COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

All changes effective Fall 2023

I.. COURSE CHANGES

(SOWK) Social Work

ADD

SOWK 574 Forensic Social Work in the Civil Legal System (3)
Provides instruction on forensic social work practice in the civil legal system. This legal system integrates social work roles in victim advocacy, abuse/neglect prevention, civil rights, family/marital/divorce mediation, child welfare/foster care/child custody, disability law, elder law, immigration law, international human rights, health/mental health law, and legislative oversight. Social justice and policy-specific issues such as disenfranchisement, the ADA, family separation in immigration/child welfare, and wage theft will be examined. All levels of social work practice will be included with a special emphasis on critical theories, restorative practice models, evidence-based assessment/intervention/prevention strategies, and anti-oppressive ethics/practices.
(Re) Prerequisite(s): SOWK 503, 504, 510, 511, 515, 516, 519, 538, 542 and 544.
Registration Restriction(s): Graduate students only. Minimum student level graduate.
Registration Permission: Non-MSSW students may register with consent of instructor.

SOWK 633 Professional Development for Social Work Scholars (3)
Prepares social work doctoral students for successful completion of the doctoral program and for successful careers as social work scholars. The course will cover the topics of goal-setting, dissertation progression, preparing professional statements and career materials, navigating the academic job-market and tenure-track career, understanding the academy, engaging with diverse mentors and research partners, and research ethics.
Registration Restriction(s): Minimum student level – graduate.

SOWK 604 Community Engaged Social Work Research (3)
Explores the theory and practice of engaging diverse communities, organizations, and relevant stakeholders in social work research. Students will explore community-based research models and learn skills relevant to centering participant research goals in the design and implementation of social work research.
Registration Restriction(s): Minimum student level – graduate.

REVISE DESCRIPTION

SOWK 564 Substance Use Disorders (3)
Prepares students for evidence-based practice in the field of substance use disorder treatment. Presents an integrative biopsychosocial model for the understanding and treatment of substance use disorders. Course content includes an overview of the history of substance use disorders, a review of models of addiction, a multidimensional model of the addiction process with attention to persons with traumatic histories and their particular needs, the physiological effects of commonly misused substances, assessment and diagnosis of substance use disorders, and specific, evidence-based interventions for adolescent and adult clients.

Formerly:

REVISE TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

SOWK 573 Forensic Social Work in the Criminal Legal System (3)
Provides instruction on forensic social work practice in the adult and juvenile legal systems. These legal systems integrate social work roles in crime prevention, victim advocacy, law enforcement, court systems, carceral systems, re-entry,
community supervision, and legislative oversight. Social justice and policy-specific issues such as community policing, mass incarceration, criminalizing homelessness/addiction/mental illness, and the school-to-prison pipeline will be examined. All levels of social work practice will be included with a special emphasis on critical theories, restorative practice models, evidence-based assessment/intervention/prevention strategies, and anti-oppressive ethics/practices.

Formerly:
Forensic Social Work (3)
Provides an introduction to and overview of the field of forensic social work. Students will be equipped to collaborate with the criminal justice system and to utilize policy and practice skills to work toward ensuring all individuals have the opportunity to be safe, healthy, contributing members of their communities. It provides an opportunity for students to gain knowledge about a system impacting many people and will broadly expose students to the criminal justice system through a focused look at forensic social work. Social workers have increasing opportunities to practice in a diversity of criminal justice settings. Will assist students in developing knowledge and skills for generalist practice in these diverse arenas. Content will focus on forensic social work including ethics, roles, functions, skills; utilization of community assets; the criminal justice system; and trans-systemic interactions.

Rationale: New courses added and revisions to existing courses made to meet competencies for the revised PhD and Forensic Social Work Graduate Certificate curriculums. Financial Impact: None. Impact on other units: None.

II. PROGRAM CHANGES

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR, MSSW – REVISE CONCENTRATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise the concentration program options to remove Comprehensive Exams Option and replace with Capstone Option as shown below.

Concentrations (Required) and Options Available
Clinical Practice — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option
Organizational Leadership — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option

Formerly:
Clinical Practice — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option
Organizational Leadership — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR, MSSW – REVISE UNDER THE NON-COURSE REQUIREMENTS HEADING, FOR EACH CONCENTRATION THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (WHICH WILL NOW SHOW AS CAPSTONE)

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, for each concentration, under the Non-Course Requirements heading, remove the current 4 bullets and replace with the following two bullets – showing requirements for the capstone.

