

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

<https://www.pacific.edu/academics/schools-and-colleges/school-of-health-sciences/programs/social-work.html>  
Phone: 916.739.7219

## Programs Offered

### Master of Social Work

- 16-month Accelerated Hybrid Program
- 12-month Advanced Standing Program

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Social Work (MSW) program is to develop skilled and compassionate professionals who provide comprehensive and culturally sensitive clinical care using an evidence-based approach. We prepare students to practice in increasingly complex public environments with the purpose of improving people's quality of life and enhancing human potential for full, productive participation in society. Graduates are expected to become agents of change with excellent client care skills, value diversity and inclusion, and advocate to promote economic and social justice for individuals, groups, and communities, in particular those who are underserved.

## Program Overview

The MSW program is Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited. The MSW curriculum is a cohort-based, 16-month accelerated hybrid (classroom and online) program. Students with a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program may apply for advanced standing. The MSW program matriculates a cohort each fall trimester, and advanced standing students start the following spring.

The MSW cohort-based curriculum consists of foundational didactic courses, that provide the students with the knowledge foundations consistent with the CSWE's nine (9) generalist social work competencies, and clinical experiential field study experiences. The didactic courses must be taken sequentially as outlined in the cohort's curriculum. Students have the option to select a healthcare or a behavioral health focused field-study. The healthcare specialization focuses on health equity, patient advocacy, short term clinical interventions, and social determinants of health. The behavioral health specialization explores individual, group, and family mental health interventions.

The hybrid MSW track is a full-time, cohort-based plan of study and the online MSW track is both a full-time and part-time plan of study. Students in the hybrid track are required to enroll full-time and must advance through a pre-determined plan of study in sequence with their cohort.

For both the hybrid and online tracks, any request to alter an enrollment status must be approved by the Program Director or the Student Progress Committee. Students are required to successfully pass each course in a given trimester to advance to the subsequent trimester. Students who do not pass a required course, or who withdraw from a required course, will not be able to advance to the next trimester in either the hybrid or online track.

Students may only progress with their cohort or rejoin either the hybrid or online track at a later date if recommended by the program's Student Progress Committee or Program Director. Students may not enroll in courses from another track without the approval of the Student Progress Committee or Program Director. If enrollment parameters for any course are not met, the course may not be offered but will be required to be

completed in a subsequent trimester, and students may be advised to register for alternative courses in this circumstance.

Requests for transferring course units from prior university-level courses are accepted and reviewed by the program only at the time of admission and before enrollment in the first trimester of the MSW program. Transfer of generalist-level course units are allowed based on the program policy. Once the MSW program is started, no transfer units from prior MSW university-level courses are accepted.

### Accreditation Status

The Master of Social Work Program at University of the Pacific is accredited through the Council on Social Work Education.

## Admission Requirements

For the most current information regarding the application process and requirements, please visit the website (<https://www.pacific.edu/academics/schools-and-colleges/school-of-health-sciences/programs/social-work.html>).

### Program Learning Outcomes

- 1. Critically analyze and use evidence to guide decision-making and clinical skills to promote best practices.**
- 2. Use knowledge of social work practice theories and policy frameworks and evidence-based practice to develop strategies to promote high quality care, innovation, and organizational change, targeting social justice and promotion of human rights.**
- 3. Work in inter-professional teams to develop a compassionate and culturally sensitive, patient-centered approach to behavioral health and healthcare.**

## Master of Social Work

The MSW program is a full-time program with a cohort-based plan of study. Students are required to enroll full-time and must advance through a pre-determined curriculum in sequence with their cohort. Students are required to successfully pass each required course in a given trimester in order to advance to the subsequent trimester with their cohort. Students who do not pass a required course (with a passing grade being 'B-' or higher), or who withdraw from a required course, will not be able to progress with their cohort in the program. Students may only be able to progress with their cohort or rejoin the program at a later date if recommended by the program's Student Progress Committee and approved by the Program Director.

The program's hybrid curriculum is designed with two options: a 16-month sequence for students with any other undergraduate degree totaling 55 units, and a 12-month advanced standing sequence for students with a Council on Social Work Education accredited BSW program totaling 32 units.

