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## SOCIAL WORK (SCWK)

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### SCWK 199 First Year Seminar (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* Open to all freshmen with a writing placement score of 3 or above or a SAT score of 500 or above. Students with 24 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived.

First Year Seminars (FYS) are writing-intensive, topic courses that introduce students to academic thought, discourse and practices. FYS courses prepare and orient students toward productive and fulfilling college careers by actively engaging them in a specific academic area of interest. Students will improve their writing, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while learning to work both collaboratively and independently. These courses will fulfill the First Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one FYS course may be taken for credit. (CFYS)

### SCWK 250 Introduction to Social Welfare (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* PSYC 100 or SOCI 102

This course includes the analysis of the conceptions of social welfare, the historical development and function of social welfare and the value systems underlying the political, economic and social response to human needs. It offers an overview of the roles of the social worker and the varied settings in which interventions are employed. Includes a 30-hour service-learning experience. *Either semester* (CSOC)

### SCWK 270 Social Work Issues of Diversity and Oppression (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the concepts of diversity and oppression from a social work perspective. It provides the opportunity to define (and deconstruct), discuss and examine critically the phenomena of race, ethnicity, gender, culture, difference, power, pluralism, oppression, multiculturalism, social justice, empowerment, assimilation and social identity. It looks at various ethnic, racial, cultural and sociological populations from the perspectives of their history, identity, status, strengths, challenges, needs, power and context. (CMCL; CSOC)

### SCWK 298 Second Year Seminar (Speaking Intensive) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* \_\_\_\_199; Open to all sophomores and juniors who have completed ENGL 101, and the speaking skills requirement. Students with 54 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived. Cannot be taken if \_\_\_\_299 is taken for credit.

Second Year Seminars (SYS) are speaking-intensive, topic courses that build on the academic skills and habits introduced in the First Year Seminar. SYS courses engage students in a specific academic area of interest and provide them with the opportunity to reinforce, share and interpret knowledge. Students will improve their speaking, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while building the connections between scholarship and action that are required for lifelong learning. These courses will fulfill the Second Year Seminar requirement

and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one SYS course may be taken for credit. (CSYS)

### SCWK 299 Second Year Seminar (Writing Intensive) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* \_\_\_\_199; Open to all sophomores and juniors who have completed ENGL 101 and ENGL 102. Students with 54 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived. Cannot be taken if \_\_\_\_298 is taken for credit.

Second Year Seminars (SYS) are writing-intensive, topic courses that build on the academic skills and habits introduced in the First Year Seminar. SYS courses engage students in a specific academic area of interest and provide them with the opportunity to reinforce, share and interpret knowledge. Students will improve their writing, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while building the connections between scholarship and action that are required for lifelong learning. These courses will fulfill the Second Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one SYS course may be taken for credit. (CSYS)

### SCWK/WMST 304 The Psychosocial Development of Women (3 credits)

This course will provide an introduction to "women's reality" in terms of current research on women's values and needs. The course will cover such topics as power and conflict, sexuality and intimacy, creativity, ethnicity and the effects of oppression as well as the emotional problems that appear to affect women, e.g. depression, eating disorders, etc.

### SCWK 305 Child Welfare (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* Nine hours in behavioral studies

A comprehensive study of the principal child welfare services. The course will concentrate on the human service practitioner's role as a helping agent in the delivery of services. The impact of child welfare on the areas of education, sociology, psychology, health and mental health will include aspects of these disciplines as they relate to enhancing the welfare of the child. Learners will make site visits to child welfare agencies and interview professionals providing services to children. *Either semester*

### SCWK 320 Human Behavior and Social Environment I (3 credits)

*Prerequisite:* SCWK 250 and one human biology course from the following: BIOL 100, BIOL 102, BIOL 110, BIOL 111, BIOL 112, BIOL 115, BIOL 117, BIOL 121, BIOL 128. SCWK 320 must be completed before SCWK 498

This sequence examines the effects of biological, psychological and socio-cultural factors upon human behavior throughout the life span. Using an ecological perspective and social systems approach, this theoretically-oriented sequence chronologically explores human development. Human diversity, the various issues that may impel persons to maladaptive behavior, and the

ways in which individuals shape and are shaped by their interactions with one another and within social institutions are all areas of focus in the sequence. *Either semester*

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### **SCWK 321 Human Behavior and Social Environment II (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: SCWK 250 and SCWK 270 and SCWK 320*

This course is a continuation of SCWK 320 and examines human development from adolescence through old age. *Either semester*

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### **SCWK 333 Current Issues in Aging: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Six credits in behavioral sciences or health*

In the United States and abroad, population aging is one of the most critical challenges facing national and local governments, business, social institutions, communities and families. This course will focus on issues and concepts in the field of aging with the goal of providing an overview of key elements of gerontological competency in social work. We will cover the normal physical, psychological, social and cognitive changes in latter life and examine the services and programs available to older persons and their families.

