

Course descriptions for Areas of Specialization

(blue highlight – Advanced generalist; orange highlight – Behavioral Health)

Course (name/number)	Course Description
SWK 530 Policy Analysis	This course explores policy analysis through a social justice lens, examining how policies affect marginalized populations and perpetuate systemic inequities. Students will evaluate policy effectiveness, its impact on social work, and develop actionable policy recommendations and advocacy plans to promote justice, equity, and anti-racist practices.
SWK 532 Psychopathology and Diagnosis for Social Work Practice	This course provides a comprehensive foundation in the assessment and diagnosis of mental health conditions using the DSM-5-TR. Students will develop skills to conduct biopsychosocial assessments that integrate client strengths, cultural identities, and systemic factors. The course emphasizes the application of theories of human behavior, person-in-environment perspectives, and culturally responsive frameworks in clinical assessment. Students will explore evidence-based interventions and learn to collaborate with clients and interdisciplinary teams to create effective, individualized treatment plans. This course prepares social work practitioners to deliver client-centered, ethical, and contextually informed mental health services.
SWK 534 Theory-Informed Practice with Individuals and Families	This course explores advanced therapeutic models and methods in social work practice, integrating thinking, feeling, and behaving. Students examine theoretical approaches (psychoanalytic, Adlerian, existential, person-centered, Gestalt, reality, behavior, cognitive-behavioral, family systems, feminist, postmodern, and integrative) and learn to apply them in diverse settings. Using case studies and media, students develop skills to analyze and apply theoretical models to real-world scenarios, integrating multiple approaches into an individualized, culturally responsive practice. By the end of the course, students will have advanced skills to assess, intervene, and promote well-being across diverse populations and practice contexts.

SWK 580 Health Interventions in Social Work Practice	This course explores evidence-based interventions for addressing behavioral health challenges, including anxiety, depression, substance use, and chronic illness. Students will learn how to apply therapeutic techniques such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Motivational Interviewing within the context of behavioral medicine. The course emphasizes working with clients in medical, psychiatric, and community-based settings.
SWK 582 Social Work in Behavioral Medicine and Healthcare Settings	This course provides a comprehensive overview of social work roles in behavioral medicine, focusing on intervention strategies for patients with mental and physical health needs. Students will develop skills in psychosocial assessments, care coordination, and patient advocacy within hospital, clinic, and community health settings.
SWK 584 Substance Use Disorders and Integrated Care	Focusing on the intersection of substance use disorders and behavioral medicine, this course prepares students to work in integrated care settings. It covers assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning for clients experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
SWK 600: Advanced SWK Field Work & Seminar I	This field practicum course (the second for two-year students and the first for advanced-standing students) requires 300 hours in an approved social services agency, supervised by a professional social worker. The practicum allows students to develop and demonstrate skills in client engagement, goal setting, needs and strengths identification, assessments, and professional documentation. Students also identify relevant organizational, local, state, or national policies impacting the client system. A weekly hour-long seminar with the instructor and peers facilitates the integration of classroom learning with professional practice.
SWK 620 Applied Research/Capstone	This course provides students with the opportunity to design and implement a culminating project that utilizes qualitative and/or quantitative research methods. Students will engage in the entire research process, from formulating research questions and designing data collection instruments to collecting and analyzing data. Through hands-on experience with data analysis techniques, students will develop the skills necessary to interpret research findings and translate them into actionable recommendations. These recommendations will be designed to inform and enhance agency practice and policy decisions, bridging the gap between research and real-world application. By engaging in this comprehensive research process, students will gain a deeper

	understanding of the complexities involved in social science research and its potential to impact social change. This course prepares students to assess and enhance social service programs and practices. With a practical approach, students learn evaluation methods for programs and individual cases applicable to real-world situations. The curriculum includes outcome measurement, study design, data analysis, and integrating evidence-based programs with cultural humility and ADEI principles. Students will learn how to perform impactful evaluations to improve results for diverse communities.
SWK 680 Trauma Informed Care in Social Work Practice	This course provides an in-depth exploration of trauma-informed care (TIC) principles and practices within social work, grounded in SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. Students will examine the prevalence and impact of trauma across diverse populations and learn to integrate trauma-informed principles into practice, policy, and organizational settings. Key topics include understanding the neurobiology of trauma, recognizing trauma's impact on individuals and systems, fostering resilience, and promoting safety and empowerment. Emphasis is placed on culturally responsive and anti-oppressive approaches to trauma care.
SWK 682 Clinical Skills II Groups & Communities	This course prepares students for community organizing and macro practice careers, developing skills to facilitate culturally relevant, equitable, and just social change. Students explore diverse engagement strategies with communities and organizations, emphasizing community assessment, dialogue, strategic planning, and implementing/evaluating change. They'll learn trauma-informed and resiliency-focused approaches to community development, interorganizational collaboration, and integrating technology for macro practice, focusing on practitioner readiness, leadership, and self-care. Topics include participatory research, empowerment evaluation and environmental justice. Experiential learning, case studies, and projects will develop competency in leading change, fostering collaboration, and addressing systemic inequities, equipping students to advance positive, sustainable social change in diverse settings.
SWK 684 Supervision, Leadership, and Administration in Social Work Organizations	This course examines supervision, leadership, and administration within social work practice. It investigates professional supervision for managing challenging circumstances, utilizing supervision and leadership theories and models to promote ethical decision-making and organizational effectiveness. Using

	narratives from experienced supervisors, students dissect essential aspects of supervision and explore leadership principles to motivate teams and champion social justice. Upon completion, students will be equipped to establish encouraging environments for social workers, guaranteeing superior services and enhancing their leadership and supervisory skills.
SWK 692 Anti-Oppressive Practice	This course explores the principles and application of anti-oppressive practice (AOP) within social work. Grounded in the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) nine competencies, the course examines how systemic oppression, privilege, and intersectionality shape individual and collective experiences. Students will critically analyze the historical, social, and institutional forces that contribute to marginalization and inequality while developing strategies for advancing social, economic, and environmental justice. Emphasis will be placed on fostering self-awareness, cultural humility, and anti-racist practices at micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Through case studies, reflective exercises, and experiential learning, students will gain the skills necessary to advocate for equity and inclusion in diverse practice settings.
SWK 700: Advanced SWK Field Work & Seminar II	This field practicum course (the third for two-year students and the second for advanced-standing students) requires 300 hours in an approved social services agency, supervised by a professional social worker. The practicum allows students to develop and demonstrate skills in client engagement, goal setting, needs and strengths identification, assessments, and professional documentation. Students also identify relevant organizational, local, state, or national policies impacting the client system. A weekly hour-long seminar with the instructor and peers facilitates the integration of classroom learning with professional practice.