Social Work

The Social Work Program offers a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The curriculum is designed to prepare beginning level generalist social work practitioners who are committed to the values and ethics of the profession and the provision of quality services to diverse clients. Coursework and field experiences expose students to a variety of social work settings and clients who represent diverse socio-cultural backgrounds.

The Social Work Program also offers a Masters in Social Work degree (MSW). The Masters degree program in social work is designed to prepare advanced social work practitioners who can serve vulnerable populations and contribute to their functioning and well-being. There are two levels of curriculum: the foundation and the advanced. The foundation curriculum consists of 30 credit hours, preparers done for generalist practice with individuals, groups, communities and organizations and is similar to the curriculum for the bachelor's degree in social work. The advanced level curriculum is built upon the foundation curriculum and prepares students for direct and indirect practice categorized as concentrations. The concentration offered is Practice with Vulnerable Populations.

The Social Work Program faculty members represent a number of practice perspectives and theoretical approaches as well as work with a variety of populations in the area of child welfare, family, immigration, mental health, domestic violence, and social justice issues.

- Major in Social Work (http://catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/social-work/social-work)
- Minor in Social Work (http://catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/social-work/minor-social-work)
- Master of Social Work (http://catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/social-work/master-social-work)

Jade Stanley, Ed.D., Professor, Chair
Patricia Aguado, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Jacqueline Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Andrew Brake, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Troy Harden, Ed.D., Associate Professor
Aimee Hilado, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Cathleen Holtschneider, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Aissetu Ibrahima, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Jin Kim, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Job Ngwe, Ph.D., Professor
Judith Rocha, M.S.W., Assistant Professor

SWK-200. Introduction To Social Work. 3 Hours.
Overview of the social work field, its philosophical basis, historical development and future growth; introduction to the concept of generalist practice.

SWK-202. Community Analysis. 3 Hours.
Methods of conducting research on local communities and racial/ethnic backgrounds. Role of culture in human behavior and how one's culture interfaces with other cultures. This is a values and knowledge elective course.
Prerequisite: SWK-200 minimum grade of C.

SWK-203. Analysis Of Cross Culture Interaction. 3 Hours.
This is a pre-practice elective. Development of sensitivity when interacting with persons of diverse racial-ethnic backgrounds. Role of culture in human behavior and how one's culture interfaces with other cultures.

SWK-207. Social Welfare Policy I. 3 Hours.
Convers content on the history of social welfare, current social welfare programs and the societal values that underlie these provisions.
Prerequisite: SWK-200 minimum grade of C.

SWK-208. Human Sexuality And Social Work. 3 Hours.
Knowledge of sexuality as it is expressed in a variety of lifestyles and the application of social work values and ethics when working with sensitive issues in sexuality. This is a values and knowledge elective course.

SWK-250. Issues In Social Service Delivery. 3 Hours.
Covers major problems and issues in the field of social work. Topics vary. This is a values and knowledge elective course.

SWK-300. Human Sexuality And Social Work. 3 Hours.
Knowledge of sexuality as it is expressed in a variety of lifestyles and the application of social work values and ethics when working with sensitive issues in sexuality. This is a values and knowledge elective course.
Prerequisite: (100 - 399 or 100A - 399Z).
SWK-301. Social Work And The Law. 3 Hours.
This course will introduce and provide a basic understanding to the social work student of the law, legal processes, and legal systems as they relate to social work fields' practice. This course will challenge students to consider and begin to understand how the fields of social work and law intersect. They will develop an understanding of how the practice of social work is continually influenced and, often time regulated, by legislative and judicial decisions. The student will begin to explore how to advocate within the legal system on behalf of the populations that they serve. This is a values and knowledge elective course.
Prerequisite: SWK-200 minimum grade of C.

