

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree is a nationally recognized Advanced Generalist program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The MSW Program prepares graduates for theoretically grounded advanced generalist social work practice, advocacy, research, and leadership. The MSW program strives to center anti-oppressive and collaborative practice. Our program equips students for versatile career paths such as clinical practice with individuals, partners, families, and/or groups; school-based work; leadership; and policy advocacy.

Learning Objectives

Through experiential learning, in the pursuit of social, racial, economic, and environmental justice, the goals of the Advanced Generalist MSW program are to prepare graduates who:

1. Are equipped for generalist and advanced generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
2. Serve as skilled practitioners who engage in ethical, autonomous, and multi-disciplinary practice across system levels utilizing a Person-in-Environment perspective.
3. Serve as leaders who advance social, racial, economic, and environmental justice, promote human rights, and engage in social action and policy change to eliminate oppressive conditions for all people.
4. Advance social work values and ethics through practice in organizational and community settings.
5. Value and appreciate human relationships and diversity in multiple forms; and model and advocate for equitable and inclusive practices and cultural humility.
6. Practice life-long learning, engage in scientific inquiry, and utilize critical thinking to inform practice at all system levels, as well as using practice to inform research.
7. Critically apply relevant theories and social work values to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate practice within changing contexts at all systems levels.
8. Demonstrate advanced generalist skills through competency in practice-based learning settings.

Program Options

The School of Social Work offers different program options for completing the MSW degree:

1. **Full Program** – For students who have an undergraduate degree in a different discipline, our two-year full-time program starts every fall and is offered in person. Students in this program complete nine elective credits (three elective courses), enabling them to complete one of five graduate certificate programs offered by the School of Social Work or to engage in interdisciplinary coursework. Refer to the full MSW program schedule (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/full-time-msw-program/>). (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/begin-your-msw-journey/on-campus-msw-programs/>)
2. **Advanced Standing** – For students who have earned a BSW from an accredited program within the past seven years, this accelerated path starts every summer and is offered in person. Students complete this program over three semesters for a total of 39 credits, which includes

three elective credits (one course). Refer to the Advanced Standing program schedule (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/begin-your-msw-journey/on-campus-msw-programs/>).

3. **Part-time Online/Hybrid Learning Options** – The School of Social Work also offers a part-time online program that is completed in three years for the full program or in two years for students with Advanced Standing. Hybrid programs meet for one in-person learning weekend per semester at the cohort location. Current cohorts include Fort Collins (off-campus), Boulder, and Denver. Refer to the Hybrid MSW Program website (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/begin-your-msw-journey/hybrid-msw-programs/>) for more information.
4. **MSW/MPH Dual Degree** – In partnership with the Colorado School of Public Health, the School of Social Work offers a dual degree Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health program. Refer to the MSW/MPH website (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/master-of-social-work-master-of-public-health-program/>) for more information.
5. **MACP/MSW Joint Degree** – In partnership with CSU's Department of Psychology, the School of Social Work offers a joint degree Master's in Addiction Counseling in Psychology and Social Work. R (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/master-of-social-work-master-of-public-health-program/>) refer to the MACP/MSW website (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/master-of-social-work/master-of-addiction-counseling-in-psychology-and-social-work/>) for more information.

Students who successfully complete the MSW program are prepared to pursue licensure in accordance with the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) in Colorado and the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). Licensure requirements may vary in different states and US territories.

Learn more about the Master of Social Work on the School of Social Work website.

[Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin.](#)

Requirements Effective Fall 2025

First Year		
Fall		Credits
SOWK 500	Foundations in Social Work	3
SOWK 511	Practice Skills with Individuals and Groups	3
SOWK 530	Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 600	Social Work Research Methods	3
Elective ¹		0-3
Total Credits		12
Spring		
SOWK 513	Clinical Assessment Skills	3
SOWK 520	Social Welfare Policy and Advocacy	3

SOWK 588	Foundation Practice-Based Learning	6
Elective ¹		0-3
Total Credits		15
Summer		
Elective ¹		0-3
Total Credits		3
Second Year		
Fall		
SOWK 605	Program Evaluation in Social Work	3
SOWK 630	Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals	3
SOWK 631	Advanced Community Practice	3
SOWK 688	Field Placement	7
Elective ¹		0-3
Total Credits		16
Spring		
SOWK 633	Mezzo and Macro Social Work II	3
SOWK 634	Advanced Practice with Families and Groups	3
SOWK 688	Field Placement	7
Elective ¹		3
Total Credits		16
Program Total Credits:		62

A minimum of 62 credits are required to complete the full MSW program.