• Course-based capstone experience. All MSSW students must pass the final semester of concentration field – SOWK 584, SOWK 586, or SOWK 587 – as the culminating internship experience.
• The completion of a thesis is optional.

Formerly:
Students who do not develop and defend a thesis must pass a final comprehensive examination during the concentration year.

Information about this exam will be provided to students the semester before they are expected to graduate.

Students taking the final examination but not otherwise using university facilities must register for one credit hour of SW 502 (Use of Facilities) or pay a fee equal to one hour of graduate credit instead of registering.

In case of failure, the student may not retake the exam until the following semester. The comprehensive exam is offered each spring and fall semester; retakes for failures in the spring semester are taken during the summer session The result of the second examination is final.

Rationale: The profession of social work has experienced difficulties with the professional licensure exam. This licensing exam has been shown to be a biased indicator of one's ability to competently perform in a professional social work setting. Therefore, the professional association is discussing alternatives to this licensing exam to evaluate an individual's ability more equitably to practice professional social work. This shift in the professional environment has caused our college to examine the need for a competency-based exam. The alternative is to utilize the culminating internship experience that is referred to as Concentration Field. This Concentration Field course will be required to successfully complete the MSSW degree. Financial Impact: None. Impact on other units: None.
DROP ACCELERATED BSSW/MSSW PROGRAM

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, drop the five-year BSSW-MSSW accelerated program.

Rationale: The five-year BSSW/MSSW Program has been eliminated by our undergraduate Social Work program. It is the same as the advanced standing MSSW option.

REVISE DUAL MSSW-JD PROGRAM – TO REVISE THE CONCENTRATION PROGRAM OPTION

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise the concentration program options to remove Comprehensive Exams Option and replace with Capstone Option as shown below.

Concentrations
For Social Work major (concentrations required)
- Clinical Practice — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option
- Organizational Leadership — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option

Formerly:
- Clinical Practice — Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option
- Organizational Leadership — Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option

REVISE DUAL MSSW-JD PROGRAM – TO SHOW CREDIT HOURS FOR ADVANCED STANDING STUDENTS

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, under the Credit Hours Required heading, add bullet to show credit hours for our Advanced Standing candidates, as shown below.

Credit Hours Required
- For MSSW Advanced Standing candidates, 36 graduate credit hours, including nine credit hours from the College of Law, for 27 credit hours.

REVISE DUAL MSSW-MLSD PROGRAM – TO REVISE THE CONCENTRATION PROGRAM OPTION

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise the concentration program options to remove Comprehensive Exams Option and replace with Capstone Option as shown below.

Concentrations
For Social Work major (concentrations required)
- Clinical Practice — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option
- Organizational Leadership — Thesis Option, Coursework Only with Capstone Option

Formerly:
- Clinical Practice — Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option
- Organizational Leadership — Coursework Only with Comprehensive Exams Option

REVISE REQUIRED COURSES - SOCIAL WORK MAJOR, PHD

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, under the Required Courses heading, remove current list of required courses and replace with list showing required courses by semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>601 Research for Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>605 Analysis of Social Work Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>626 Critical Thinking for Science &amp; Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>628 Critical Review of Research Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
<th>(students can complete the asynchronous, virtual teaching certificate modules concurrently with the fall semester or during semester break)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>602 Research for Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SEMESTER 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>606 Analysis of Social Work Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>608 Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

677* Teaching Practicum (online or in person) with consultation- certificate modules must be completed through TIC prior to or concurrent with enrolling in 677, at least one certificate module must include inclusive teaching or equivalent inclusive pedagogy, students must also engage with the TIC to schedule a TIC consultation concurrent with their 677 course.

### SEMESTER 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>603 Research II: Funded Research &amp; Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>604 Community Engaged Social Work Research, OR SW 675 Teaching Methods in Social Work, or another approved research/statistics/substantive/teaching elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>633 Professional Development for Social Work Scholars</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 665 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods or Advanced Statistics Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

678 Elective teaching practicum (Optional Teaching Practicum) 1 (optional)

### SEMSTERS 5+

Students must enroll in a minimum of 24 dissertation (SW 600) hours 24

*Note: Teaching certificates completed through the UTK Teaching & Learning Innovation Center (inclusive teaching, plus an additional certificate of choice) are required concurrently or as prerequisites for teaching practicum 67 total hours

**REVISE NON-COURSE REQUIREMENTS - SOCIAL WORK MAJOR, PHD**

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, under the Non-Course Requirements heading, replace current wording and replace with the following.

