

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES OFFERED IN 2024/2025  
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (HONOURS)

**SW100 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course serves to help first year students to gain basic knowledge and general understanding about the philosophy and concepts of social work and social welfare. Knowledge on the basic elements and issues of “what” and “why” of the social work discipline will be covered. The course is an important foundation in social work study in order to pave way for further pursuit in the social work profession.

**SW120 Principles of Sociology**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to introduce to students the sociological analysis of the structuring of various forms of human practices and relationships. The emphasis is on the systemic study of human actions resulting from subjective meaningful interactions in everyday life. Major sociological paradigms, such as Structural-Functionalist, Marxist, and Symbolic Interactionist, will be introduced to students. Students will also learn to adopt the sociological perspective to understand social phenomena such as culture, organisation, gender, family, social stratification, social policy, deviance and globalisation.

**SW130 Fundamentals in Social Policy and Advocacy**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course introduces the ideologies, concepts, theories, and principles related to social policy and advocacy, and how social policy contributes to the solution, control and amelioration of social issues and problems globally, regionally, and locally. The course will facilitate students to identify and review how the structural and macro factors affect the efficiency and effectiveness of policymaking and implementation in Hong Kong and/or the Greater Bay Area. Students will also critically discuss how social justice can be advocated in different stages of the policy process.

**SW131 Self-understanding and Self-development I**

**1 Term; Non-credit-bearing**

This course aims to enhance students’ self-understanding and self-awareness of the origin of oneself by introducing various aspects of human development from a lifespan perspective. It examines the essential parts and processes of personality formation comprised of psychological, developmental, emotional, and social facets with a connection with their peers, family members and community. Also, it facilitates students’ sensitivity to comprehend and to accommodate individual strengths and limitations as a life goal for personal growth and better prepare to be a capable social worker in the future.

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**SW201 Social Work Intervention I – Micro Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims at equipping students with some theoretical knowledge and skills about the application of an integrated approach to social work practice, especially in relation to the Generalist Intervention Model. It enables them to gain better understanding about the nature, dynamics, and helping process of professional practice at the micro level, examine the roles and skills of a social worker as well as value dilemmas that may arise at different stages of helping. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to reflect on the integration of theoretical knowledge, values, and skills in supporting service-users with varied needs and problems. Along with a strengths-based perspective, this aims to broaden the repertoire of social work interventions before students begin their fieldwork practice. Various theoretical approaches such as Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Task-Centered Approach, Family Therapy etc. will be applied in different case scenarios.

**SW202 Skills Laboratory I – Micro Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims at equipping students with some interviewing and communication skills that professional social workers often use at different stages of the helping process. It offers new knowledge to students such as how to conduct interviews effectively with service users from diverse backgrounds and age groups, so as to get them well prepared for the coming fieldwork placements. Moreover, they will acquire better knowledge on how to apply specific interviewing skills (e.g. paraphrasing, reframing, reflection of feelings, clarification, confrontation, focusing, summarization etc.) in simulated scenarios and different service settings.

**SW221 Social Work Intervention II – Mezzo Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to provide students with basic knowledge about the nature, dynamics and helping process of meso-level practice i.e. group work practices, particularly in relation to the generalist model. Four main themes including the ecological perspective, problem-solving, mutual-aid and experiential learning will be highlighted, and application to social work intervention in working with individuals, families and communities via the group process will be taught. In addition, students will learn how to apply the major theoretical concepts and intervention strategies in social group work, using the group as both a means and a context, to help people fulfil their needs, resolve their problems, and enhance their social functioning. Students will also learn the processes of group work processes from writing group work proposals, budget plans, session plans, recordings to group work evaluation in creative, contemporary and collaborative ways.

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**SW222 Skills Laboratory II – Mezzo Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims at equipping students with groupwork concepts and skills in working with different target groups, in practical contexts, and at various stages of the helping process. It enables students to integrate attitude, knowledge and skills in social work practice and to apply them in direct practice in meso-level of interventions for facilitating the process of changes.

**SW241 Social Work Intervention III – Macro Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The aim of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of macro-level social work practice and the knowledge, and skills required to effectively intervene at the community, organizational and policy levels. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with the knowledge, strategies, and critical thinking abilities necessary to effectively plan, implement, and evaluate macro-level social work interventions in diverse settings for promoting change at macro-level.