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### **SCWK 334 Intervention with Family Systems (3 credits)**

Students will learn to conceptualize personal and interpersonal phenomena from a family systems perspective, to think in terms of circular rather than linear causality and to recognize patterns and sequences. Major theoretical family systems approaches will be presented, as well as basic intervention techniques.

*Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 338 Introduction to Social Work Practice (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Social Work Program; completion of SCWK 250; and completion of SCWK 270 and SCWK 320; SCWK 320 may be taken concurrently*

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the basic knowledge, skills and values essential to entry-level generalist social work practice. The focus will be on the application of social work knowledge and values and the development of interviewing skills as they relate to relationship building, data collection and assessment of client systems. In addition to the two-and-a-half-hour lecture weekly, the course incorporates a 90-hour field placement.

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### **SCWK 350 Social Welfare Policy (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: SCWK 250 and SCWK 270; or consent of instructor*

This course follows the development of social welfare institutions and the societal response to human service needs. There is discussion of poverty and its effects on oppressed groups with special emphasis on African-Americans, Latino-speaking, women and the aged. Students are helped to analyze social policy.

*Either semester*

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### **SCWK 355 Study Tour in Social Work (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Junior standing or above or consent of instructor*

This course will offer students a first-hand, supervised cross cultural travel and study experience from a historical and social perspective of social problems in the country they visit. Students will participate in lecture, site visits, research and other academic experiences, including pre and post-travel activities, as appropriate. Topics focus on historical development of world cultures, practices, beliefs and response to social problems. This course is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing upon perspectives such as visual and performing arts, religious traditions, political organization, economic development, social and family life. (CGCL; CSOC)

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### **SCWK 375 Data Analysis for Social Work (3 credits)**

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation of descriptive and inferential statistics. It prepares students to be knowledgeable consumers of social research and to do further work in statistics and research methodology. (CQUR)

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### **SCWK 376 Social Work with Adolescents and Young Adults (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Nine hours in behavioral sciences*

This course aids students in developing a beginning framework for assessing and working with adolescents. This framework is broadly integrative, addressing biological, psychological, social and cultural variables. The course considers the complex transactions between individuals and their environments, especially the social welfare system. It also addresses the impact of trauma on adolescent development and the specific needs of emotionally traumatized adolescents. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 380 Research Methods in Social Work (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: SCWK 250 and SCWK 270; and SCWK 375 or equivalent*

This course is designed to help social work students develop an understanding of social research methods and to equip them with the tools to measure the effectiveness of their practice and the quality of the services provided by human service agencies. The ethics, politics and utility of social research methods in all aspects of social work practice are explored. Particular emphasis is placed on research methods and applications unique to social work such as single-subject design studies and human services program evaluation. (Formerly SCWK 440)

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### **SCWK 392 Treating Childhood Sexual Abuse (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Six hours/credits in psychology or sociology*

This course will introduce the student to the many ways in which child sexual abuse affects a young child and family. Beginning with a brief historical overview of sexual abuse of children and our society's response to it, we will examine theoretical models for understanding abuse. The course will address the ways in which sexual abuse impacts the development of infants, toddlers and adolescents, and will include a discussion on treatment approaches for social workers and other practitioners.