**NON-COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Two self-paced teaching certificate modules
  - one must be the inclusive teaching certificate (https://tli.ut.pdx.catalog.caravasims.com/programs/inclusive-teaching-program),
  - the other can be a certificate of the student's choice https://gradschool.utk.edu/2021/02/03/certificate-programs-for-teaching-from-tli/
  - two certificates plus completed practicum/consultation required for students to teach independently for the College
  - Certificates should be concurrent with or prerequisites for practicum. Practicum can be completed during regular semesters, summer semester, or mini-terms
  - Students are required to collaborate with the Teaching & Learning Innovation Center to complete the six-step consultation process*** (Consultations | Teaching & Learning Innovation (utk.edu)) concurrently with the teaching practicum.
  - A second teaching practicum can be taken as an elective.
  - Students can partner with any full-time faculty in the College at either campus
- All doctoral students are required to pass a comprehensive examination that consists of a scholarly paper, dissertation proposal, and professional presentation.
  - The examination is administered by members of the comprehensive exam committee and is designed for the student to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the major and cognate areas and the dissertation topic.
  - In case of failure, the student may request a retake.
  - The result of the second examination is final.
- Completion and defense of the dissertation.
Formerly:
All doctoral students are required to pass a comprehensive examination that consists of a scholarly paper, dissertation proposal, and professional presentation.
The examination is administered by members of the comprehensive exam committee and is designed for the student to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the major and cognate areas and the dissertation topic.
In case of failure, the student may request a retake.
The result of the second examination is final.
Completion and defense of the dissertation.

Rationale: In relation to preparing PhD students for instructional roles, students are currently required to take SW 675 (teaching pedagogy), during their 2nd semester, and they are required to complete two teaching practica during their second year in the program. We are eliminating the requirement for SW 675. We will make it an elective and replace it with a requirement** to complete a minimum of two self-paced certificate modules*** https://teaching.utk.edu/certificate-curriculum/ from the University's Teaching & Learning Innovation Center, which are designed by teaching experts. The credit hours opened by eliminating SW 675 will be filled by requiring the community engaged research course, or an additional research methods or teaching pedagogy/philosophy course. This will allow students more opportunity to self-direct towards coursework that includes additional research or teaching content, guided by their own interests and career goals, while ensuring that all students receive foundational teaching content.

We are reducing the teaching practicum requirement from two one-credit practica down to one practicum combined with a concurrent, formal teaching consultation. We will allow second practicum to be an elective.

The UTK Teaching & Learning Innovation Center provides graduate student teaching resources similar to what is covered in the SW 675 course, graduate teaching assistants are required to undergo continuing education and supervision in accordance with SACS requirements—so they will be getting continued support for building their teaching skills concurrently with their teaching, completed teaching certificates can be placed on student’s CV, revised model offers more student choices, proposed changes align with some aspects of the diversity action plan (DAP) as they apply to the PhD program, allows for more research-focused content, enhances our PhD elective offerings, improves/foregrounds professional development course, facilitates student ability to move into independently teaching courses for the College sooner. This does not add or reduce program credit hours.

**Communication from Sara Bradberry in the Graduate School indicates that it is acceptable to require the completion of the teaching certificates, consultation, and critical conversations training in order to enroll in the practicum, provided that this expectation is stated clearly in the handbook and relevant syllabi.

***Communication with Chris Lavan at the University's Teaching and Learning Center indicates that they are equipped to collaborate with our College to ensure that the required certificates are offered and that the required consultations are provided during the teaching practicum. They are highly supportive of this.

Students are currently required to take two professional development courses (SW 630 & 680), and each are one credit. SW 630 is taken during the spring semester of the first year, and 680 is taken during the spring semester of the second year. We are combining the content from SW 630 & SW 680 into SW 633, one 3-hour course, which will be taken in the fall of the second year, in the spot where SW 675 was previously offered. We are also expanding content on mentoring, CITI training; research, authorship, and publication ethics.

REVISE COLLEGE PAGE – TEXT UNDER HEADING FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, on our college page, under the heading Graduate Certificates, revise as shown below

1) 3rd sentence – revise as shown below.

