

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES OFFER

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

SW100 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare

Prerequisite; Non-Credit Bearing

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.

SW501 Interprofessional Collaboration in Social Work Practice

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills needed to work with other professionals in multi-disciplinary service settings. It will critically reflect on and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that facilitate effective team functioning for interprofessional collaborative practice. Students will enhance their understanding of the unique disciplinary contribution and examine factors that facilitate and constrain interprofessional collaboration and generate solutions.

SW502 Advanced Interviewing Skills and Modalities – Social Work Micro Practices

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to equip students with an understanding of professional roles, advanced interviewing skills and modalities of working with individuals, including the use of online counselling. It widens their knowledge scope concerning the nature and dynamics of the helping process across a range of service settings and helpees. Emphasis will be placed on engagement and relationship building skills. The course facilitates students to reflect on and consolidate learning in areas such as problem identification, case management as well as an interdisciplinary approach that is appropriate to various scenarios and settings in supporting service users with varied needs.

SW503 Agency, Community, Stakeholders and Systems Engagement – Social Work Mezzo Practices

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course focuses on group work in mezzo social work practice, enabling students to comprehend the role of group work in the community as a bridge between micro and macro contexts. Mezzo social work is primarily focused on helping people at organizational and small community levels. Students can develop effective knowledge and skills in analysing and handling the complex dynamics among stakeholders in the continuously changing social environment. Besides, students will be able to master group work skills, collaboration skills, problem-solving skills and communication techniques in mezzo social work practice.

SW504 Sustainable Development and Social Work Macro Practices

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course will revisit the importance of the social work profession in the sustainable development of society. The contribution of the profession to the betterment of the clients from a macro perspective will be critically examined. The issues of economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability will be examined at both the policy and practice levels. Specific approaches, means and activities will be taught and the social dynamics at the micro, meso and macro levels will be presented and demonstrated using case scenarios and role modeling.

SW505 Advanced Digital and Technological Applications in Social Work Practice

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims at advancing students' digital knowledge and competence in social work practice to meet client needs and society digitalization. The information, communication, content-creation, problem solving, and safety of digital competencies will be embedded in the course content and upon completion of the course, students will be able to use digital tools and technology applications critically, confidently and creatively in social work practice. Furthermore, students will be equipped to manage safety and ethical concerns, and develop problem-solving skills to handle the challenges of an increasingly digitalized society.

SW506 Law and Ethics in Social Work

1 Term; 3 Credits

The aim of this course is to equip future social work practitioners with professional knowledge in law and ethics relating to social work practice. Pertaining to families, children in need of care and protection, vulnerable youths, the persons in recovery and those discriminated against based on their gender, disability and family status etc., legislation will be analysed and discussed in the course. Moreover, a reflective approach will be adopted to facilitate students' comprehension on ethical dilemmas in social work practice such as 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.

SW507 Globalisation and Regionalisation in Social Welfare and Social Policy

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to provide students with a critical review of the ideologies, concepts and theoretical perspectives in social welfare and social policy. Students will be able to evaluate, compare, and contrast the global, regional, and local contemporary issues and problems relevant to social work. Additionally, students will be able to examine the role of social work in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of social and welfare policies in Hong Kong and generate research-informed sustainable development globally, regionally, and locally.

SW508 Human Diversity, Behavior and Social Environment

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to enable students to evaluate human growth and behavior throughout the entire life span within different and diversified socio-cultural contexts, including family, group, organization and community settings. Particular attention will be given to the application of related knowledge to social work practice.

SW509 Impact Creation and Leadership in Social Service Management

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course is designed to help students critically examine current management issues in social services and respond effectively to external threats and opportunities. It equips students with leadership competence including knowledge and skills in communicating, empowering, inspiring, and managing etc. and their application in the social service context, enhances students capability in facing new developments and challenges in the welfare sector.

SW510 Practice-based Research, Evaluation and Social Impact Assessment

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to provide students with the advanced knowledge and skills of social work research and evaluation methods for their development as evidence-based social workers. With the understanding of the epistemological and methodological issues for conducting social research, they should be able to develop a critical awareness of the application of social research skills and the uses of research findings in social work practice, especially in conducting outcome/impact assessment in evaluation. The course will offer students with an overview of the main research methods of data collection used by social scientists, with a focus on their strengths and weaknesses. Major advanced statistical techniques and evaluation approaches used by social scientists also be discussed. A considerable amount of time is devoted to analyzing data from existing research projects as well as developing an evidence-based research proposal.

SW521 Advanced Intervention in Mental Health and Wellness

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to equip students to have a critical articulation of different perspectives in interpreting mental disorders and interventions. The developmental history and global trends in mental health practice will be examined. Particular attention will be given to the practice concepts and intervention models and strategies. The concept of mental illness and respective knowledge and intervention skills in mental health practice will also be introduced in the course.

SW522 Managing Crisis and Trauma

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims to help students assess trauma impact and the needs of survivors for treatment and support and formulate effective crisis or trauma intervention and treatment plans. Students' critical understanding and cultural sensitivity on crisis intervention and trauma will also be developed and enhanced by combining and appraising different theories and trauma-informed care practices related to crisis management and trauma treatment in the local context.

