



DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Martha Giddings, Director
Pine Hall

The Division of Social Work offers a Master of Social Work degree. Social Work is a profession committed to improving the quality of life for all people. Social workers perform a variety of roles in many settings and are eligible for professional certifications and licensing. The Master of Social Work degree program at Valdosta State University is designed to prepare students for advanced generalist practice in rural and small communities.

Social workers in advanced generalist practice use their skills as direct service providers in interventions with individuals, families, groups, organizations and in communities as supervisors, managers, administrators, researchers and social planners.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Division Requirements in addition to University Requirements for Admission, Retention and Graduation

Special Admission Requirements

The M.S.W. applicant must have an undergraduate degree that has a liberal arts base. Requirements for admission to the program include:

1. Humanities, 6 semester hours; Mathematics, 3 semester hours; Social Sciences, 6 semester hours; and a unit of Human biology
2. 800 minimum GRE score
3. 3.0 grade point average in the last two years of the undergraduate major
4. 2.5 overall undergraduate grade point average
5. Personal statements

Deadline for applications is March 15 of each year. Classes start in June or August for regular students and in June for Advanced Standing students (B.S.W.).

Academic credit will not be given for life experience or previous work experience. Students are not admitted to the program on probationary status.

Special Retention Requirements

Students must maintain a grade of Satisfactory in practica in order to remain in the program. Student behavior is subject to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics. The Division has a nonacademic termination policy.

Special Graduation Requirements

Students must complete 60 hours which includes 43 hours of required classroom instruction with a B average or higher, and 17 hours of practicum with a grade of Satisfactory. Advanced Standing students (B.S.W.) must complete 33 hours which includes 25 classroom hours with a B average or higher and 8 hours of practicum with a grade of Satisfactory. The full-time program is two years, but 3- and 4-year part-time plans are offered. A portfolio is required as an exit examination.

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. Graduates will demonstrate the integration of social work knowledge, values, ethics, and skills into competent advanced practice.
2. Graduates will demonstrate advanced practice skills at multiple levels in a variety of settings within the context of rural areas.
3. Graduates will demonstrate the knowledge and skills related to the improvement of conditions for people from diverse cultures and situations.
4. Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of change and how to effect positive social change at multiple levels.

Examples of Outcomes Assessments

1. Students complete an assessment inventory at the end of the first year and at the end of the second year.
2. Students must complete all academic requirements to a satisfactory degree, including 940 clock hours of practicum.
3. Students must submit a portfolio to the faculty during the last semester in residence which reflects the ways in which they met all program objectives.

Requirements for the Master of Social Work Degree

First Year - Foundation Courses

Semester I	15 hours
SOWK 6001 Orientation to Social Work Practice I	1 hour
SOWK 6100 Information Technology Lab	1 hour
SOWK 6201 Human Behavior in Social Environment I	3 hours
SOWK 6301 Generalist Practice I	3 hours
SOWK 6500 Research and Evaluation in Social Work	3 hours
SOWK 6600 Practicum I	3 hours
SOWK 6610 Practicum Seminar I	1 hour

Semester II.	15 hours
SOWK 6002 Orientation to Social Work Practice II	1 hour
SOWK 6202 Human Behavior in Social Environment II	3 hours
SOWK 6302 Generalist Practice II	3 hours
SOWK 6400 Social Welfare Policy, Problems, Services	3 hours
SOWK 6700 Practicum II	4 hours
SOWK 6710 Practicum Seminar II	1 hour

Second Year - Concentration

Semester I.	15 hours
SOWK 7300 Adv. Practice in Rural Areas-Individuals	3 hours
SOWK 7310 Adv. Practice in Rural Areas -Families	3 hours
SOWK 7400 Policy in Rural Areas	3 hours
SOWK 7611 Advanced Practicum I	4 hours
Elective (one of the following)	2 hours
SOWK 7750 Social Work Practice in Child and Family Settings	
SOWK 7800 Social Work Practice in Health Settings	
SOWK 7830 Social Work Practice in Mental Health	
SOWK 7850 Social Work Practice in Schools	

Semester II.	15 hours
SOWK 7320 Adv. Pract. in Organizations & Communities ...	3 hours
SOWK 7500 Rural Program Evaluation	3 hours
SOWK 7612 Advanced Practicum II	4 hours
SOWK 7630 Professional Seminar	2 hours
*Elective (one of the following)	3 hours
SOWK 7700 Gerontology	
SOWK 7760 Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents	
SOWK 7810 Psychopathology and Assessment for Non-medical Helpers	
SOWK 7820 Issues in Substance Abuse	
SOWK 7840 Seminar on Loss and Bereavement	
SOWK 7860 Grant Writing in Human Services	
SOWK 7870 Social Work Practice with Neglecting and Abusing Families	

Total Required for the Degree 60 semester hours

*This program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Students not enrolled in the M.S.W. program may take the elective courses with the permission of the division head, but the required courses are restricted to MSW students.