## Behavioral Health Specialization – 16 months (55 units)

### Trimester 1 (Fall)

SOCW 201	Social Work Theory & Practice I	3
SOCW 203	Research-Informed Practice	3
SOCW 205	Policy & Advocacy in Social Work Practice	3
SOCW 207	Diversity & Social Justice	3
SOCW 209	Social Work Skills Lab	3

### Trimester 2 (Spring)

SOCW 211	Social Work Theory & Practice II	3
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SOCW 213	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)	3
SOCW 215	Social Work in Health Settings	3
SOCW 225	Generalist Practice Field Seminar	2
SOCW 287A	Generalist Practice Field Placement	3

#### Trimester 3 (Summer)

SOCW 217	Clinical Interventions in Health	3
SOCW 218	Assessment and Treatment Planning	2
SOCW 222	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings I	1
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 227	Specialized Practice Field Seminar I	1
SOCW 287B	Specialized Practice Field Placement I	3

#### Trimester 4 (Fall)

SOCW 223	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings II	3
SOCW 224	Child, Youth & Family Interventions in Social Work	3
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 229	Specialized Practice Field Seminar II	1
SOCW 287C	Specialized Practice Field Placement II	3

#### ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED

SOCW 230	Trauma Informed Practice	3
SOCW 231	Substance Use Assessment and Treatment	3
SOCW 232	Loss & Grief Across the Lifespan	3
SOCW 233	Gerontological Social Work	3
SOCW 234	Social Work Practice in Schools I	3
SOCW 235	Social Work Practice in Schools II	3
SOCW 236	Social Work and Diabetes Care	3

### Behavioral Health Specialization – 12 months (32 units)

Note: One of the two required electives may be taken in Trimester 1 from another program in the School of Health Sciences if available and approved by the student's academic advisor.

#### Trimester 1 (Spring)

SOCW 213	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)	3
SOCW 215	Social Work in Health Settings	3

#### Trimester 2 (Summer)

SOCW 217	Clinical Interventions in Health	3
SOCW 218	Assessment and Treatment Planning	2
SOCW 222	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings I	1
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 227	Specialized Practice Field Seminar I	1
SOCW 287B	Specialized Practice Field Placement I	3

#### Trimester 3 (Fall)

SOCW 223	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings II	3
SOCW 224	Child, Youth & Family Interventions in Social Work	3
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 229	Specialized Practice Field Seminar II	1
SOCW 287C	Specialized Practice Field Placement II	3

#### ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED

SOCW 230	Trauma Informed Practice	3
SOCW 231	Substance Use Assessment and Treatment	3
SOCW 232	Loss & Grief Across the Lifespan	3
SOCW 233	Gerontological Social Work	3
SOCW 234	Social Work Practice in Schools I	3

SOCW 235	Social Work Practice in Schools II	3
SOCW 236	Social Work and Diabetes Care	3

### Health Care Specialization – 16 months (55 units)

#### Trimester 1 (Fall)

SOCW 201	Social Work Theory & Practice I	3
SOCW 203	Research-Informed Practice	3
SOCW 205	Policy & Advocacy in Social Work Practice	3
SOCW 207	Diversity & Social Justice	3
SOCW 209	Social Work Skills Lab	3

#### Trimester 2 (Spring)

SOCW 211	Social Work Theory & Practice II	3
SOCW 213	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)	3
SOCW 215	Social Work in Health Settings	3
SOCW 225	Generalist Practice Field Seminar	2
SOCW 287A	Generalist Practice Field Placement	3

#### Trimester 3 (Summer)

SOCW 217	Clinical Interventions in Health	3
SOCW 219	Social Determinants of Health	2
SOCW 222	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings I	1
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 227	Specialized Practice Field Seminar I	1
SOCW 287B	Specialized Practice Field Placement I	3

#### Trimester 4 (Fall)

SOCW 223	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings II	3
SOCW 221	Advanced Policy in Health Systems	3
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 229	Specialized Practice Field Seminar II	1
SOCW 287C	Specialized Practice Field Placement II	3

#### ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED

SOCW 230	Trauma Informed Practice	3
SOCW 231	Substance Use Assessment and Treatment	3
SOCW 232	Loss & Grief Across the Lifespan	3
SOCW 233	Gerontological Social Work	3
SOCW 234	Social Work Practice in Schools I	3
SOCW 235	Social Work Practice in Schools II	3
SOCW 236	Social Work and Diabetes Care	3

