

# Master of Social Work

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## Master of Social Work

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) offers a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree designed to prepare students for leadership roles and professional practice with individuals, families, organizations and communities with a trauma-informed lens.

Students admitted with a Bachelor's degree in a major other than Social Work must complete the 60 credit-hour Full Program. The Full Program consists of the 30 credit-hour Foundation Curriculum and the 30 credit-hour Advanced Curriculum. Students completing the Full Program can do so in two years full-time or three to four years part-time.

Students admitted to the MSW Program who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree in the past five years from a college or university accredited by Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) can immediately transition into the 33 credit-hour Advanced Curriculum. This curriculum can be completed in one year full-time, or two years part-time.

### Concentrations & Specializations

There are two concentrations in the MSW program: 1) Social Work Practice with Children, Youth, and Families and 2) Leadership and Change. Students in the Children, Youth, and Families concentration acquire knowledge and skills that prepare them for interpersonal practice in a range of direct practice settings that support vulnerable populations. Students in the Leadership and Change concentration acquire knowledge and skills that prepare them for leadership, community organizing, advocacy, and administrative roles in the field. Students in either concentration can also choose the School Social Work specialization which prepares them with the knowledge and skills to be professional school social workers. Students in this specialization are eligible to earn a Professional Educator License (PEL--support personnel only) endorsed in School Social Worker (Pre K - Age 21) in the State of Illinois. This specialization is a State-approved program in Social Worker - Pre K - Age 21 by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Students select a concentration (as well the option of the School Social Work specialization, if they choose) in consultation with their MSW Program Advisor prior to beginning the Advanced Curriculum. Together, these concentrations and specializations prepare students for professional practice with children, families, organizations, and communities, respectively.

### Field Work & Practical Experience

Practical experience is built into the MSW curriculum, often referred to as "Field Work" and is the signature pedagogy of the curriculum. All fieldwork experiences are credit-bearing internship experiences. These experiences offer students an opportunity to integrate and apply their academic knowledge in a real-world setting and prepares them with the skills essential to take on the responsibilities of beginning professional practice.

In order to receive credit for fieldwork experiences, students must work with the MSW Director of Field Education to complete an internship placement and referral process. To start this process, a student must submit a formal application to apply for fieldwork with the Social Work Department. All applications have deadlines and require collaboration and communication between the student and the respective internship coordinator to secure a placement. It is the policy of the NEIU Social Work Department that all referrals of students to field placement sites be made by internship coordinators in the Field Office. Students may offer suggestions about field sites and can also begin the process of connecting the Social Work Program with new partnering Field Placement sites. After full review by the Field Director of the site and their capacity to host social work student interns, a determination is made if this partnership is approved before a student can be matched to a site for internship.

Fieldwork experiences are usually taken concurrently with academic classes. Students complete fieldwork experiences that typically span two semesters. MSW students completing the Foundation Curriculum must complete 480 hours in a field placement, while enrolled in 400-level foundation coursework. Advanced Curriculum students must complete 600 hours at a field placement, while enrolled in 400 level advanced courses. Students in the School Social Work specialization must complete 600 hours of internship experience in a school setting with at least 400 hours of field experience supervised by a field instructor holding a MSW degree or higher, and with at least two years of experience with a PEL with a school social worker endorsement.

### Admission Requirements

- 1) Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- 2) A two-page professional statement addressing your goals and objectives specific to the MSW program.
- 3) Additional requirements for the Full and Advanced Standing Programs, and the School Social Work Specialization as follows:

#### *Full Program (Foundation Curriculum & Advanced Curriculum)*

An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or a post-graduate GPA of 3.0 in at least 6 credit hours is required; liberal arts coursework that includes coursework in the social and behavioral sciences, the natural sciences, and the humanities. Three letters of recommendation. Professional statement. Additional requirements may include a background check (See Additional School Social Work Specialization Admission Requirements below).

#### *Advanced Standing Program (Advanced Curriculum Only)*

Undergraduate GPA of 3.25. Three letters of recommendation. One of the letters of recommendation should be from the BSW Program Director, Field Director, or faculty of the transfer school. Additional requirements may include a background check (See Additional School Social Work Specialization Admission Requirements).

*Additional School Social Work specialization admission requirements (Leading to earn a PEL endorsed in School Social Work)*

Students applying for admission to the Advanced Standing Program who intend to complete the School Social Work specialization, leading to earn a PEL endorsed in School Social Work must also:

1. Submit a completed NEIU School Social Work Specialization Admission Application Form. To obtain this form, please contact the NEIU Social Work Department Office Manager.
2. Complete a Federal and State Fingerprint Background check with the Daniel Goodwin College of Education (DGCOE) by following the instructions on this page: <https://www.neiu.edu/academics/daniel-i-goodwin-college-of-education/admission-requirements/federal-and-state-fingerprint-background-check-instructions-0> (<https://www.neiu.edu/academics/daniel-i-goodwin-college-of-education/admission-requirements/federal-and-state-fingerprint-background-check-instructions-0/>)

## Master of Social Work Foundation Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
SWK-401	Oppression, Decolonization And Equity In Social Work	3
SWK-402	Human Behavior And The Social Environment I	3
SWK-403	Generalist Practice I	3
SWK-406	Social Welfare Policy	3
SWK-415	Foundation Field Practicum I	3
SWK-404	Human Behavior And The Social Environment II	3
SWK-405	Generalist Practice II	3
SWK-416	Foundation Field Practicum II	3
SWK-407	Social Work Research	3
SWK-472	Trauma Treatment With Children And Families	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Curriculum Requirements</b>		
<b>Concentration: Social Work Practice with Children, Youth and Families</b>		
Required Courses (33 credit hours):		
SWK-472	Trauma Treatment With Children And Families *	3
SWK-431	Social Work Practice With Families	3
SWK-432	Family-centered Policy	3
SWK-491	Advanced Research I	3
SWK-495	Advanced Field Practicum I	3
SWK-433	Social Work Practice With Children	3
SWK-434	Child Welfare Policy And Legislation	3
SWK-492	Advanced Research II	3
SWK-496	Advanced Field Practicum II	3
	Elective Course (in Social Work or other pre-approved department)	3
	Elective Course (in Social Work or other pre-approved department)	3

\*Additional requirement for students admitted directly into the Advanced Curriculum.