Elective Course List

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 545	Global Mental Health—Theory and Method	3
ANTH 546	Culture, Mind, and Cognitive Science	3
EDCO 500	Career and Employment Concepts	3
EDCO 550	Professional School Counseling	3
EDCO 653	Counseling for Cultural Diversity	3
EDCO 655	Brief Counseling	3
EDCO 662	Counseling Children and Adolescents	3
EDHE 675	Campus Crisis Management	3
HDFS 534	Marriage and Family Therapy	3
HDFS 592	Grant Writing—Research/Program Development	3
HDFS 608	Program Planning and Implementation	3
HDFS 610	Risk and Resilience	3
HDFS 611	Early Child Development	3
HDFS 613	Adult Development and Aging	3
HDFS 636	Aging and the Family	3
HDFS 644	Foundations in Family Therapy	3
HDFS 692A	Family Issues: Intimacy and Human Sexuality	3
HDFS 692B	Family Issues: Parenting	3

HDFS 692C	Family Issues: Family Policy and Programming	3
HES 620	The Science of Healthspan	3
PBHL 520	Health Systems Policy and Management	3
PPA 501	Program Evaluation and Quantitative Methods	3
PSY 517/IE 517	Perspectives in Global Health	3
PSY 600H	Advanced Psychology: Lifespan Development	3
PSY 600J	Advanced Psychology: Health Psychology	3
PSY 677	Psychology of Women, Men, and Gender	3
SOWK 482A	Social Work in Costa Rica	3
SOWK 550	Animal Assisted Therapy and Human-Animal Bond	3
SOWK 551	Fundamentals of Mediation	3
SOWK 552	Conflict Management: Health and Elder Care	3
SOWK 553	Multi-Party Conflict Resolution	3
SOWK 554	Conflict Resolution in the Workplace	3
SOWK 556	Divorce and Family Mediation	3
SOWK 557	Human-Animal Interventions—Grief and Loss	3
SOWK 560	Social Work Practice in Schools	3
SOWK 561	Exceptionalities in Education	3
SOWK 660	Nonprofit Program Development	3
SOWK 661	Nonprofit Financial Development	3
SOWK 662	Nonprofit Volunteer Development & Management	3
SOWK 676	Psychopharmacology and Community Health	3
SOWK 677	Trauma-Informed Care	3
SOWK 678	Social Work Skills for Addictions Practice	3

¹ Students are required to complete nine elective credits from the above list of pre-approved elective courses. Alternative courses may be considered to fulfill the elective requirements contingent upon departmental approval prior to completion of the course(s).

Advanced Standing Requirements Effective Fall 2025

Advanced Standing MSW

This option is available only to those who have earned a BSW from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and have earned that degree within the past seven years. The BSW degree must be granted prior to the beginning of advanced standing classes. Applicants must have earned a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the entire BSW.

Students attend one full year consisting of three semesters, starting with the Summer term.

Code	Title	Credits
FIRST YEAR		
SUMMER (7-10 Credits)		
SOWK 516	Assessment in Social Work	2
SOWK 531	Anti-Oppressive Principles and Pedagogy	3

SOWK 604	Applied Social Work Research	2
Elective ¹		0-3
FALL (16-19 Credits)		
SOWK 605	Program Evaluation in Social Work	3
SOWK 630	Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals	3
SOWK 631	Advanced Community Practice	3
SOWK 688	Field Placement	7
Elective ¹		0-3
SPRING (16 Credits)		
SOWK 633	Mezzo and Macro Social Work II	3
SOWK 634	Advanced Practice with Families and Groups	3
SOWK 688	Field Placement	7
Elective ¹		3
Program Total Credits:		39-45

A minimum of 39 credits are required to complete the Advanced Standing MSW program.