### Health Care Specialization – 12 months (32 units)

#### Trimester 2 (Spring)

SOCW 213	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)	3
SOCW 215	Social Work in Health Settings	3

#### Trimester 3 (Summer)

SOCW 217	Clinical Interventions in Health	3
SOCW 219	Social Determinants of Health	2
SOCW 222	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings I	1
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 227	Specialized Practice Field Seminar I	1
SOCW 287B	Specialized Practice Field Placement I	3

#### Trimester 4 (Fall)

SOCW 223	Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings II	3
SOCW 221	Advanced Policy in Health Systems	3
REQUIRED ELECTIVE		3
SOCW 229	Specialized Practice Field Seminar II	1

SOCW 287C	Specialized Practice Field Placement II	3
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED</b>		
SOCW 230	Trauma Informed Practice	3
SOCW 231	Substance Use Assessment and Treatment	3
SOCW 232	Loss & Grief Across the Lifespan	3
SOCW 233	Gerontological Social Work	3
SOCW 234	Social Work Practice in Schools I	3
SOCW 235	Social Work Practice in Schools II	3
SOCW 236	Social Work and Diabetes Care	3

## Master of Social Work Faculty

Amanda West, PhD, LCSW, Chair and Program Director

Courtney Weist, EdD, LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor, Assistant Program Director On-Line MSW

Melissa Calnon, MSW, LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor

Nurit Fischer-Shemer, PhD, MSW, M.Ed, Assistant Clinical Professor

Edgar Hernandez, MSW, Assistant Clinical Professor

Halide Porras, MSW, Assistant Clinical Professor

## Social Work Courses

### SOCW 201. Social Work Theory & Practice I. 3 Units.

This course introduces a range of prevention and intervention methods grounded in generalist social work theory and the person-in-environment framework. A unifying framework of micro, mezzo and macro level practice for working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities is introduced. The framework includes the practice phases of engagement, assessment, planning/contracting, intervention, evaluation, termination/referral, and follow-up. Students will gain a foundation upon which they can continue to add and build social work practice skills. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program.

### SOCW 203. Research-Informed Practice. 3 Units.

This course introduces students to social work research. It focuses on understanding quantitative and qualitative research methods in advancing the science of social work and evaluation of social work practice. This course is taught in an online or hybrid format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program.

### SOCW 205. Policy & Advocacy in Social Work Practice. 3 Units.

This course introduces students to the underlying values, assumptions, and philosophical perspectives that have influenced the development of the U.S. social welfare system and services. Students will learn about policy formulation, analysis, and the role of advocacy in service development and delivery within social work practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program.

### SOCW 207. Diversity & Social Justice. 3 Units.

This course introduces students to the global intersections and interconnections of diversity, human rights and justice. Students will develop an understanding of an integrated practice framework that advances human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice issues. Theories and strategies of human need and social justice are covered to prepare students to advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice domestically and internationally. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program.

### SOCW 209. Social Work Skills Lab. 3 Units.

This skill-based course is anchored in the knowledge base of generalist social work theory & practice. Students will develop competency in performing essential social work skills to prepare for the generalist and specialized field placement. Specific skills focused on include demonstration of ethical and professional behavior and engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with clients and constituencies. This course is offered in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program.

### SOCW 211. Social Work Theory & Practice II. 3 Units.

This course builds on integrating social work practice through a unifying framework of micro, mezzo and macro level practice for working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The framework will focus on integrating practice, leadership and technology skills to develop and provide social work services that advance social justice and improve well-being. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

### SOCW 213. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). 3 Units.

This course introduces students to the concepts and language of mental health and mental disorders with a primary focus on the widely used classification system of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). Students learn to distinguish mental health diagnostic categories and gain skills in the diagnostic process. The goals of the course are to further students' competence in incorporating strengths in a comprehensive, multidimensional assessment and prepare students to practice in integrated health care settings. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

### SOCW 215. Social Work in Health Settings. 3 Units.

Building on core knowledge common to all fields of practice, this course examines advanced practice skills and interventions relevant to health care settings in work with individual clients, families, groups, and interdisciplinary teams. Social work practice is explored in the context of the psychosocial consequences of illness and current health care delivery. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Social Work program and successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

