
SOCW 571	Field Instruction II	

Full-Time Students, Generalist Course Work Plan of Study

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester (14 semester hours)		
SOCW 430	Practice I: Generalist Practice with Individuals and Organizations	
SOCW 410	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	
SOCW 420	Policy I: Social Welfare Policy and Services	
SOCW 570	Field Instruction I	
Spring Semester (14 Semester Hours)		
SOCW 431	Practice II: Generalist Practice with Families, Groups, and Communities	
SOCW 411	Critical Social Work in a Multicultural Society	

SOCW 460	Research I: Social Work Research
SOCW 571	Field Instruction II

PM-Extended Students, Generalist Course Work Plan of Study

Code	Title	Hours
First Year, Fall Semester - 6 Hours		
SOCW 410	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	
SOCW 420	Policy I: Social Welfare Policy and Services	
First Year, Spring Semester - 6 Hours		
SOCW 411	Critical Social Work in a Multicultural Society	
SOCW 460	Research I: Social Work Research	
Second Year, Fall Semester - 11 Hours		
SOCW 430	Practice I: Generalist Practice with Individuals and Organizations	
One of the following, depending on Field Instruction Option: ^a		
SOCW 570	Field Instruction I (for Option 1)	
Elective ^b		
Second Year, Spring Semester - 11 Hours		
SOCW 431	Practice II: Generalist Practice with Families, Groups, and Communities	
One of the following, depending on Field Instruction Option: ^a		
SOCW 571	Field Instruction II (for Option 1)	
SOCW 570	Field Instruction I (for Option 2)	
Elective ^b		
Second Year, Summer Semester - 10 Hours		
One of the following, depending on Field Instruction Option: ^a		
SOCW 571	Field Instruction II (for Option 2)	
SOCW 570	Field Instruction I	
& SOCW 571	and Field Instruction II (for Option 3)	

^a *PM-Extended Study Students have three options for completing the required Field Instruction courses. **Option 1:** Beginning SOCW 570 in the fall of the second year and SOCW 571 in the spring; **Option 2:** Beginning SOCW 570 in the spring of the second year and completing SOCW 571 in the summer term; **Option 3:** Registering for both SOCW 570 and SOCW 571 in the summer. Students must receive approval of their option from the director of field instruction.*

^b *PM-Extended Study Option students needing additional credits to qualify for federal financial aid may take electives for which they have prerequisites.*

Advanced Specialization Course Work

The Advanced Specialization portion of the MSW curriculum is completed in the second year for Full-Time students, and in the third, full-time year for PM-Extended students. Five advanced specializations are offered: Child and Family, Mental Health, Organization and Community Practice, School Social Work, and Social Work within Justice Systems.

Child and Family Specialization

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 582	Practice III: Practice with Children and Families	
SOCW 552	Policy II: Child and Family Policy	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 572	Field Instruction III	
Spring Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 583	Practice IV: Practice with Children and Families	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 563	Program Evaluation	
or SOCW 565	Research Seminars: Social Service Issues	
or SOCW 567	Research Project	
SOCW 573	Field Instruction IV	

Mental Health Specialization

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 586	Practice III: Mental Health	
SOCW 554	Policy II: Mental Health Policy	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 572	Field Instruction III	
Spring Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 587	Practice IV: Mental Health	
SOCW 563	Program Evaluation	
or SOCW 565	Research Seminars: Social Service Issues	
or SOCW 567	Research Project	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 573	Field Instruction IV	

Organization and Community Practice Specialization

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 519	Practice III: Organization and Community Practice	
SOCW 531	Policy II: Community Health and Urban Development	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 572	Field Instruction III	
Spring Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 520	Practice IV: Community Health and Urban Development	
SOCW 563	Program Evaluation	
or SOCW 565	Research Seminars: Social Service Issues	
or SOCW 567	Research Project	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 573	Field Instruction IV	

School Social Work Specialization

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 588	Practice III: School Social Work	
SOCW 551	Policy II: School Social Work Policy	
SPED 410	Exceptional Learners	
SOCW 572	Field Instruction III	
Spring Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 589	Practice IV: School Social Work	
SOCW 565	Research Seminars: Social Service Issues	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 573	Field Instruction IV	

Social Work within Justice Systems Specialization

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 506	Practice III: Social Work Micro Practice in the Justice Systems	
SOCW 536	Policy II: Juvenile and Criminal Justice Policy	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 572	Field Instruction III	
Spring Semester - 17 Hours		
SOCW 507	Practice IV: Social Work Macro Practice in the Justice Systems	
SOCW 505	Juvenile and Criminal Justice Research Methods	
Elective (if not taken prior)		
SOCW 573	Field Instruction IV	

Other Requirements

- **GPA** A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00/4.00 must be maintained.
- **Residence** A minimum of 9 semester hours must be earned at the University of Illinois Chicago in each of two consecutive terms.
- **Transfer of Credit** A maximum of 28 hours of credit may be transferred for work taken elsewhere. No course with a grade less than B can be transferred.
- **Time Limit** All requirements must be completed within six years, excluding military service.