

MSW Program – Aging in Social Work Concentration

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Summer Semester	General (free) electives.
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Aging Concentration – 7 core (required) credit hours.

FALL SEMESTER

SPRING SEMESTER

SW #	Section	Course Title	Credit Hours	Taken	Grade	SW #	Section	Course Title	Credit Hours	Taken	Grade
6220		Diversity and Social Justice: Reflexive and Ethical Social Work Practice II	3.0			SW 6751		<i>Aging Practice II: Chronic Health and Mental Health Conditions in Older Adults</i>	3.0		
SW 6750		<i>Aging Practice I: Social Work with Older Adults</i>	3.0			SW 6754		<i>Interdisciplinary Seminar Series on Aging</i>	1.0		
6521		Advanced Field Practicum I	4.0			6522		Advanced Field Practicum II	4.0		

Total Credit Hours _____

Total Credit Hours _____

Note on electives for Concentration and proposed semester:

All students must take one practice class outside their concentration as an elective.

Students may take up to 16 credit hours in any one semester, without requiring pre-approval from the MSW Program Director.

Students in the Advanced Standing program must complete a minimum of 45 credit hours.

Students in the 2-Year Program must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours.

Students must earn a passing grade of C+ or better.

Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in order to be in good academic standing.

Types of Practicum Placements: Inpatient, residential, outpatient and community-based mental health and health programs serving older adults.

<p>SW 6750</p> <p>Fall</p>	<p>Aging Practice I: Social Work with Older Adults</p> <p>Required Course</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This specialized course builds on generalist practice to prepare students for gerontological social work practice. It focuses on knowledge, values, and skills needed to work effectively across micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice with and on behalf of older adults and their constituencies (informal & formal support systems).</p> <p>The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraise and address personal and societal values and biases regarding aging. • Recognize demographic changes and societal trends affecting aging-focused policies, programs, and practice. • Discuss the strengths, resilience, and contributions of older adults to families, communities, and societies and promote older adults' right to dignity and self-determination. • Establish and maintain strong relationships with older clients and their constituencies for the purpose of working toward mutually agreed upon goals. • Plan and implement engagement strategies, assessments, interventions, and evaluations that reflect older adults' diverse life courses, strengths, challenges, and contexts • Select, modify, and/or translate evidence-informed practices that are most appropriate to particular aging-focused practice settings and populations • Conduct evidence-informed assessments and interventions that incorporate a strengths-based, person/family-centered focus, while recognizing issues related to losses, changes, and transitions over the life cycle. • Understand and articulate the significance of interprofessional collaborative practice with and on behalf of older adults and their constituencies. • Identify major U.S. policies that affect older adults (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Older Americans Act), and link them to relevant local resources • Advocate for policies and services that promote well-being of older adults and their constituencies and encourage use of research and evaluation to enhance effectiveness and sustainability.
<p>SW 6751</p> <p>Spring</p>	<p>Aging Practice II: Chronic Health and Mental Health Conditions in Older Adults</p> <p>Required Course</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Nearly half of older adults live with a chronic health condition (e.g., diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease) and a third live with three or more. Many have co-occurring mental health conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, substance use disorders) that are under-assessed and under-treated. This specialized practice course examines factors that impact these conditions in older adults and highlights relevant emerging and evidence-informed person- and family-centered care models.</p> <p>The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify leading chronic health conditions that impact older adults in society. • Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts of geriatric mental health and mental illness. • Relate social work perspectives and relevant theories to evidence-informed geriatric mental health practice. • Characterize social work roles and contributions in settings serving older adults with chronic health and mental health conditions • Respect diversity and engage in ethical decision making with older adults who have chronic health and mental health conditions and their families. • Conduct comprehensive geriatric psychosocial/mental health assessments and plan and implement appropriate interventions. • Describe unique challenges and evaluate clinical strategies for working with these older adults and their caregivers. • Explain the impact of culture and socio-economic factors on older adults and their constituencies in relation to chronic conditions and disability.
<p>SW 6754</p> <p>Spring</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary Seminar Series on Aging</p> <p>Required Course</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Addressing the diverse needs of an aging population is a societal challenge in terms of health care and social services, policy directives, and social-cultural issues. This specialized course addresses the complexities of the aging experience from the perspectives of multiple disciplines and identifies tools to integrate and synthesize intersecting scholarly perspectives on aging.</p> <p>The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe interdisciplinary approaches to geriatric care. • Recognize and interpret age-related demographic transitions. • Discuss the contributions of multiple disciplines (biology, social work, sociology, psychology, medicine, humanities, etc.) to the study of aging. • Identify major policies and services that affect older adults and their families. • Understand the aging experience as psychologically, socially and culturally constructed.