### SOCW 217. Clinical Interventions in Health. 3 Units.

This course builds on generalist social work theory and practice with the addition of more intensive focus on assessment and intervention techniques with patients and constituencies. Students will develop service delivery plans based on the selection of appropriate theories, intervention models, and evidence-informed intervention utilizing a practice orientation that attends to human rights and social justice for diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

### SOCW 218. Assessment and Treatment Planning. 2 Units.

This course is designed to prepare students in the Master of Social Work program to effectively conduct behavioral health assessments and the creation of treatment plans with multiple populations including adults, children, and families. The course integrates both the dissemination of knowledge as well as direct practice skills based on evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches. Special attention will be paid to the integration of diagnostic assessments, substance use evaluations, and lethality assessments with corresponding treatment plans for these specialized areas. Additionally, the role of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity in relation to assessment will be explored. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 219. Social Determinants of Health. 2 Units.**

This course focuses on the systematic study of social and economic conditions under which people live that determine their health. How social influences such as income, living conditions, education, infrastructure, religious affiliation, healthcare, social capital, stress, gender and race affect health and longevity will be explored. The role of public policy in shaping outcomes for communities will be examined. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 221. Advanced Policy in Health Systems. 3 Units.**

The course introduces a rights-based approach to leading innovation and social change through policy practice and advocacy. Using human rights and social justice principles, students will learn how to use specific policy and advocacy frameworks to plan for and lead strategies that facilitate social change with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 222. Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings I. 1 Unit.**

This course builds on basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. Students gain knowledge and skills to use appropriate research methods for empirically based knowledge building and to enhance program and practice effectiveness. Content includes single system and group design and formative and summative approaches to practice and program evaluation. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 223. Practice-Informed Research in Health Settings II. 3 Units.**

This course builds on basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. Students gain knowledge and skills to use appropriate research methods for empirically based knowledge building and to enhance program and practice effectiveness. Content includes single system and group design and formative and summative approaches to practice and program evaluation. Students in other University of the Pacific graduate programs may take this course as an elective with the permission of the instructor. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 224. Child, Youth & Family Interventions in Social Work. 3 Units.**

This specialized course will examine the bio-psycho-social development of children and adolescents as a basis for understanding healthy functioning and the ways that environments and circumstances shape us at physical, cognitive, emotional, and neurological levels. Special attention will be paid to the impacts of oppression on development with focuses on the impacts of racism, poverty, and the welfare system. Developmentally appropriate clinical interventions for children will also be introduced. Theories framing the foundation for social work practice with families will be explored and critiqued as they assist in understanding (1) the relationship between the family and its environment, (2) intergenerational family culture, structure, and process; (3) family life cycle processes; (4) internal family organization and process and (5) individual family meanings and narratives. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 225. Generalist Practice Field Seminar. 2 Units.**

This course will coordinate with the General Practice Field Placement and use a problem-based learning approach. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 227. Specialized Practice Field Seminar I. 1 Unit.**

This course will coordinate with Specialized Practice Field Placement I and use a problem-based learning approach. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 229. Specialized Practice Field Seminar II. 1 Unit.**

This course will coordinate with Specialized Practice Field Placement II and use a problem-based learning approach. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 230. Trauma Informed Practice. 3 Units.**

This course provides review and in-depth exploration of the range of traumatic experiences and their individual, familial, group and community significances. It will differentiate traumatic events and psychological trauma, and explore differences between traumatic stress, acute stress reactions, PTSD, individual and community and responses to historical and multigenerational trauma, with diverse populations. Students will examine social work theories, models and clinical approaches through the trauma perspective. Students will also become familiar with a range of assessment and clinical intervention tools and methodologies. Participants will also be introduced to the concepts of vicarious traumatization, secondary traumatic stress, and the importance of counselor/therapist wellness strategies for professional practice. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 231. Substance Use Assessment and Treatment. 3 Units.**

This course provides an overview of social work practice with individuals experiencing alcohol and substance abuse, including the role of family systems, community networks, and experiences of trauma. The course prepares students for assessment, detection, and intervention for harmful alcohol and substance use in human services settings, with an emphasis on health care settings. The course provides a basis for understanding the prevalence of alcoholism and substance abuse, introduces models and theories of addiction and treatment, and develops skills in engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation for alcoholism and substance use with individuals from diverse backgrounds. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 232. Loss & Grief Across the Lifespan. 3 Units.**

Building on core knowledge common to all fields of practice, this course examines the loss and grief of the human experience across lifespan from the individual, familial, social, and organizational perspectives. Theoretical background and grief models examination are provided and psychosocial modalities are presented while exploration and practicing of tailored interventions. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous SOCW course sequence.