Elective Course List

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 545	Global Mental Health--Theory and Method	3
ANTH 546	Culture, Mind, and Cognitive Science	3
EDCO 500	Career and Employment Concepts	3
EDCO 550	Professional School Counseling	3
EDCO 653	Counseling for Cultural Diversity	3
EDCO 655	Brief Counseling	3
EDCO 662	Counseling Children and Adolescents	3
EDHE 675	Campus Crisis Management	3
HDFS 534	Marriage and Family Therapy	3
HDFS 592	Grant Writing--Research/Program Development	3
HDFS 608	Program Planning and Implementation	3
HDFS 610	Risk and Resilience	3
HDFS 611	Early Child Development	3
HDFS 613	Adult Development and Aging	3
HDFS 636	Aging and the Family	3
HDFS 644	Foundations in Family Therapy	3
HDFS 692A	Family Issues: Intimacy and Human Sexuality	3
HDFS 692B	Family Issues: Parenting	3
HDFS 692C	Family Issues: Family Policy and Programming	3
HES 620	The Science of Healthspan	3
PBHL 520	Health Systems Policy and Management	3
PPA 501	Program Evaluation and Quantitative Methods	3
PSY 517/IE 517	Perspectives in Global Health	3
PSY 600H	Advanced Psychology: Lifespan Development	3
PSY 600J	Advanced Psychology: Health Psychology	3
PSY 677	Psychology of Women, Men, and Gender	3
SOWK 482A	Social Work in Costa Rica	3

SOWK 550	Animal Assisted Therapy and Human-Animal Bond	3
SOWK 551	Fundamentals of Mediation	3
SOWK 552	Conflict Management: Health and Elder Care	3
SOWK 553	Multi-Party Conflict Resolution	3
SOWK 554	Conflict Resolution in the Workplace	3
SOWK 556	Divorce and Family Mediation	3
SOWK 557	Human-Animal Interventions--Grief and Loss	3
SOWK 560	Social Work Practice in Schools	3
SOWK 561	Exceptionalities in Education	3
SOWK 660	Nonprofit Program Development	3
SOWK 661	Nonprofit Financial Development	3
SOWK 662	Nonprofit Volunteer Development & Management	3
SOWK 676	Psychopharmacology and Community Health	3
SOWK 677	Trauma-Informed Care	3
SOWK 678	Social Work Skills for Addictions Practice	3

¹ Students must complete at least one elective from the above list of pre-approved elective courses. Alternative courses may be considered to fulfill the elective requirements contingent upon departmental approval prior to completion of the course(s).

Requirements for All Graduate Degrees

For more information, please visit Requirements for All Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/graduate-study/procedures-requirements-all-degrees/>) in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>).

Summary of Procedures for the Master's and Doctoral Degrees

NOTE: Each semester the Graduate School publishes a schedule of deadlines. Deadlines are available on the Graduate School website (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/deadline-dates/>). Students should consult this schedule whenever they approach important steps in their careers.

Forms (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/forms/>) are available online.

Step	Due Date
1. Application for admission (online)	Six months before first registration
2. Diagnostic examination when required	Before first registration
3. Appointment of advisor	Before first registration
4. Selection of graduate committee	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
5. Filing of program of study (GS Form 6)	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
6. Preliminary examination (Ph.D. and PD)	Two terms prior to final examination

7. Report of preliminary examination (GS Form 16) - (Ph.D. and PD)	Within two working days after results are known
8. Changes in committee (GS Form 9A)	When change is made
9. Application for Graduation (GS Form 25)	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
9a. Reapplication for Graduation (online)	Failure to graduate requires Reapplication for Graduation (online) for the next time term for which you are applying
10. Submit thesis or dissertation to committee	At least two weeks prior to the examination or at the discretion of the graduate committee
11. Final examination	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
12. Report of final examination (GS Form 24)	Within two working days after results are known; refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
13. Submit a signed Thesis/ Dissertation Submission Form (GS Form 30) to the Graduate School and Submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D. only) prior to submitting the electronic thesis/ dissertation	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website.
14. Submit the thesis/dissertation electronically	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
15. Graduation	Ceremony information is available from the Graduate School website