

# MALONE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM – PLAN OF STUDY FOR STUDENTS

The social work curriculum at Malone University has three components:

1. General Education Requirements
2. Social Work Support Courses
3. Social Work Professional courses

## Required Support Courses

To supplement and support the learning within the major courses, each social work student is required to take certain support courses. These courses count as either elective hours or count towards the required general education hours. The required support courses are as follows:

COURSE #	Course Title	Credits
<b><i>One of each:</i></b>		
◇ BIOL 172	Introduction to Human Biology	3
HIST 211 or HIST 212	American History I or American History II	3
◇ POL 201	Intro to American Government	3
◇ PSYC 121	Intro to Psychology	3
◇ PSYC 140	Intro to Statistics	3
PSYC 220	Psychology of Human Development	3
PSYC 344	Abnormal Psychology	3
SOC 310	Prejudice, Discrimination, Inequality	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

◇ also counts as a general education requirement

## Social Work & Social Work Support Courses (EXCLUDING GEN ED REQUIREMENTS)

A major consists of 46 hours including SWK 222, 242, 262, 311, 312, 345, 347, 348, 372, 401, 440, 460 and one section of SWK 470. As noted above, the additional 24 hours of social work support courses include BIOL 172; HIST 211 or 212; POL 201; PSYC 121, 140, 220, 344; SOC 310

## Fully Online SWK classes are offered in:

Full Semester Fall Classes: SWK222, SWK242, SWK372

**Term (8 week) Fall Classes:** SWK262, SWK311, SWK401, SWK470, BIOL172, PSYCH121, PSYCH140, PSYCH220, PSYCH344

**Full Semester Spring Classes:** SWK222, SWK312, SWK345, SWK348,

**Term (8 week) Spring Classes:** SWK262, SWK347, SWK470, BIOL172, PSYCH121, PSYCH140, PSYCH220, PSYCH344

**Summer Term (8 week) Classes:** HIST211 or 212, POL 201, PSYCH121, PSYCH140, PSYCH220, SOC 310

### **Traditional In-Seat SWK classes are offered in:**

**Fall:** SWK222, SWK262, SWK211, SWK311, SWK345, SWK372, SWK401, SWK476

**Spring:** SWK242, SWK312, SWK347, SWK348, SWK440, SWK460, SWK470

Must be a senior social work major, passed through the junior year interview described below,\* have at least a GPA of 2.5 in the major in order to take SWK440 and SWK460, the senior field practicum courses. Your senior practicum requires you complete 450 total hours at one social work practicum site. This can be accomplished in one semester OR it can be spread over two semesters (roughly 225 practicum hours in consecutive semesters). The decision to complete the practicum in one semester or over two consecutive semesters needs to be decided before you begin your practicum experience.

\* Junior Year Gate Interview: Sometime in the student's junior year, they must complete an application packet, be interviewed by a faculty member, and receive permission to continue in the major. The purpose of this interview is to have a gatekeeping process to ensure that all social work graduates are a good fit for helping vulnerable populations. The application process is completed by a second interview and review of the student's application as outlined in the Social Work Program Handbook. Students must maintain a 2.5 major GPA. To remain in the program, students must abide by the NASW Code of Ethics and by program policies as outlined within the Social Work Program Handbook.

The sequence of courses is complemented with a 450-hour senior practicum. This practicum is usually completed during the spring semester of the senior year.

## Social Work Course Descriptions

### **SWK 211 - Community Based Cross-Cultural Experience (2) – NOT A REQUIRED COURSE**

This course requires both classroom experience and a 30-hour community experience throughout the semester. It provides an opportunity for students to engage with cultures or sub-cultures that are outside their cultural milieu. Class meetings present information on the historic, cultural, economic, and political realities faced by those served by the agencies in which the students are assigned. Prior to the experience, each student is required to meet with the faculty member in charge of the course to ascertain best times and placements for the student. Fulfills the Cross-Cultural Encounter component of the General Education Program, but is not required within the major.

### **SWK 222 - Introduction to the Profession and Practice of Social Work (4)**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the fields of practice in which social workers are employed, social work values, the nature of generalist practice, social welfare history and policies, populations-at-risk which are served by social workers, and professional social work ethics. A required 40-hour field practicum within a social service setting provides students with an introduction to professional social work. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 121. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 242 - Human Behavior and Social Environment (4)**

This course examines different social science theories about human growth and development. The intent is to look at these theories in relation to the generalist social work perspective and in relation to diverse ethnic, racial, gender, religious, and age-related groups. It provides an understanding of the interactions between and among human biological, social, psychological, and cultural systems as they affect and are in turn, affected by human behaviors. Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites or co-requisites: PSYC 220; BIOL 172. Offered each Spring.