However, all certificates do require additional coursework over and above that which is required for the MSSW program.

Formerly: However, all certificates do require 3 credit hours (1 course) over and above that which is required for the MSSW program.

2) In the second paragraph, after the sentence describing the Trauma Treatment certificate – add sentence describing the Forensic Social Work certificate as shown below.

“The Graduate Certificate in Trauma Treatment...” The Forensic Social Work certificate provides students broadly exposes students to the criminal justice system through a focused look at forensic social work through courses in the MSSW program and courses taken in the College of Law.

REVISE FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise under two headings, 1) under the Application Standards/Procedure heading remove current text and replace as shown below and 2) revise under the Required Courses heading, replace as shown below.

Application Standards/Procedure
Students will receive information about the certificate program at the time of their admission to the MSSW program.
To be admitted to this program, students must

- Meet the Graduate Admission requirements for a certificate program.
- Submit a departmental application at the time of their admission to the MSSW program and agree to program requirements.

The application includes a brief personal statement describing 1) their reasons for participating in the certificate program, 2) their professional career goals, and 3) acknowledgement that they understand there are additional credit hours to be taken beyond the credits required for the MSSW.

Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Formerly:
To be considered for this certificate, students must submit a departmental application at the time of their admission to the MSSW program.

Students will receive information about the certificate program at the time of their admission to the MSSW program. Entry into the certificate is on a first serve basis. Students should apply early if interested.

Students selected for admission, must be formally admitted to the certificate through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

The application includes a brief personal statement describing reasons for participating in the certificate, acknowledgement that they understand there are four additional credit hours to be taken beyond the sixty credits required for the MSSW and professional career goals.

Admitted students will be directed to contact the Chair of the Forensic Social Work Certificate to make arrangements to meet the course requirements.

REQUISITED COURSES

- 6 credit hours to be taken during the generalist year of the program
  - Law 503 (3 credit hours) Structure and Operation of the American Legal System
  - Law 504 (3 credit hours) Introduction to Legal Reasoning and Communication

- 6 credit hours to be taken during the concentration year of the program
  - SOWK 573 (3 credit hours) or SOWK 574 (3 credit hours). Students must complete at least one of these two Forensic Social Work electives.
  - Choice between one elective from the College of Law (3 credit hours) OR a second Forensic Social Work elective (SOWK 573 or SOWK 574). Course offerings from the College of Law will vary by semester.

Formerly:
6 credit hours to be taken during the generalist year of the program
LAW 986 (3 credit hours)
LAW 988 (3 credit hours)
6 credit hours to be taken during the concentration year of the program
SOWK 573 (3 credit hours)
One elective from the College of Law (3 credit hours). Offerings will vary each semester.
- LAW 933 Elder Law (2 credit hours)
- LAW 990 Sex, Gender and Justice (2 credit hours)
- LAW 990 Poverty, Race, Gender and the Law (2 credit hours)
- LAW 990 Advanced Advocacy and Expert Witnesses (2 credit hours)

REVISE GERONTOLOGY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, under the Admissions Standards/Procedures heading, remove current text and replace with the following.

Admissions Standards/Procedures
Students will receive information about the certificate program at the time of their admission to the MSSW program. To be admitted to this program, students must

- Meet the Graduate Admission requirements for a certificate program.
- Students must submit a departmental application at the time of their admission to the MSSW program, or as early as possible in their degree program, and agree to program requirements.

The application includes a brief personal statement describing 1) their reasons for participating in the certificate program, 2) their professional career goals, and 3) acknowledgement that they understand there are additional credit hours to be taken beyond the credits required for the MSSW.

Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program through the Office of Graduate Admissions.
Formerly:
To be admitted to this program students must submit a departmental application to the Gerontology Certificate Chair. Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

REVISE TRAUMA TREATMENT GRADAUTE CERTIFICATE

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise text in two places. 1) under the Admissions Standards/Procedures heading, remove current text and replace with the following and 2) under the Required Courses heading, add a course to the list.

Admissions Standards/Procedures
Students will receive information about the certificate program at the time of their admission to the MSSW program.
To be admitted to this program, students must
- Meet the Graduate Admission requirements for a certificate program.
- Submit a departmental application at the time of their admission to the MSSW program and agree to program requirements.