**SW242 Skills Laboratory III – Macro Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This laboratory course aims to enhance student's generic social work skills and competence for macro social work practice. It will focus on developing practical skills for community organization, project management, policy and evaluation including tools and techniques for successful work in the field. In addition, this course will support students who are expected to enroll in their field placement. To this end, information on common macro practice fieldwork tasks will be infused into this course; some tasks include, but are not limited to, preparing a community program proposal and other project management tasks, such as cost and time management, and data analysis for project evaluation etc. This course will use multiple methods including but not limited to lectures, role plays, demonstrations, readings, discussions, written assignments, individual and group exercises. The laboratory would be a unique learning environment that enables and consolidates "learning through doing". The primary pedagogy will be experiential, involving problem solving, project planning, and hands-on applications of real-world situations arising in the field. A list of illustrative assignments will be prepared and provided to instructors and prospective instructors of the course.

**SW290 Introduction to Mental Health Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to develop students' basic concepts related to mental health and mental disorders. The history of mental health practice evolving from a medical to recovery paradigm and the common types of mental disorders including schizophrenia, depressive disorders, bipolar and related disorders and anxiety disorders will be covered in this course. Practice concepts and application of different models will also be introduced.

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**SW300 Social Policy and Planning**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims at discussing and analyzing how social policy contributes to the solution, control and amelioration of social issues and problems. The course will introduce the key elements involved in the policy-making process and critically examine social issues and policies within the local context. In addition, it aims to introduce students to the dynamic factors affecting social welfare policy, policy planning, and policy delivery mechanisms in Hong Kong. Major roles and functions performed by the social work profession will also be analyzed and evaluated.

**SW310 Working with at Risk and Hidden Youth**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

The aims of this course are to examine sociological and psychological theories in explaining youth problems and delinquency, analyse youth policy and services in Hong Kong and equip students with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to work with at-risk and hidden youth.

**SW320 Ethics for Social Workers**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The goal of this course is to help students be aware of their moral values and beliefs in their social work practice. This course adopts a reflective approach to help students reflect on ethical issues and dilemmas in social work practice such as advocacy and social justice, self-determination, confidentiality, management of multiple relationships, and using theories and psychotherapeutic tests. Students will be provided with various practice scenarios to analyse core social work principles, the role of personal self in professional development, and ethical concerns. A critical review of the evolution of social work ethics, ethical theories, ethical decision models, the Codes of Practice, social work values and mission, and their relevance to Chinese societies will be covered in the course.

**SW321 Digital Technology in Social Work Practice**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course aims at equipping social work students with digital knowledge and technological competence in social work practice in order to meet client needs and society digitalization. The course intends to facilitate students to understand what digital technology is and how it can be applied in social work practice. Digital competence includes five areas namely information, communication, content-creation, problem solving, and safety. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand the application of digital tools in different types of social work services. In addition, their technological competence will be enhanced.

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**SW322 Use of Play in Social Work Practice with Children**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to equip social work students with practical knowledge and skills in therapeutic play and play-based interventions for children. The relationship between play and child development will be discussed, the importance of integrating play in child-related practice and the history and development of play-based intervention will also be illustrated. Therapeutic powers of play and the Play Therapy Dimensions Model will be introduced with recent research and supportive findings to enhance students' concepts on integrating play-based practice into social work settings. Practical application of various theoretical approaches of play-based intervention will be taught.

**SW330 Family-based Service and Practice**

**2 Terms; 4 Credits**

This course aims to prepare students to work in the field of child welfare and family services. It will provide them with knowledge and skills in handling various family dynamics and problems. The course will critically examine current children and family welfare policy in Hong Kong and discuss the existing service provisions for families in need. The course will also apply family theories, family needs assessment tools and intervention strategies in working with children and families in the local context.

**SW340 Working with Older Adults**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course aims at equipping students with knowledge about different aspects of the ageing process, including the physical, psychological, and sociological perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on discussing various theoretical approaches, skills as well as values in working with older adults and their caregivers. The current service provisions and welfare policies concerning care for older adults in Hong Kong will be examined.