### **SWK 262 - Research and Writing for Social Work Professionals (2)**

This course will cover the basics of professional research and professional writing. Content will include both the use of APA as the professional standard for writing within the social work program and assessment and note taking in an agency setting. This class will also teach students how to research appropriately for social work writing and evidenced-based professional practice. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 311 - History of Social Welfare (3)**

This course examines the historical development of the social welfare institutions, the development of the profession of social work, and the basic philosophies which have molded the structure and provision of service to vulnerable citizens throughout history. Prerequisite(s): SWK 242 or permission of the Department Chair. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 312 - Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3)**

This course develops a framework for understanding and evaluating social welfare policy at the national, state, local and agency levels, for analyzing policies related to certain population groups, and for understanding methods of achieving change in social policy. Discussion of policy making from a generalist perspective is introduced. Techniques for advocacy, as well as NASW Policies as reflected in *Social Work Speaks*, are discussed and analyzed. Social justice for those who have faced historic oppression within the United States is emphasized. Prerequisite(s): SWK 311 or permission of the Department Chair. Offered each Spring.

### **SWK 345 - Practice with Individuals (4)**

This course introduces students to the stages of the social work helping process: assessment, goal planning, intervention, evaluation, and termination. This course also assists students to appreciate diversity, develop culturally competent practice skills, use theoretical models to guide social work practice, and practice according to professional social work ethics. The course combines experiential learning activities, such as role-playing and case study analysis, with lectures and class discussion. Prerequisite(s): SWK 242 or permission of the Department Chair, approved in the major. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 347 - Practice with Families and Groups (2)**

The focus of this course is on applying the social work helping process learned in SWK 345 (Practice with Individuals) to social work practice with families and small groups (i.e., mezzo-level practice). Diversity issues and culturally competent practice are explored in the context of mezzo-level practice. The course also emphasizes the use of theories from social work and related fields to guide practice. The course combines experiential learning activities with lectures and class discussions. Prerequisite(s): SWK 345. Offered each Spring.

### **SWK 348 - Community and Organizational Development (4)**

The focus of this course is on applying the social work helping process to social work practice with communities and organizations (i.e., macro-level practice). Diversity issues and culturally competent practice are explored in the context of macro-level practice. The course also emphasizes the use of theories from social work and related fields to guide practice. The course combines experiential learning activities with lectures and class discussions. The course also includes a 60-hour practicum focused on macro-practice. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing in social work major. Offered each Spring.

### **SWK 372 - Methods of Social Research (3)**

This course introduces the student to the logic and skills of social science research, especially as it applies to the practice of social work. Special emphasis will be placed on knowledge of research terms, developing a critical approach to research studies, application of research techniques to practical situations, and use of others' research. Use of research and evaluation techniques to improve practice effectiveness will be emphasized. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 140 or permission of the Department Chair. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 401 - Professional Issues in Social Work (2)**

This course critically examines social work's role in society and the basis for its knowledge, values, and skills. Students are sensitized to social work's role in a culture rich with diversity and are equipped with the necessary tools to develop reasoned responses to issues facing practice. The course focuses on application of professional social work ethics and the integration of these ethics with personal faith. Prerequisite(s): SWK 347, 348; or permission of the Department Chair. Offered each Fall.

### **SWK 440 - Field Instruction in Social Work (10)**

This course gives students an opportunity to observe and practice generalist social work in a professional setting. Field sites give students opportunities to practice micro, mezzo, and macro level social work in a variety of settings with diverse population groups. Students must apply generalist theory and practice that promote social work values. Must accrue 450 total hours at practicum placement. Co-requisite(s): SWK 460. Offered each Spring or by arrangement.

\*This course can be split up over two semesters in order to make accomplishing the field hours more manageable.

### **SWK 450 - Advanced Topics (1-3)**

An opportunity for the student to pursue, under supervision, an area of special interest either on his/her own initiative or in a small group. Not required for the major. Open to juniors or seniors who are majors in this area and who have completed or are taking regularly scheduled courses. Permission of the Department Chair is necessary for enrollment.

### **SWK 460 - Field Instruction Seminar (2)**

This course is designed to complement the student's internship. It functions to provide a forum to discuss field experiences and to make systematic connections between theory and practice. Intended Outcome: Entry-level social workers whose practice is systematically guided by theory. Co-requisite(s): SWK 440. Offered each Spring or by arrangement.

\*If a student has chosen to take SWK440 Field Instruction in Social Work over two semesters, then this course is also split over two semesters to ensure that the student is acquiring a quality social work practicum experience.

### **SWK 470 - Social Work Specialization Seminar (3)**

Provides students with an opportunity to study special topics within the domain of social work, dependent upon faculty availability. Students must take one (1) specialization seminar to complete the program. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior standing in Social Work. Offered each semester.

### **SWK 476 - Global Practice (3)**

The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, allowing for information, economic, and social issues to spread across borders rapidly. This Capstone Course for the Global and International Studies Program and social work elective will prepare students with a beginning understanding of global issues that impact both local and domestic practice with international populations. From an interdisciplinary practice perspective, students will learn about current international issues and their impact on society. Utilizing an anti-oppressive framework, students will develop ethical skills based on principles of social justice, reconciliation, peace, and truth in preparation for both international and domestic practice in global contexts.

Cross-listed with GISP 476. Offered each Fall

### **SWK 477 - Global Practice Internship (1)**

A 40-hour internship with a global population.

Cross-listed with GISP 477. Offered each semester.

### **Overview of Curriculum Hours**

Curriculum hours can be broken down into the following areas:

Gen Ed Courses	41-43
Social Work Courses	46
Support Courses	24
Electives (as needed to complete the 124 credit hours required for graduation)	