Electives for Social Work Practice with Children, Youth and Families (6 credit hours) - choose from the following\*\*:

SWK-470	Social Work Practice With Immigrants And Refugees
SWK-471	Practice With Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender And Queer Population
SWK-473	Topics In Advocacy
SWK-474	Social Work And The Law

\*\*There are also a variety of electives across the university that have been approved for these Concentrations. Students should consult their Advisor for the most updated list of courses.

**Concentration: Leadership and Change**

Required Courses (33 credit hours):

SWK-472	Trauma Treatment With Children And Families *	3
SWK-441	Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice	3
SWK-442	Political Advocacy	3
SWK-491	Advanced Research I	3
SWK-495	Advanced Field Practicum I	3
SWK-443	Social Justice And Social Change	3
SWK-444	Community Practice	3
SWK-492	Advanced Research II	3
SWK-496	Advanced Field Practicum II	3

Elective Course (in Social Work or other pre-approved department) 3

Elective Course (in Social Work or other pre-approved department) 3

\*Additional requirement for students admitted directly into the Advanced Curriculum.

Electives for Leadership and Change (6 credit hours) - choose from the following\*\*:

SWK-425	Assessment And Diagnosis In Social Work With A Critical Lens
SWK-429	Nonprofit Management & Leadership In Social Work
SWK-470	Social Work Practice With Immigrants And Refugees
SWK-471	Practice With Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender And Queer Population
SWK-473	Topics In Advocacy
SWK-474	Social Work And The Law
SWK-475	Social Work Practice With Latino/a/x Communities In The United States

\*\*There are also a variety of electives across the university that have been approved for these Concentrations. Students should consult their Advisor for the most updated list of courses.

## Optional School Social Work Specialization

For students interested in the School Social Work specialization, the following courses are required for each Concentration. Note that students in the School Social Work specialization are eligible to earn a Professional Educator License endorsed in School Social Work.

Code	Title	Hours
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**Concentration: Social Work Practice with Children, Youth and Families**

Specialization: School Social Work#

Required Courses (33 credit hours)

SWK-472	Trauma Treatment With Children And Families *	3
SWK-421	Critical Social Work In Schools: Policy, Practice & Leadership	3
SWK-431	Social Work Practice With Families	3
SWK-432	Family-centered Policy	3
SWK-491	Advanced Research I	3
SWK-495	Advanced Field Practicum I	3
SWK-423	School Social Work With Exceptional Students	3
SWK-433	Social Work Practice With Children	3
SWK-434	Child Welfare Policy And Legislation	3
SWK-492	Advanced Research II	3
SWK-496	Advanced Field Practicum II	3

\*Additional requirement for students admitted directly into the Advanced Curriculum.

#Before being recommended for licensure for their PEL students must pass the School Social Worker content exam (184) offered by the Illinois Licensure Testing System.

**Concentration: Leadership and Change**

Specialization: School Social Work#

Required Courses (33 credit hours)

SWK-472	Trauma Treatment With Children And Families *	3
SWK-421	Critical Social Work In Schools: Policy, Practice & Leadership	3
SWK-441	Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice	3

SWK-442	Political Advocacy	3
SWK-491	Advanced Research I	3
SWK-495	Advanced Field Practicum I	3
SWK-423	School Social Work With Exceptional Students	3
SWK-443	Social Justice And Social Change	3
SWK-444	Community Practice	3
SWK-492	Advanced Research II	3
SWK-496	Advanced Field Practicum II	3

\*Additional requirement for students admitted directly into the Advanced Curriculum.

#Before being recommended for licensure for their PEL students must pass the School Social Worker content exam (184) offered by the Illinois Licensure Testing System.

This sample curricular map is provided to guide you in the planning of your progression for this major. This guide should not replace regular consultations with your program advisor. For specific recommendations of courses not identified, please consult your program advisor.

#### First Year

Term 1		Hours
SWK-400	Overview Of The Social Work Profession	3
SWK-402	Human Behavior And The Social Environment I	3
SWK-403	Generalist Practice I	3
SWK-406	Social Welfare Policy	3
SWK-415	Foundation Field Practicum I	3
<b>Term Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
SWK-401	Oppression, Decolonization And Equity In Social Work	3
SWK-404	Human Behavior And The Social Environment II	3
SWK-405	Generalist Practice II	3
SWK-407	Social Work Research	3
SWK-416	Foundation Field Practicum II	3
<b>Term Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Second Year

Term 1		Hours
SWK-431	Social Work Practice With Families	3
SWK-432	Family-centered Policy	3
SWK-491	Advanced Research I	3
SWK-495	Advanced Field Practicum I	3
SWK Elective		3
<b>Term Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
SWK-433	Social Work Practice With Children	3
SWK-434	Child Welfare Policy And Legislation	3
SWK-492	Advanced Research II	3
SWK-496	Advanced Field Practicum II	3
SWK Elective		3
<b>Term Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>		<b>60</b>