**SW351 Integrative Practice Seminar I**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course is designed in parallel with students' first concurrent field placement. The aim is to equip students with generic social work knowledge and practice skills at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Students will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become competent generalist social workers applying an integrated approach. This course will enable students to integrate their learning gained from social work courses with practices that are relevant to their field placement experiences. In this course, the focus is more on the preparation, orientation, and review of the foundation practice skills of the initial stage of intervention through casework, group work, social development, and programme management. It is expected that the practice situations will enhance students' knowledge, skills, and self-understanding.

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**SW352 Integrative Practice Seminar II**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This is a sequel to Integrative Practice Seminar I designed in parallel with students' first concurrent field placement. The aim is to equip students with generic social work knowledge and practice skills at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. In the second semester (SW352), the focus is on more intensive and advanced skills practice and reflection on issues that occur in the middle and final stages of the first concurrent placement. Students can further polish the application of their basic skills through the case and group intervention, social development and programme planning, implementation, evaluation, and termination. It is expected that the practice situations will enhance students' knowledge, skills, self-understanding, and personal qualities.

**SW360 Working with New Arrivals and Ethnic Minorities**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

By adopting a structural perspective, this course conducts a critical review of how social institutes and institutionalized relationships marginalise new arrivals from mainland China and ethnic minorities. The course includes discussions about current government policies, concepts of social inclusion and exclusion, poverty, multiculturalism, and cultural competence. Students will evaluate the roles and effectiveness of current social services and policies and means to improve the well-being of new arrivals and ethnic minorities.

**SW361 – 2 Fieldwork I and II**

**2 Terms; 8 Credits**

The fieldwork education programme aims at providing social work students with practical fieldwork experience through planned and supervised placements arranged in various social work settings. The following are objectives of the programme:

- I. Professional Attitudes and Development
- II. Knowledge and Skills
- III. Student in Agency as Social Work Practitioner

**SW363 Fieldwork III (Summer Block Placement)**

**1 Term; 4 Credits**

The fieldwork education programme aims at providing social work students with practical fieldwork experience through planned and supervised placements arranged in various social work settings. The following are objectives of the programme:

- I. Professional Attitudes and Development
- II. Knowledge and Skills
- III. Student in Agency as Social Work Practitioner

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**SW370 Law and Social Work**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The aim of this course is to equip students, as future social work practitioners, administrators and advocates for justice and equal opportunities, with basic legal knowledge that is pertinent to their practice. Legislation pertaining to families, children in need of care and protection, juvenile delinquency, unprotected workers and consumers, the mentally incapacitated and those discriminated against based on their gender, disability and family status etc. will be discussed and presented in the course. Aside from gaining knowledge of the basic legal provisions for the above populations, students will conduct legal research and learn how to access and use legal literature (in particular, statutes and case laws) so that they can better serve their clients.

**SW390 Social Work Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs and Their Families**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course provides a general knowledge of children with special educational needs (SEN). It aims at enhancing the understanding of the emotions and behaviours of children with SEN, and equipping students with practical skills in working with the target clientele and their families in various social work settings. Characteristics of children with SEN, service models, policies and service trend will be covered in the course.

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**SW400 Programme Evaluation**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course is a continuation of Social Work Research. The aim of this course is to introduce different designs of programme evaluation and their uses for continuous quality improvement in social services. An experiential learning approach is used in this course. Students are required to choose one specific method and help a social service agency to conduct a programme evaluation or conduct a needs analysis in the community. Based on the evaluation findings, students are expected to provide concrete recommendations for service improvement or policy advocacy.

**SW420 Medical Social Work**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course will enable students to understand the tasks and roles of social workers practicing in medical and healthcare settings. Topics include theoretical models and concepts related to physical and mental health, illness, disability, death and dying, loss, grief, bereavement; and also therapeutic techniques in handling self-harm and suicidal behaviours, interpersonal violent behaviours including domestic violence, child abuse, intimate partner abuse, and elder abuse. The ethical considerations of a medical social worker, the role of the social worker as a member of a multi-disciplinary team with medical, health, allied health, and other professionals will also be covered. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to work professionally with individuals, families, and groups in different medical and healthcare settings to handle their physical and/or mental health problems. Students will also be able to advocate for health equalities and inclusion for people with disabilities in society.