SWK-303. Writing Intensive Program: Human Behavior And The Social Environment I. 3 Hours.
A first course in a two-part sequence designed to develop understanding about human behavior and the social environment. Students will enhance their critical thinking skills by focusing on analyzing how people understand themselves, how people create meaning in their lives, how people change, and how your own perspective influences understanding client-systems. The generalist practice model is used to understand the central principles of empowerment: client capacity, resiliency, opportunities, context, constitution and construction. As a writing intensive course students develop the fundamentals of professional writing skills for the social work field.
Prerequisites: SOC-100 and PSYC-100 and PSYC-110 and ANTH-212 and BIO-100 and MATH-103 - 499 and SWK-200 and ENGL-101 - 102.
Corequisites: SWK-304, SWK-309.

SWK-304. Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.
A first course in a two-part sequence designed to provide the student with a foundation in generalist social work practice i.e. knowledge, values and skills. The central premise is that generalist practice is about client empowerment through collaborative work with clients. This involves empowerment of clients through preparation for first contact, learning how to dialogue across client systems, learning how to define directions with the client and collaborating about the client needs and resources. Bridging knowledge from HUBSE I is done through practical application.
Prerequisites: SOC-100 and PSYC-100 and PSYC-110 and ANTH-212 and BIO-100 and MATH-103 - 499 and SWK-200 and ENGL-101 - 102.
Corequisites: SWK-303, SWK-309.

SWK-305. Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.
The second course of a two-semester practice foundation. Course content will focus on the social work processes of goal setting, application of models for action, and integrating gains in the generalist method of practice. The social worker's role and activities will be examined in light of the values and ethics of the profession, which includes conducting oneself as an ethnically sensitive worker with diverse client systems in the urban environment.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-306, SWK-357.

SWK-306. Human Behavior In The Social Environment II. 3 Hours.
This is the second course in the Human Behavior and Social Environment foundation area. It is designed to examine the dynamic interplay between the individual's development and the functioning of groups, families, organizations and communities and builds on the objectives of SWK-300 HUBSE I. Each unit integrates the student's knowledge about the generalist model, the concepts assumptions within, understanding of the concept of self, the value of honoring diversity and the commitment to social and economic justice.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-305, SWK-357.

SWK-307. Services To Children & Adolescents. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on culturally competent social work practice with children and adolescents living in diverse family arrangements. The continuum of services and resources available to children and adolescents and the roles and functions of the social worker in these settings are examined. Economic, social, and psychological concerns of vulnerable children are identified, and intervention strategies that will effectively meet these needs are addressed. Students are presented with specialized knowledge and skills essential for working with children and adolescents. Students will be exposed to fundamental training that prepares them for DCFS Licensure. This is a values and knowledge elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C.

SWK-308. Social Work Practice With Immigrants & Refugees I. 3 Hours.
Professional social work in the United States began in the late 19th century largely as a response to what was then the largest wave of immigration to this country. Jane Addams's Hull House settlement house served many of Chicago's newly arrived European migrants helping them adjust to life in their new home. Today, we are in the midst of another great wave of migrants; 12% of the U.S. population is foreign-born, representing over 35 million individuals. This group of immigrants are much more diverse racially, ethnically, and socio-economically than ever before. This diversity presents a unique set of challenges for policymakers and practitioners trying to facilitate their adaptation to the US. This course is thus designed to help students planning to work with foreign-born populations (and their offspring) gain the knowledge and skills necessary to address their needs. This is a values and knowledge elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C.

SWK-309. Research And Quantitative Applications In Social Work. 3 Hours.
Content on basic and applied research concepts and methodology; assessment of empirical research published in professional social work literature; interpretation of statistical analyses.
Prerequisites: SOC-100 and PSYC-100 and PSYC-110 and ANTH-212 and BIO-100 and MATH-103 - 499 and SWK-200 and ENGL-101 - 102.
Corequisites: SWK-303, SWK-304.
SWK-310. Research Seminar I. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to prepare students to conduct qualitative research in their field practicum agency. At the completion of the course each student will begin a detailed proposal for research that will be completed in the subsequent term. The course will cover the various approaches to qualitative research e.g. ethnographic theory, narrative and the case study. Special attention will be given to problem formulation, literature review, and data collection techniques.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C and SWK-357 minimum grade of C.