*Offered once annually*

*tMay be taken for graduate-level credit*

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## **SCWK 399 Special Topics in Social Work (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite:* Nine hours in behavioral sciences

Various topics in social work will be offered from time to time. Topics will be announced prior to registration. May be taken more than once. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 415 Social Services in Alcohol and Substance Abuse (3 creditst)**

*Prerequisite:* SCWK 250 and SCWK 270

The course provides an overview of the problem of alcoholism and the various programs that deal with the problem. It has been designed primarily for students who have an interest in the area of alcoholism and substance abuse and either may be considering a career in treatment for alcoholism or may merely wish to expand their area of competence. The course focuses on the central issues of causation, resources, management, and treatment from a social work perspective. Students need to understand how the various programs and human service systems are planned, organized and evaluated. Students are introduced to theory and practice in relation to the functions that form the basis of various programs and services. Agency visits may be made. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 431 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups (3 creditst)**

*Prerequisite:* SCWK 338

This course will integrate knowledge of assessment skills and intervention approaches that will enable client systems to function more effectively in view of both internal processes and sociopolitical pressures in their life situations. Strategies will be drawn from generalist practice. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 432 Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations (3 creditst)**

*Prerequisite:* SCWK 338

This course deepens and expands generic social work skills and applies them to macro-level analysis and intervention in organizations and communities. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 435 School Social Work – History, Theory and Issues (3 creditst)**

*Prerequisite:* SCWK 250 and SCWK 330 for social work majors; SCWK 250 and instructor's consent for non-majors

This course will begin by examining the school as an ecological unit created to educate and socialize children. The evolution of school social work within this system will be traced from its inception in 1906 to the present. The three traditional models of school social work will be explored: home/school linkage, direct service provider and team member. Issues of confidentiality, team building, and assessment and referral will be discussed. The student will acquire an understanding of the application of the social work methods of casework, group work, and community organization as practiced in the school with children in crisis and with special populations and problems. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 446 Social Work Practice with Groups (3 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of generalist practice social work with groups. The roles of group members, the functions and responsibilities of the leader, and the ethical principles for the conduct of group work are examined. Through the use of small group experiences, attention is given to problem solving and the development of skills in observing, developing, and evaluating the small group construct and process. Students are oriented to the development of culturally sensitive, professional skills that maximize group functioning and goals. *Offered once annually*

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## **SCWK 485 Honors Thesis (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite:* Open to Commonwealth and Departmental Honors students

One-hour weekly meetings with the thesis director will culminate in an honors thesis. With the consent of the Department Honors Committee and the thesis director, this course may be extended into a second semester for three additional credits depending upon the scope of the project. Whether the final version of the thesis qualifies the student to graduate with honors will be determined by the department honors committee. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 498 Field Experience in Social Work (6 credits for each semester)**

*Prerequisite:* Admission to the social work program; SCWK 320 and SCWK 338; consent of department; formal application required

The field experience provides opportunities for students to learn how to apply knowledge and to develop skills in direct services to clients under the direction of a qualified agency field instructor. A minimum of 410 hours is spent in a wide variety of community agencies from September-May of the senior year. This experience continues to build upon the practice sequence of SCWK 330, SCWK 431, and SCWK 432. A weekly seminar throughout the year allows students to integrate social work theory and practice into a unified whole as part of their development as beginning professional practitioners. *Both semesters in fall-spring sequence*

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## **SCWK 499 Directed Study in Social Work (1-3 credits)**

*Prerequisite:* Consent of the department; formal application required

Directed study is open to juniors and seniors who have demonstrated critical and analytical abilities in their studies and who wish to pursue a project independently. May be taken twice for a maximum of six credits. *Either semester*

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## **SCWK 500 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy: History, Programs and Issues (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite:* Matriculation in the MSW program

The course introduces students to the American social welfare systems and the social policies that serve as its underpinnings. It provides a historical perspective, with attention to important social, economic and political contexts. Analysis of different values and ethical positions will illustrate the degree to which they promote social and economic justice and serve underrepresented populations. Students will be introduced to a framework for policy analysis for use in evaluating policy responses to key social problems including poverty, health care, substance abuse, housing, child welfare, mental health, hunger and issues facing the

*tMay be taken for graduate-level credit*

**Note:** This section is arranged in course number order. See pages 237-238 (course prefix key) for assistance in locating department sections.

**Note:** See Catalog Web Addenda at [www.bridgew.edu/catalog/addenda](http://www.bridgew.edu/catalog/addenda) as that information supersedes the published version of this catalog.

elderly. Special attention will be paid to social problems and policy responses in Southeastern Massachusetts. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 502 Dynamics of Diversity and Oppression (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in MSW program; may be taken concurrently with SCWK 500*

This course introduces students to the concepts of diversity and oppression in our society as a foundation for the later infusion of these concepts throughout the MSW curriculum. Students will explore the dynamics of diversity, power differences and oppression as part of an examination of systems of privilege and disadvantage based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, class and economic status, religion and other forms of social differentiation and stratification. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 503 Directed Study (credits to be arranged)**

*Prerequisite: Consent of the MSW program director*

Directed study is designed for the graduate student who desires to study selected topics in a specific field. For details, consult the paragraph entitled "Directed or Independent Study" in the "School of Graduate Studies" section of this catalog.