SW523 Professional Practice with Families and Complex Issues in Contemporary Society

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course addresses married couples and families, specifically emphasizing the family life cycle. Major models of family assessment and treatment relevant to contemporary family systems will be covered in the course. Special attention is given to the multi-systemic context when engaging diverse families. Students will become proficient in using the family need framework to direct their choice of models for assessment and intervention with diverse families in a variety of practice settings.

SW524 Social Work in Public Health

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course focuses on the interdisciplinary approach to health care, enabling students to recognise the holistic needs of service users in the regional / local health care system. The course facilitates students to review the theoretical models and concepts related to the multidimensional nature of health, illness, disability, death and dying, loss, grief, and bereavement. Students can also develop effective knowledge and skills in assessing and evaluating various health issues influencing individuals, families, and the society. The course will also appraise legal, ethical, and cultural issues related to the role of social workers in interacting with and supporting individuals and families with health problems. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to work professionally with individuals, groups, families, and the multidisciplinary team in health and social care settings and advocate for health equalities and social inclusion in Hong Kong.

SW525 Practice-based Research Project

1 Term; 3 Credits

The Practice-based Research Project will enable students to develop their own professional niche by critically review an existing service provision, develop an innovative service plan, assess a service policy systematically, or examine the effectiveness of an evidence-informed practice. The aims of the Practice-based Research project are for students to synthesize the knowledge, skills and practise wisdom they have gained through different teaching courses and fieldwork practicum. It adopts a student-centred learning approach to develop independent critical thinking, advanced analytic skills and creativity of students. 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 organized by the Practice-based Research Project Coordinator for students to review practical research and analytical skills.

In this course, students are required to design, conduct and document a service project, review a service/policy plan, or submit an innovative service proposal. The project can be a review of a research-informed practice, a practice-informed research study, or a comprehensive policy or service review, or an informative service plan. Although it is research informed, the project does not require students to adopt a strict and comprehensive research methodologies in the assessment. A simple pre-post test design is acceptable in practice evaluation.

SW531 Integration and Consolidation in Interdisciplinary Social Work Practice I

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course is designed in parallel with students' first placement. The aim is to equip students with advanced social work knowledge and practice skills at the micro, meso, and macro levels. The focus is more on the practice of skills and reflection on issues that occur in the first placement. An interdisciplinary approach that focuses on cross-professional training and practice will be introduced. It is expected that the practice situations will enhance students' knowledge, skills, values, personal reflection and cultural awareness as a competent social worker.

SW532 Integration and Consolidation in Interdisciplinary Social Work Practice II

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course is designed in parallel with students' second placement. The aim is to equip students with a mixed-mode intervention strategy at the micro, meso, and macro levels. The focus is more on students' reflection and consolidation of handling more complicated social issues that occur in the second placement from the rapid socio-eco-technological changing world. Students will learn how to address social problems and or needs in both the international and local context. An interdisciplinary approach that focuses on cross-professional collaboration management will also be introduced. This course aims to enhance student's social work and leadership skills, cultural sensitivity, and deepen their understanding and practices in developing innovative services, both locally and globally.

SW533 Fieldwork I – Summer Block Placement (FT)

1 Term; 8 Credits

This course provides students with practice opportunities to integrate social work knowledge and values into clinical work in an actual work setting. Working in different types of the field enables students to thoroughly explore their capability and consolidate their understanding of social welfare services in Hong Kong. In order to line with our core features of MSW program i.e., interprofessional collaborative practice, ICT and leadership, our department will target for some of strategic working partners that the placement could offer the related placement vacancies for our students to equip their competency and skills during the placement period. Full-time staff and some of the experience social work practitioners (part-time staff) from multi-disciplinary settings such as rehabilitation, elder for providing weekly on-site supervision, guidance and assessment of practice for our students in order to strength their competence in interdisciplinary cooperation.

SW534 Fieldwork I – Concurrent Placement (PT)

2 Term; 8 Credits

This course provides students with practice opportunities to integrate social work knowledge and values into clinical work in an actual work setting. Working in different types of the field enables students to thoroughly explore their capability and consolidate their understanding of social welfare services in Hong Kong. In order to line with our core features of MSW program i.e., interprofessional collaborative practice, ICT and leadership, our department will target for some of strategic working partners that the placement could offer the related placement vacancies for our students to equip their competency and skills during the placement period. Full-time staff and some of the experience social work practitioners (part-time staff) from multi-disciplinary settings such as rehabilitation, elder for providing weekly on-site supervision, guidance and assessment of practice for our students in order to strength their competence in interdisciplinary cooperation.

SW535 Fieldwork II – Concurrent Placement (FT & PT)

2 Term; 8 Credits

This course mainly prepares students to become professional social workers upon their graduation. The practice opportunities offered in this placement will serve to elevate students' competence to become reflective, self-evaluating, knowledgeable and accountable social workers, able to address the needs and problems of a society in transition. In order to line with our core features of MSW program i.e., interprofessional collaborative practice, ICT and leadership, our department will target for some of strategic working partners that the placement could offer the related placement vacancies for our students to equip their competency and skills during the placement period. Full-time staff and some of the experience social work practitioners (part-time staff) from multi-disciplinary settings such as rehabilitation, elder for providing weekly on-site supervision, guidance and assessment of practice for our students in order to strength their competence in interdisciplinary cooperation.