SWK-311. Research Seminar II. 3 Hours.
The focus of this course is the continuation of the research proposal begun in SWK-310- Research Seminar I, which includes procedures, research design, data analysis, interpreting and coding data and evaluation. Attention will be given to ethical considerations and considerations of race, gender, culture and sexual orientation.
Prerequisite: SWK-310 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-354, SWK-356.

SWK-312. Women And Social Work. 3 Hours.
Women and Social Work is an elective course focusing on women's issues in social work, both for women as social work practitioners and for women as clients/participants in social service delivery systems. The course will cover aspects of feminist thought, non-sexist therapy, feminist therapy, sexist biases in research, feminist research in social work and social welfare policies and practice which have an impact on women. This is a values and knowledge elective course.

SWK-313. Child Advocacy Studies: Assessment And Evaluation. 3 Hours.
This course provides a survey of the emerging field of Child Advocacy Studies, which researches and seeks remedies for the maltreatment of children and youth, including specific acts of violence and neglect, in the context of the pernicious effects of racism, poverty, sexism, and heterosexism, including the unique problems faced by immigrant and displaced children. The course examines the various economic, political, social and cultural circumstances that may contribute to the abuse and maltreatment of children of children. It also teaches students about the strategies and tactics used by various governmental and nongovernmental agencies, courts and medical establishments to address theses problems. This is an elective class for Social Work majors and minors, and one of the required courses in the sequence for a Child Advocacy Studies minor.

SWK-314. Social Work Advocacy. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of social work advocacy. It is an elective course and is geared to develop an awareness about social work advocacy and its role in: organizational change, political campaigns and lobbying. This is a values and knowledge elective course.

SWK-320. Domestic Violence Social Work:Theory And Practice. 3 Hours.
This course will explore the theory and research on the causes of abuse, including individual and family factors, intergenerational aspects, gender issues, community and societal influences, as well as cultural factors. Strategies and treatment for alleviating family violence will be explored, including systems which are currently in place and other societal systems of response to this social problem. This is a skills elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C.

SWK-321. Social Work Practice In Schools. 3 Hours.
This elective course will present essential knowledge and skills for engaging in effective generalist social work practice with youth and families in public elementary, middle, and high schools. It will focus on four key domains of social work practice in school settings: 1) culturally competent practice, 2) social emotional learning, 3) positive youth development, and 4) community collaboration. Drawing upon a comprehensive community schools framework, students in this course will be exposed to the current research, critical issues, and essential practice skills relevant to generalist social work practice in schools.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C.

SWK-322. Writing Intensive Program:International Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of social policy issues and programs in other countries. Examination of the political, economic, and social conditions that either enhance or impinge upon the wellbeing of people and policy development will be explored. Students will utilize critical thinking skills to deepen their understanding of international social work issues. Students will be able to understand how cultural values and beliefs are translated into policies and enacted through programs. This is a skills elective course.
Prerequisites: ENGL-101 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C.

SWK-323. Social Work Practice With Immigrants & Refugees II. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to help students planning to work with immigrant and refugee populations gain the knowledge and skills necessary to address their needs. This course connects the social work profession's values of diversity, social justice, and social change to social policy and direct practice with the foreign-born. This is a skills elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of D and SWK-207 minimum grade of D.

SWK-324. Social Work With Latino Communities. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to help students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to address the needs of the Latino community. This course will use applied learning and participatory action research methods to connect the social work profession's values of diversity, social justice, and social change to positively affect the development of local Latino communities. This is a skills elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C.
SWK-326. Independent Study In Social Work. 3 Hours.

SWK-327. Social Work Practice With Families. 3 Hours.
This is a post-practice elective course. Overview of the field of family therapy; various approaches, differences in their underlying theoretical assumptions and their application in social work, family assessments and interventions. This is a skills elective course.