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### **SCWK 508 Introduction to Social Policy (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; SCWK 500 and SCWK 502*

This course offers students an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become effective policy advocates. As policy advocates, social workers work to influence and change social policies in communities, agencies or legislative settings, with the goal of addressing social problems, increasing social justice and assuring access to essential social resources, especially for groups that lack relative power in our society. The course will introduce skills for analyzing, developing, implementing, and assessing policy at varying levels of sponsorship and implementation. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 510 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; may be taken concurrently with SCWK 500 and SCWK 502*

This course introduces students to the multiple contexts in which people function – communities, organizations and families – and to the theoretical base that underlies social work practice. Building on the contributions to our understanding of human functioning provided by biology, psychology, sociology, economics and political science, it explores the challenges and opportunities created by multiple systems and by diverse and sometimes conflicting theoretical explanations of human behavior. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 511 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in MSW program; SCWK 500 and SCWK 502 and SCWK 510*

This course will present theories related to strengths-based practice such as social constructivism, narrative theory and

family systems theory which foster understanding of resiliency used throughout the lifespan to face selected developmental challenges. A life span approach will highlight the common development themes of each stage along with an appreciation of inherent strengths that come from an integrated biopsychosocial cultural and familial understanding. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 512 Human Behavior in the Social Environment III: DSM-IV-TR (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in MSW program; SCWK 500 and SCWK 502 and SCWK 510 and SCWK 511*

This course will expose students to multiple perspectives in assessing and diagnosing children, adolescents and adults. Students will learn how to assess a client system within the framework of the mental health system which relies on the DSM-IV-TR. Students will use direct experience with their clients to understand the impact of mental illness on a client and on family functioning. The ethics of using these assessments will also be explained. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 530 Social Work Practice I (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; must be taken concurrently with SCWK 590*

This course introduces social work practice skills for working with individuals, families, and small groups. Students are introduced to the problem-solving process and to the process of building a professional relationship. Policies, purposes, and functions of social service agencies are examined. Attention is given to the development of culturally congruent social work practice skills in relation to age, ethnicity, gender and other variables.

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### **SCWK 531 Social Work Practice II: Groups and Community-Based Practice (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; SCWK 530 and SCWK 590; must be taken concurrently with SCWK 591*

This course introduces the knowledge, skills and values needed to enhance the responsiveness of communities and organizations to the needs of their constituents. The health and resilience of individuals and families depends substantially on the policies and practices of the communities and social institutions in which they dwell. The course aims to prepare social workers to work with community members to ensure the provision of needed resources to all and to enable human services agencies to deliver effective services. Techniques for analyzing communities and organizations and skills for facilitating system change such as coalition-building, lobbying, and using the media will be covered.

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### **SCWK 540 Introductory Social Research (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; SCWK 500 and SCWK 502 and SCWK 530*

This course introduces students to the role of research in social work and familiarizes students with the basic concepts and methods of social science research. It emphasizes ethical decision-making within the research process as it introduces students to research techniques including surveys, experiments, single-subject designs, qualitative methods and program evaluation. The stages of the research process including question formulation and hypothesis generation, research designs devel-

opment of research instruments, and understanding findings will be addressed. Throughout, attention will be paid to the evaluation and application of existing social science research in social work practice and to the contributions made by social workers to new knowledge. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 541 Research: Evaluating Practice (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in MSW program; SCWK 500 and SCWK 502 and SCWK 530 and SCWK 540*

The second required course in the research sequence builds on the skills introduced in SCWK 540 and introduces students to issues and procedures involved in analyzing social science research data. Students will learn what questions to ask regarding the selection of analytic strategies, how to understand the data analysis process, and how to use SPSS as an analytic tool. They will increase their skills in evaluating the data analysis decisions of other researchers, and, thus, their findings. They will also be introduced to the process of presenting analytic data through graphs and tables and through written reports. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 550 Social Work Practice III: Intergenerational Strengths-Based Practice with Families (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program or as an Advanced Standing student; SCWK 530 and SCWK 531 and SCWK 590 and SCWK 591; must be taken concurrently with SCWK 592*