**SOCW 233. Gerontological Social Work. 3 Units.**

This course provides knowledge and skills for gerontological practice in the areas of health and mental health with older adults. The course emphasizes practice with clients from diverse backgrounds, including minority and disenfranchised populations at the micro and mezzo levels. Students in other University of the Pacific graduate programs may take this course as an elective with the permission of the instructor. This course is taught in a hybrid format. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence or permission of instructor.

**SOCW 234. Social Work Practice in Schools I. 3 Units.**

This is the first course in a sequence of two designed to prepare students in the Master of Social Work program to effectively work within the public school system and obtain their School Social Work Personnel Pupil Services Credential (PPSC). The course focuses on the introduction and integration of knowledge that equips social work students to work within the California public school system (K-12) grades. In this course, students will develop a macro-level framework for understanding the challenges that impact public school education, local, state, and federal funding regulations, community impact and demands, child welfare, police, probation, and mental health systems. Students will understand the systemic structures, impact, and interventions that are foundational to the California public education system. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of students and families within the experiences with academics, educational and systemic equity, attendance, discipline, collaboration, community development, and organizational leadership and change. The course will address social work's values and responsibilities within the public school system. Students in other University of the Pacific graduate programs may take this course as an elective with the permission of the instructor. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence or permission of instructor.

**SOCW 235. Social Work Practice in Schools II. 3 Units.**

This is the second course in a sequence of two designed to prepare students in the Master of Social Work program to effectively work within the public school system and obtain their School Social Work Personnel Pupil Services Credential (PPSC). The course focuses on the introduction and integration of knowledge that equips social work students to work within the California public school system (K-12) grades. In this course, students will develop an understanding of school social work focused on the micro-level and mezzo-level functioning. Students will examine the diversity of roles within school social work, including but not limited to the daily roles and responsibilities, school staff functioning, mandated reporting, confidentiality, special education, risk assessments, individual and group services, multi-tiered systems of support, positive behavioral intervention systems, and whole school interventions. Students will also learn how to engage individuals, families, and communities throughout their understanding of the California Public School system.

**SOCW 236. Social Work and Diabetes Care. 3 Units.**

The Social Work and Diabetes Care elective prepares students to address psychosocial issues and social determinants of health in diabetes care as part of an interprofessional team. Building on the background knowledge developed in the Diabetes Workshop series, students learn to identify psychosocial issues in diabetes care for children, teens, adults and families; assess for common issues such as diabetes-related distress and disordered eating; and practice tools for intervention, such as motivational interviewing. From navigating insurance benefits to exploring the roots of patient nonadherence, the course will deepen students' knowledge of the critical role of social work in diabetes care. This course is taught in a hybrid or online format. Prerequisite: Successful completion in the Social Work Diabetes Workshop Series and all required MSW course sequence.

**SOCW 287A. Generalist Practice Field Placement. 3 Units.**

A field internship to develop generalist social work skills while supporting individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students are expected to attend their field placements three days per week for 15 weeks. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence or permission of instructor.

**SOCW 287B. Specialized Practice Field Placement I. 3 Units.**

A field internship to develop integrative practice skills for supporting individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities within an area of specialized practice related to health social work in an interprofessional practice setting. Students are expected to attend their field placements three days per week for 15 weeks. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence or permission of instructor.

**SOCW 287C. Specialized Practice Field Placement II. 3 Units.**

A field internship to develop integrative practice skills for supporting individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities within an area of specialized practice related to health social work in an interprofessional practice setting. Students are expected to attend their field placements three days per week for 15 weeks. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all previous courses in the SOCW course sequence or permission of instructor.

**SOCW 291. Independent Study. 1-4 Units.****SOCW 293. Special Topics. 1-4 Units.**

Special Topics - This course is offered in a hybrid and online format.