SWK-328. Social Work With Groups. 3 Hours.
This is a post-practice elective course, majors only. The purpose of this course is to emphasize concepts, methods and issues in social group work practice beyond what has been learned in SWK Practice I II. The focus will be on group work theory and practice as it applies to different practice settings and different populations. Emphasis will be placed on the social worker's developing self-awareness, ethical competence and practice skills in working with groups. This is a skills elective course.
Prerequisites: SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-200 minimum grade of C.

SWK-329. Administration And Planning In Social Work. 3 Hours.
This is a post-practice elective course, majors only. It is designed to expose the beginning level practitioner to administrative and planning functions with emphasis on how these impact the direct service practitioner. This is a skills elective course.

SWK-330. Social Work Practice In Community Settings. 3 Hours.
This is a post-practice elective course. This course will provide a structured look at communities and models of community organizing; development of community organizing skills. This is a skills elective course.

SWK-353. Field Seminar I. 3 Hours.
Taken concurrently with SWK-355. Integration of knowledge, values and skills with experience in the field practicum.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C and SWK-357 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-310, SWK-355.

SWK-354. Field Seminar II. 3 Hours.
Taken concurrently with SWK-356. Continuation of SWK-353.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C and SWK-357 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-311, SWK-356.

SWK-355. Field Practicum I. 3 Hours.
Taken concurrently with SWK-353. Beginning field experience; students are placed in a social work agency providing the opportunity to develop, test and reinforce social work knowledge, values and skills.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C and SWK-357 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-311, SWK-354.

SWK-356. Field Practicum II. 3 Hours.
Taken concurrently with SWK-354. Continuation of SWK-355.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C and SWK-357 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-311, SWK-354.

SWK-357. Social Welfare Policy II. 3 Hours.
Critical analysis of social welfare policies and programs; focus on the impact of policy on direct practice.
Prerequisites: SWK-200 minimum grade of C and SWK-207 minimum grade of C and SWK-303 minimum grade of C and SWK-304 minimum grade of C and SWK-305 minimum grade of C and SWK-306 minimum grade of C and SWK-309 minimum grade of C.
Corequisites: SWK-305, SWK-306.

SWK-358. Social Work Advocacy. 3 Hours.

SWK-400. Overview Of The Social Work Profession. 3 Hours.
Overview of the Social Work Profession is a 3 credit hour course for students who have a bachelor's degree in a major other than social work. This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the profession providing a context of the knowledge, values, and skills in the social work profession. The course covers the history of social work, the values and ethics of the profession, the perspectives of empowerment and social justice, the varied fields of social work practice, and how social workers help individuals, families, groups, and society.

SWK-401. Cultural Competence In Social Work. 3 Hours.
The course provides an overview of the conceptual and theoretical knowledge related to difference, oppression, social justice, and empowerment. Students explore power issues in race, class, gender, sexual orientation and other societal forces that affect individuals. This course provides a forum for students to critically examine their assumptions, beliefs, and behaviors and reflect on how these personal ethics and values enhance or hinder their work with people of diverse backgrounds.
Prerequisite: SWK-400 minimum grade of B.
SWK-402. Human Behavior And The Social Environment I. 3 Hours.
This is the first half of a two-semester sequence designed to inform students about human development throughout the life course. Students will gain an understanding of the reciprocal interaction between individuals and the ecological context in which they live and grow. This first course focuses on theories and research findings related to: 1) the Eco-systemic approach to social work practice; 2) the functioning of individuals, families, and communities; and 3) the analysis of human development theories from birth through late-childhood and preadolescence. The semester will also include an overview of the mission of social work and the value base of the profession.
Corequisite: SWK-403.

SWK-403. Generalist Practice I. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to generalist social work practice and addresses values, knowledge, skills, issues and processes relevant to social work practice regardless of client population, size of client system, or type of agency setting. The course focuses on basic social work practice principles, concepts, goals, and methods. Particular attention is paid to culturally diverse and oppressed populations. This course includes a practice skills laboratory in which students have the opportunity to practice their relationship building, interviewing, and assessment skills. The practice skills laboratory is also designed to give students the opportunity to integrate fieldwork experiences with classroom learning.
Corequisite: SWK-402.