This is the first of two concentration practice courses. This course will present theoretical analysis of clinical models for working with families and integrate those models with current best practices for social work practice. This course will also focus on community employed models of community intergenerational family-based social work practice with diverse families. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 551 Social Work Practice IV: Intergenerational Strengths-Based Practice with Individuals (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; SCWK 550 and SCWK 592; must be taken concurrently with SCWK 593*

This is the second of two concentration practice courses. This course will present theoretical analysis of clinical models for working with individuals and integrate those models with current best practices for social work practice. This course will also focus on community employed models of community intergenerational individual-based social work practice with diverse individuals. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 559 Study Tour in Social Work (3 credits) (Country to be determined)**

This course will offer students a first-hand, supervised cross cultural travel and study experience from a historical and social perspective of social problems in the country they visit. Students will participate in lectures, site visits, research and other academic experiences, including pre and post-travel activities, as appropriate. Topics focus on historical development of world cultures, practices, beliefs and response to social problems. This

course is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing upon perspectives such as visual and performing arts, religious traditions, political organization, economic development, social and family life. This course may be repeated for different destinations.

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### **SCWK 570 Integrative Seminar I (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; SCWK 550 and SCWK 591; must be taken concurrently with SCWK 551 and SCWK 593*

This capstone course provides an opportunity for students to synthesize, expand and apply the learning achieved during the MSW program. Focusing on the program's theme of intergenerational family-based practice utilizing a strengths and resiliency model of intervention, students will engage in a planned change process on behalf of populations at risk. They will apply their knowledge of human functioning, policy analysis, program evaluation and new program development to preparing a comprehensive approach to social work practice. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 572 Social Policy II (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program*

The theory, knowledge, research values and skills of social welfare integrational family policy and service analyses/advocacy/practice are examined in the course. Emphasis is placed upon the processes and methods for understanding, analyzing, and advocating social welfare intergenerational family policies/services at the local, state and federal levels.

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### **SCWK 580 Special Topics (1.5-3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program or consent of instructor*

Special topics of current relevance in social work will be offered each semester. Topics to be addressed will be announced prior to registration. This course may be taken four times with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits.

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### **SCWK 590 Field Practice and Seminar I (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program and SCWK 531*

This is the first of a two-semester practicum that provides for the integration of the student's learning into the field. Students are placed in a single social work setting for 16 hours per week, working directly under the supervision of an MSW professional. Students meet in lecture sessions once a week for two hours for the purpose of integrating field practice experiences and the application of social work theory, knowledge, skills and values. Barriers to full participation by the disadvantaged in society's economic, political, and social processes are explored, as are the economic and ethical challenges to professional practice. Graded on a (P) Pass/(N) No Pass basis. *Offered once annually*

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### **SCWK 591 Field Practice and Seminar II (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program and SCWK 531*

This is the second of a two-semester practicum that provides for the integration of the student's learning into the field. Graded on a (P) Pass/(N) No Pass basis. *Offered once annually*



# Course Descriptions

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## **SCWK 592 Field Practice III (4 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program and consent of MSW coordinator*

This is the second year, two-semester practicum that offers the student ongoing opportunities to integrate classroom learning in the field. Students are placed in a single social work setting for both semesters for 24 hours per week, working directly under the supervision of an MSW professional. Students meet on a scheduled basis with their faculty adviser to assess progress and problem-solve. Graded on a (P) Pass/(N) No Pass basis. *Offered once annually*

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## **SCWK 593 Field Practice IV (4 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Matriculation in the MSW program; consent of the MSW coordinator; SCWK 592*

This is the second semester of the second year, two-semester practicum that offers the student ongoing opportunities to integrate classroom learning in the field. Students are placed in a single social work setting for both semesters for 24 hours per week, working directly under the supervision of an MSW professional. Students meet on a scheduled basis with their faculty adviser to assess progress and problem-solve. Graded on a (P) Pass/(N) No Pass basis. *Offered once annually*

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## **Other Approved Courses**

SCWK 398 Junior Year Fieldwork Practice

SCWK 400 Social Services in the Health Care Field

SCWK/HEAL 403 Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Delivery of Health Services