**SW421 Narrative Therapy in Social Work Practice**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to help students reveal the philosophical underpinnings, assumptions, and characteristics of Narrative Therapy, embrace diverse values and make interpretations of issues concerned, learn how to realize such interpretation in terms of approaches and understand what particular processes and skills are needed to implement such practice models. In particular, it aims to offer an overview of the “narrative turn” in human sciences, examine the role and application of narrative (de)construction in social work, and develop skilled performance in opening up narrative space and navigating (de)constructing and re-authoring conversations in therapeutic work in social work contexts.

**SW430 Rehabilitation Services – Working with People with Intellectual Disabilities**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

The course examines the philosophies and vital principles of rehabilitative service, with emphasis on updated models of service delivery for people with intellectual disabilities. The course will provide students with practical knowledge and useful skills in working with the target clientele, their families and carers.



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**SW441 – 2 Honours Project I and II**

**2 Terms; 4 Credits**

This course aims at enabling students to conduct a practically-oriented study on an issue identified from their practical experience in the first and second placements in order to demonstrate the integration of knowledge and practical skills learnt during the programme. A supervisor will be assigned to each student. He/She will meet regularly with the student to discuss the progress of the project. Workshops will be organised by the Honours Project Coordinator for students to review practical research and analytical skills.

**SW450 Social Work in Pre-school, Primary and Secondary School Settings**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course aims to examine recent services and policy development of school social work service and their implications for the social work profession. The course will critically discuss the differential use of intervention skills and strategies in pre-school, primary and secondary school settings, and considerations related to working with the school systems, dealing with teachers, students, families and the educational system. The course will also equip students with knowledge and skills in handling crisis and specific issues in schools.

**SW460 Addressing Gender and Sexuality in Social Work Practice**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course is designed to explore the physiological, psychological and socio-cultural variables associated with sexual identity, sexual orientation and sexual behavior of a variety of client groups. The course will introduce human sexuality in the practice of social workers. Through acquisition of knowledge in sexual expression and behaviors as well as skills in supporting clients, students will be better prepared to help service users address issues of gender and sexuality.

**SW461 Integrative Practice Seminar III**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course is designed to equip social work students with advanced generic social work skills. This course is taught in parallel with students' third concurrent field placement which follows the second summer block placement. The course aims to enable students to integrate their learning gained in the past years with actual practices, so as to tackle and deal with more complicated social issues with greater competence and confidence. In this course, the focus is more on enabling students to build up an advanced level of social work practice with a mixed-mode intervention strategy, applying at micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Students will learn to compare, apply, and reflect on various theories of social work and practice in the Hong Kong context through role play, practice demonstration, interactive discussion and the sharing of ideas with fellow students. Practice situations will be emphasized to enhance students' knowledge, skills, self- understanding, personal qualities, and cultural sensitivity in response to diverse factors affecting service rendering. It is expected students will be able to select accurate practice concepts from major social work theories to design appropriate intervention strategies.

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**SW462 Integrative Practice Seminar IV**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course, a sequel to Integrative Practice Seminar III, is designed to equip social work students with advanced social work skills. This course is conducted parallel with the second half of the third placement. Students will advance their practice skills, taking on an integrative and cultural perspective to understand social issues from the rapid socio-cultural and technological changing world. Students will learn how to address social problems and or needs in both the international and local context. A transdisciplinary approach that focuses on cross-professional training and practice will also be introduced. This course aims to enhance students' cultural awareness and deepen their understanding and practices in developing innovative services, both locally and globally.

**SW470 Social Work Practice in Mental Health**

**1 Term; 2 Credits**

This course aims to equip social work students with practical knowledge of mental health services in local and global contexts. The history of mental health practice evolving from a medical to psychosocial rehabilitation paradigm and the major types of mental health illness including schizophrenia, mood and anxiety disorders as well as the co-morbidity between substance abuse and mental illness will be covered in this course. Practice concepts and application of different models will also be taught.

**SW471 – 2 Fieldwork IV and V**

**2 Terms; 8 Credits**

The fieldwork education programme aims at providing social work students with practical fieldwork experience through planned and supervised placements arranged in various social work settings. The following are objectives of the programme:

- I. Professional Attitudes and Development
- II. Knowledge and Skills
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**SW480 Social Service Management**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to provide students with basic knowledge in management in social service organizations. Theories and models of administration in the social service and non-profit, human service sector will be examined. Administrative skills, leadership roles, social enterprises, human resource development, strategic planning, financial and risk management will also be covered in the course. Issues related to quality assurance and performance assessments will also be examined.