SWK-404. Human Behavior And The Social Environment II. 3 Hours.
This is the second of a two-semester sequence that examines human development throughout the life cycle and the interaction of individuals with environmental conditions. This course covers the stages of human development from adolescence through old age and focuses on the effects of diversity and oppression on the development and functioning of individuals. The course also focuses on the relationship between individual development and broad, environmental factors that affect individual development. Particular attention is given to issues related to mental health and mental illness. In addition, the examination of the impact of immigration across the life course is examined.
Prerequisite: SWK-402 minimum grade of B.
Corequisite: SWK-405.

SWK-405. Generalist Practice II. 3 Hours.
Generalist Practice II is the second part of a two-semester sequence and addresses values, knowledge, skills, issues and processes which are relevant to clinical social work practice regardless of agency setting. This course uses an ecosystems assessment perspective and a problem solving process as the framework for intervention. Particular attention is paid to cultural diversity and the dynamics of oppression in clinical social work practice. This course also includes a concurrent practice skills laboratory in which students have the opportunity to practice their clinical social work practice skills.
Prerequisite: SWK-403 minimum grade of B.
Corequisite: SWK-404.

SWK-406. Social Welfare Policy. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the major social welfare policies such as health care, children and families, poverty, mental health, and substance abuse, and provides a conceptual framework in which these policies are analyzed. Students learn the underlying values that are used to formulate such policies as well as debate the direction of policy changes. It examines the government’s role in the development of social policies and the social work role in advocating for change. Special emphasis is placed on how these social welfare policies affect diverse population.
This course is for graduate social work students.
Requirements: Bachelor's Degree and admission to the graduate program in social work.

SWK-407. Social Work Research. 3 Hours.
This foundation research course is designed to provide the students with an overview of the scientific research process, to enable students to critique research, and prepares students to develop a research proposal. The course covers the research formulation process, research methodology, and research findings and their implications for further research. Emphasis is placed on critiques of actual research appearing in the social work literature and the development of a research proposal on a topic in social work. It is expected at the completion of this course students will be prepared to engage in a research project in the advanced curriculum.

SWK-415. Foundation Field Practicum I. 3 Hours.
This course is the first of a 2-semester sequence and provides students with a generalist practice experience with individuals, families, small groups, and communities. Students spend 240 clock hours in an agency for the 3 credit hours of course work. Students are integrating classroom learning such as communication skills, professional values and ethics, and practice models with multiple system levels. They also are learning to employ a bio-psycho-social assessment model and utilize a strengths perspective with client systems. In addition, students are learning how important it is to evaluate their practice.
Requirement: Admission to the graduate social work program and approval of the Field Placement Application.

SWK-416. Foundation Field Practicum II. 3 Hours.
This course is the second course in a 2-semester sequence and provides students with a generalist practice experience with individuals, families, groups, and communities. Students spend 240 clock hours in an agency for the 3 credit hours of course work. Students are integrating classroom learning such as communication skills, professional values and ethics, and practice models with multiple system levels. They also are learning to employ a bio-psycho-social assessment model and utilize a strengths perspective with client systems. In addition, students learn to evaluate their practice.
Prerequisite: SWK-415 minimum grade of B.
SWK-426. Independent Study. 3 Hours.
Students wishing to develop their own course of study not covered in the standard curriculum may do so by registering for an Independent Study under the supervision of a full-time Social Work Department faculty member. An Independent Study requires the signature of the faculty member, department chairperson, college dean, and Academic Affairs on the Independent Study/Tutored Study request form. To initiate the planning of an independent study, students should consult with the faculty member with whom they intend to be supervisor for the independent study, as well as the Social Work Department Advisor. 
Prerequisites: SWK-400 minimum grade of C and SWK-402 minimum grade of C and SWK-403 minimum grade of C and SWK-415 minimum grade of C and SWK-401 minimum grade of C and SWK-404 minimum grade of C and SWK-405 minimum grade of C and SWK-416 minimum grade of C and SWK-406 minimum grade of C and SWK-407 minimum grade of C.

