



UNION UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK

ADVANCED STANDING MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM - 2016 Informational Packet -

Admission Requirements

- BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program
- Minimum undergraduate GPA 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Acceptance into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional, contingent upon successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge Course (meets prior to beginning of fall semester)

Application Process

- Completed application with non-refundable \$25.00 application fee (priority deadlines are listed on application)
- Official transcript from **each** college or university previously attended (undergraduate and graduate)
- References
 - One previous professor/instructor
 - One current or previous supervisor
 - One other current or previous professor/instructor or supervisor
 - *If you have graduated with a BSW in the past 12 months, one of these recommendations must include your field placement supervisor.
- Admission Essay (follow instructions outlined in application)
- Final Field Evaluation from BSW Field Practicum Immunization Form/records
- Interviews are held at the discretion of the admissions committee and/or MSW Program Director
- The GRE is **not** required for admission to Union University's MSW program

If you have questions or are ready to start the application process, please contact us:
Brandon Bailey | Dir. of Marketing and Continuing Education | (731)-661-5388 | bbailey@uu.edu



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MSW Full-Time Advanced Standing Program

33 Credit Hours | 1-Year Curriculum

Year 1 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 599	Bridge Course*	3
SW 605	Psychopathology	3
SW 631	Practice and Program Evaluation	3
SW 650	Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SW 690	Field III	3

Year 1 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 623	Theory & Ethics for Advanced Practice	3
SW 660	Advanced Practice in Community Development	3
SW 691	Field IV	3

9 credit hours of electives are required and may be taken starting the spring semester prior to fall admission.

*Admission into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional contingent upon the successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge course, which meets prior to starting the fall semester. A grade of “B” or better is required in the Advanced Standing Bridge course in order to continue in the Advanced Standing Program.



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MSW Part-Time Advanced Standing Program

33 Credit Hours | 2-Year Curriculum

Year 1 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 599	Bridge Course*	3
SW 605	Psychopathology	3
SW 631	Practice and Program Evaluation	3

Year 1 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 660	Advanced Practice in Community Development	3
	Elective	3

Year 2 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 650	Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SW 690	Field III	3

Year 2 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 623	Theory & Ethics for Advanced Practice	3
SW 691	Field IV	3

9 credit hours of electives are required and may be taken starting the spring semester prior to fall admission.

*Admission into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional contingent upon the successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge course, which meets prior to starting the fall semester. A grade of “B” or better is required in the Advanced Standing Bridge course in order to continue in the Advanced Standing Program.



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Concentration Year Course Descriptions

SW 599: Advanced Standing Bridge Course

A concentrated, rigorous seminar-styled course designed to prepare the Advanced Standing student for the concentration year of the MSW curriculum. It links the student's undergraduate BSW education and practice experience in preparation for graduate level work.

SW 605: Psychopathology; Assessment, Diagnostics, and Treatment

This course develops preparation for clinical social work practice by establishing the knowledge and skills for assessment, diagnostics, and treatment in mental health and mental disorders.

SW 623: Theory and Ethics for Advanced Practice

As the capstone course for the MSW degree, SW 623 addresses the integration of professional knowledge, values, and skills under a rubric of theoretical and ethical practice.

SW 631: Practice and Program Evaluation

Advanced graduate level research course designed to offer the student an opportunity to demonstrate advanced theoretical and practical approaches to program planning, development, grant writing, evaluation, and monitoring.

SW 650: Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families

An advanced course in social work practice with individuals and families focusing on evidence-based and culturally competent practice. Various theories and methods for work with individuals and families will be explored in depth with an aim toward equipping the advanced practitioner for skilled practice.

SW 660: Advanced Practice in Community Development and Administration

This advanced course in administration and community practice builds on the foundation practices to advance skills in planned change processes, program development and administration, assessment and evaluation, grant writing and management, and navigating ethical dilemmas that arise in practice.

SW 690 and 691: Field Seminar III and IV

Students participate in advanced field seminars during the graduate level concentration year field practicum. Field seminar III and IV are designed to assist the student with processing the advanced year field experiences and in applying classroom learning to practice.



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MSW Elective Course Descriptions

Union's MSW program involves three elective courses. The following list reflects the quality and variety of elective courses that have been offered, but is not a guarantee that a given option will always be available. Students have the opportunity to choose electives based on current offerings and may check the Course Schedule(s) listed on our website to see what is offered during a given semester (uu.edu/socialwork).

Addictions Counseling: This course introduces students to addictions counseling and provides an intensive understanding of the etiology, progress and counseling strategies for addictive disorders.

Aging Issues and Services: This course introduces a wide variety of issues related to aging. It will aid the student to understand the complexity of the aging process from the perspective of the individual, the family, society, and social policy.

Applied Technology in Social Work Practice: This course equips graduate social work students to utilize emerging technologies in their daily professional practice. A particular emphasis will be placed on how social workers can stay informed on the rapid development of technologies relevant to professional practice.

Children and Families at Risk: This course develops knowledge and skills for culturally competent practice with families at risk. Part one of two courses which lead to the Tennessee Public Child Welfare Certification when combined with an internship at the Dept. of Children's Services.

Clinical Social Work in Health Care Settings: This course addresses the multifaceted world of health care social work. Using a systems perspective, students will be introduced to the various practice settings across the continuum of health care delivery.

Crisis Intervention with Individuals and Families: This course explores skills, knowledge, and professional ethics/values specific to crisis intervention with individuals and families across diverse social work settings and populations.

Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: This course will introduce the students to the concepts, components, and skills underlying evidenced-based treatment for traumatized children and youth.

Social and Cultural Diversity: The course is a study of the social, cultural, historical, political-economic, and psychological dimensions of minority-majority group relations. Problems and intervention strategies will be examined.

Death and Dying: The course presents an interdisciplinary investigation of death and dying. Contributions from sociology, social work, psychology, health sciences, religion, and history will be explored. Strategies designed for relating to and caring for terminally ill individuals and those who are bereaved are explored.

Gender and Sexuality: This course is an analysis of gender and sexuality in American society and cross-culturally. Gender roles and human sexuality will be examined throughout the life span, with an emphasis on physiological, psychological, familial, and other societal factors that influence gender and sexuality.

Grant Writing and Grant Management: This course covers the basics of proposals: purpose statements, background and justification, personnel, timelines, methods, budget, evaluation process and how to effectively manage grants once they are funded.



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MSW Elective Course Descriptions (cont'd)

Human Trafficking: This course examines the local and international human trafficking crime of the modern day slavery of men, women, and children. Characteristics and special needs of victims, their life experiences, and their trafficking trajectories will be highlighted.

International Social Work: This course reviews intervention models and strategies to respond to the diverse needs of communities and societies and helps prepare students for international social work. Students will gain knowledge of best practice policy while studying abroad.

Play Therapy-Theory and Practice: This course provides an introduction and overview of the evidence-based practice standards of play therapy for children and adolescents. The course explicates the theoretical basis for play therapy and integrates current research for application in social work practice.

Professional Communication and Ethics: This course builds proficiency in professional communication skills and ethics in the field of social work in academic, agency, and other community settings. Types of communication covered include writing, speaking, presentations, documentation, emails, memos, etc.

Faith Based Social Services: This course explores the biblical and theological bases for faith-based social services, faith-based advocacy for social justice, various models for faith-based services, government initiatives and policies related to faith-based services, as well as introductory practice considerations for the practice of social work in congregational and community settings.

Social Work Services in Schools: This course focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary for successful and competent social work practice in schools. Students are eligible for licensure as a school social worker (LSSW) upon completion of this course and an internship in a school setting or three years of post-graduate experience working with children.

Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice: This course presents an overview of the ways spirituality and religion play an important role in social work practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of spirituality and religion as necessary components of assessment, planning, treatment, and evaluation in culturally competent social work practice.

Supervision and Consultation: This course focuses on the art of clinical and administrative supervision, helping participants to recognize their own style and develop skills to facilitate professional growth and insight for supervisees in individual and group supervision.

Theories of Counseling: This course helps students examine counseling theories as they begin the process of developing a personal theoretical approach to counseling that best fits specific client populations. Throughout the semester, case studies will be reviewed along with techniques appropriate to each theoretical orientation.

Traumatic Grief and Loss: This course will underscore trauma-informed social work practice that transcends the particular type of trauma exposure with individuals, families, and groups of persons, but has special focus on those who have experienced the loss of a loved one from sudden, violent death.



Advanced Generalist Concentration Practice Framework

The advanced concentration objectives broaden and deepen the generalist foundation and prepare students for competent and effective social work practice as advanced generalist practitioners. The program conceptualizes professional development and education as a continuum beginning with the BSW, or foundation year in the MSW program, progressing to advanced practice in the second year of the MSW program, and beyond the MSW to include continuing education.

Building on the foundation year objectives and curriculum, the MSW program prepares students for advanced generalist practice in social work. The advanced generalist practitioner is a leader in direct service delivery with individuals, families, groups, and communities, and has indirect practice management capabilities in the areas of supervision, administration, program development, and evaluation. The advanced generalist model at Union University builds on the four concepts adopted by the faculty - social justice, strengths-based perspective, evidence-based practice, and ecological perspective – for its framework. In the foundation year, students are grounded in these concepts and in direct and indirect practice skills so that in the advanced concentration year, they may prepare to effectively maximize opportunities to “encompass the full spectrum of direct and indirect services” (GlenMaye, Lewandowski, & Bolin, 2004, p. 127), regardless of the practice setting or client.

The complexities of ever-changing practice environments require direct practitioners who are also skilled in supervision and administration while fully committed to respecting and prioritizing client needs. Agency services struggle with limited resources while facing increased human needs requiring complex intervention modalities. The advanced generalist model assumes that human events represent multi-layered and multi-dimensional realities best addressed by social workers utilizing theoretically sound, empirically driven, culturally competent approaches to practice. These social workers recognize the characteristics of change at individual, community, and organizational levels and the elements of chaos that often accompany change. The advanced generalist practitioner tolerates and manages change amid the chaos of complex systems, valuing the process and envisioning the transformative potential. “The goal of advanced generalist practice is not to understand the complexity of the client system, but rather to understand the natural movement of systems through stable, bifurcated, and chaotic states and to help promote self-organization” (GlenMaye, Lewandowski, & Bolin, 2004, p. 128). As such the social work leader will bring together important roles of advocate, broker, counselor, presenter, listener, presence, supervisor, researcher, policy maker, fund raiser, problem-solver, and evaluator while conscious of process and its impact on outcomes.

GlenMaye, L. F., Lewandowski, C. A., & Bolin, B. L. (2004). A model for advanced generalist practice. In A. Roy, & F. Vecchiolla (Eds.), *Thoughts on an advanced generalist education: Models, readings, and essays* (pp. 117-135). Peosta, Iowa: Eddie Bowers.