The application includes a brief personal statement describing 1) their reasons for participating in the certificate program, 2) their professional career goals, and 3) acknowledgement that they understand there are additional credit hours to be taken beyond the credits required for the MSSW.

Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Formerly:
To be admitted to this program, students must submit a departmental application during the spring semester prior to their concentration year.
The departmental application includes a brief personal statement describing reasons for participating in the program, professional career goals, and a tentative schedule for the elective courses the student would like to take.
The application deadline is February 1st. Advanced standing students should apply within two weeks after admission to the MSSW program.
Entry into the program is on a first serve basis. Students should apply early if interested.
Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program by submitting an application through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Required Courses
Under the bullet "Two of the following" - add course SOWK 564 to the list of required courses

Two of the following:
- SOWK 529 (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 533 (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 534 (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 535 (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 564 (3 credit hours)

REVISE VETERINARY SOCIAL WORK GRADAUTE CERTIFICATE

In the 2023-24 Graduate Catalog, revise text under two headings. 1) under the Admissions Standards/Procedures heading, remove current text and replace with the following and 2) under the Non-Course Requirements heading.

Admissions Standards/Procedures
Students will receive information about the certificate program at the time of their admission to the MSSW program.
To be admitted to this program, students must
- Meet the Graduate Admission requirements for a certificate program.
- Submit a departmental application at the time of their admission to the MSSW program and agree to program requirements.

The application includes a brief personal statement describing 1) their reasons for participating in the certificate program, 2) their professional career goals, and 3) acknowledgement that they understand there are additional credit hours to be taken beyond the credits required for the MSSW.

Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Formerly:
To be admitted to this program, students must
- Meet the Graduate Admission requirements for certificate program
Have passed all coursework in the generalist year of the Master of Science in Social Work program. Submit a departmental application prior to their concentration year and agree to program requirements. Students selected for admission must be formally admitted to the certificate program through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

**Non-Course requirements**
To receive the certificate, students must:

1) complete the Graduate Certificate Course Verification Form (located on the Graduate School webpage under the Forms Central tab) and

2) through MyUTK, apply to graduate from the certificate program.

Formerly:
Attend live web meetings during concentration year. 
Complete the face to face Veterinary Social Work Intensive and AAI Workshop. 
Online modules must be completed before face-to-face events.

1) complete the Graduate Certificate Course Verification Form (located on the Graduate School webpage under the Forms Central tab) and

2) through MyUTK, apply to graduate from the certificate program.

Rationale for Forensic Social Work Certificate Revisions - MSSW students enrolled in the Forensic Social Work Certificate Program have been required to complete two College of Law courses, LAW 503 (3) and LAW 504 (3), SOWK 573 Forensic Social Work (3), an elective (3) from the College of Law, and a forensic field internship. These requirements have been relatively easy to accomplish with one exception: the LAW elective. Those students on the Nashville and Online campuses must complete the LAW elective online and the options for this elective online have not been particularly appealing or relevant to forensic social work practice. Though electives have been added, the timing of when this elective is taken within the different programs of study varies and there are semesters that offer fewer online electives than others.

Currently, this program requires MSSW students to take a total of 9 credit hours from courses in the College of Law but only 3 credit hours from a single course in Forensic Social Work. Forensic social work practice is expansive and intersects both civil and criminal legal systems. Little more than a broad overview of forensic social work practice can be achieved in a single, 3 credit hour course. Thus, preparing students for advanced practice in forensic social work is limited by the current curriculum.

The proposed solution to the above stated problems would be to add another forensic social work course to serve as an alternate, online elective for MSSW students in the certificate program. One course would focus on forensic social work practice in the civil legal system, the other in the criminal legal systems. Students would be required to take at least one of these two courses but may choose to take both with one serving as the required elective instead of a LAW elective. These courses would be taught online with one course taught in the Spring and Summer semesters, and the other, in the Spring semester only. These courses could be taken in the same semester or different semesters. By separating the courses in this way, students could decide which legal system they want to pursue and be provided with an advanced, deep dive into that forensic social work practice area. Impact on other units - None. Financial Impact – None.

Rationale for Trauma Treatment Certificate Revision – SOWK 564 has been revised to include trauma content to make it a suitable elective for the certificate. Impact on other units – None. Financial Impact – None.

Rationale for Admission Standards/Procedures Revisions – revised to ensure a streamlined, consistent application and admission process for all of our graduate certificate programs. Impact on other units – None. Financial Impact – None.