SWK-430. Transition To The Advanced Curriculum. 4 Hours.
This course is designed to enable those who have a Bachelor's in Social Work to transition to the advanced curriculum. This course provides an overview of the foundation curriculum and ensures the consistency in exposure to this foundation curriculum between those who are full-program students and those who are advanced standing degree program students. The students will then complete short papers that allows the demonstration of the primary concepts and principles in the foundation areas. 
Requirements: Admission to the Advanced Standing Degree graduate program in social work; a bachelor's degree in social work within the past 10 years.

SWK-431. Social Work Practice With Families. 3 Hours.
Building on a bio-psycho-social spiritual framework, this advanced practice course utilizes a case analysis format to focus on clinical practice skills within the context of culture. Specific strategies and tools for evaluating clinical social work practice and ethical dilemmas that arise in clinical social work practice are addressed. The course emphasizes the ways in which socio-economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, gender, and physical and mental disability affect the processes of clinical assessment and intervention. In addition, this course addresses the role of the clinical social worker when advocating for social and economic justice on behalf of their clients. 
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-432. Family-centered Policy. 3 Hours.
The course enables students to learn about child and family-centered policy and to critically analyze these policies using a conceptual framework. This course examines the various effects policies and programs have on different types of families and different aspects of family functioning. The course focuses on the connections between public policies and the values that enter into policy debates and explores the reciprocal linkages between family functioning and public policies at the federal, state, and local levels. 
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-433. Social Work Practice With Children. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to enhance knowledge, values and skills for practice with children. The course prepares advanced practitioners to provide culturally competent services for a broad range of families and children. This course emphasizes the provision of services for children and their families that enhance and support family life as well as substitute a home life for those who need this. The course focuses on a full range of services available for children and families and emphasizes the impact of these various services. The course also covers various treatment approaches especially for children who are traumatized.
Requirement: Completion of the Foundation Curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

This course is designed to enable students to analyze policies affecting children and to prepare students to function in the legal system on behalf of children. This course provides students an overview of the federal and state policy in child welfare and the legal system which provides oversight of these policies. The course equips students with the knowledge and skills to advocate on their behalf children. 
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-441. Empowerment And Change. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with a social justice and empowerment framework for understanding the need to promote social change. The concept of social justice is analyzed emphasizing the moral and ethical imperative to seek the eradication of social injustice. The concept of empowerment is examined as a framework for understanding the process of advocacy and social change. The contexts of advocacy as well as the various models of advocacy are covered. Strategies and tactics of advocacy are presented with an emphasis on the challenges and dilemmas of implementation. 
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work.

SWK-442. Political Advocacy. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of the role of social workers within the electoral and legislative arenas. The nature of the legislative policy making process and the role of partisan politics in the policy-making process is explored. The course focuses on selected strategies and tactics of advocacy aimed at changing legislation. Topics covered include lobbying, coalition-building, and legal and ethical dilemmas in building or strengthening the power base for advocacy. 
Requirement: completion of the Foundation Curriculum or admission to the Advanced Standing program in social work.
SWK-443. Social Justice And Social Change. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a theoretical conceptualization of social justice and enable them to use this knowledge to bring about social change. Various aspects of social justice are explored and specific areas of social injustices are examined. Both economic and social justice for specific vulnerable populations are examined. At the completion of the course it is expected that students gain a firm grasp of the mission of social justice in the social work profession.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-444. Community Advocacy. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to prepare students to lead in the development of grassroots activities that will bring about change. Students learn to utilize their knowledge of the process of advocacy to accomplish the tasks that will bring about change. Students learn how to assess community readiness for change and design the elements for bringing about change. The topics covered in this course are capacity-building, collaboration, fundraising, marketing, and using the media and persuasion. Students also learn how to evaluate these efforts to strengthen future work on community change.
**Requirement:** completion of foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing program in social work.

SWK-470. Immigration Practices. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to help students work with foreign-born populations (and their offspring) develop advanced knowledge and practice skills necessary to address their needs. This course will cover issues related to the demographics of immigrant refugees, culturally competent practice at the micro- and mezzo- levels of practice, and an in-depth exploration of legal and policy issues that affect the foreign-born in the United States.
**Requirement:** completion of foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing program of social work; permission of the instructor.

SWK-471. Practice With Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender And Queer Population. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to enhance student understanding of issues related to LGBT populations in the U.S. Students will be exposed to empirical literature on LGBT issues that will inform an understanding of past, present and future challenges facing the LGBT communities. Raising students’ awareness of personal, interpersonal and institutional values and biases is examined and a life cycle perspective is presented to highlight the unique issues of LGBT communities. Students are introduced to the history of the LGBT civil rights movements and the underlying theories of sexual orientation and sexual identity formation.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-472. Trauma Treatment With Children And Families. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with intermediate knowledge and skills to assess the impact of potentially traumatic events and to plan for evidence informed interventions across a variety of family system. The impact of trauma is considered within the context of biological, developmental, psychological, economic, educational, cultural, and social factors. The role of the therapist is covered and intervention techniques that empower families is presented. Consideration is given to those factors that enhance the protective capacity, strengths and resilience of children and their families who have been exposed to violence, abuse and trauma.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work.

SWK-473. Topics In Advocacy. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to enable students to design an advocacy project in a specified topic area. Students select a topic of their choice and complete the project in its entirety. The class focuses on the steps or process for launching an advocacy project from assessing the need, mobilizing resources, and engaging in activities. At the conclusion of the course students evaluate their efforts and identify the next steps.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or the Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work.

SWK-474. Social Work And The Law. 3 Hours.
This course examines the law, legal processes, and legal systems as they relate to social work fields’ of practice. The course challenges students to consider how the fields of social work and law intersect. Throughout the course, students critically analyze how the practice of social work is continually influenced by judicial decisions. The students also attain skills in advocating within the legal system on behalf of the populations that they serve.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program.

SWK-491. Advanced Research I. 2 Hours.
This course is designed to enable students to develop a research proposal that will be carried out in the following semester. The course focuses on the elements of a research proposal and the steps in developing the proposal. The course helps students decide on the topic and move this to a research problem. The course also facilitates the literature review and helps in the design of the research methodology. In addition, students learn about the limitations of their research as well as the significance.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curriculum or bachelor’s degree in social work and admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work
**Corequisite:** SWK-495.

SWK-492. Advanced Research II. 2 Hours.
This course is designed to afford students the opportunity to implement the research project for which they developed a research proposal in the previous term. Students must have received the approval of the NEIU Institutional Review Board prior to conducting this research. This course is to assist students in the collection and analysis of their data as well as the identification of the contributions and limitations and the implications of this research.
**Requirement:** Completion of the foundation curricula or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work
**Prerequisite:** SWK-491 minimum grade of B.
**Corequisite:** SWK-496.
SWK-495. Advanced Field Practicum I. 4 Hours.
This is an advanced practicum designed to engage students in experiences and activities in their concentration. This is the first semester of a 2-semester sequence and is designed to expose students to the roles and tasks of a professional social worker in their desired concentration.
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work
Corequisite: SWK-491.

SWK-496. Advanced Field Practicum II. 4 Hours.
This is an advanced practicum designed to engage students in experiences and activities in their concentration. This is the second semester of a 2-semester sequence and is designed to further students learning and advance their understanding of the roles and tasks of a professional social worker in their desired concentration.
Requirement: Completion of the foundation curriculum or admission to the advanced standing graduate degree program in social work
Prerequisite: SWK-495 minimum grade of B.
Corequisite: SWK-492.