The Master of Social Work degree program offers preparation for professional social work practice. The organizing principle of the M.S.W. program is the improvement of the quality of individual life through the enhancement of social and economic justice and opportunity. Upon completion of the M.S.W. program, the student will have acquired knowledge, values, and skills consistent with the social work profession and be capable ultimately of engaging in autonomous social work practice. Graduates will be able to effectively deliver the social services needed to meet human needs in both urban and rural areas.

Admission Requirements
To be considered for admission to the regular two-year M.S.W. program applicants must:

1. Have a B.S.W. degree from an accredited social work program.
2. Meet all requirements listed for the regular two-year program.
4. International students must have a TOEFL score of 550 (paper); 213 (computer); 80 (internet) or above. The IELTS exam is also acceptable (a minimum score of 6.5).

Note: A standardized test score, such as the GRE, is not required for admission, however, students applying for a graduate assistantship will be required to have an official GRE score on file in the School of Social Work.

Entry is in the fall semester for the regular two-year program.

To be considered for admission to the advanced standing M.S.W. program applicants must:

1. Have a B.S.W. degree from an accredited social work program.
2. Meet all requirements listed for the regular two-year program.

Entry is in the summer semester for the advanced standing program.

Applications may be made at http://gradschool.siu.edu/applygrad/index.html

The deadline for applications is February 1 for the advanced standing program and March 15 for the regular two-year program. Applicants who complete their undergraduate degree requirements by December and have all application material submitted to the School of Social Work by October 1 may be considered for early admission and may take electives prior to entry into the summer or fall cohort.
Applicants admitted for either the regular two-year program or for advanced standing may be required to take additional courses as a condition of admission. Documented potential for the profession of social work is considered a part of the admission criteria, which may also include an interview prior to acceptance.

Each application will be individually reviewed; however, meeting all stated criteria will not automatically guarantee admission to the school.

The deadline for applications is February 1 for the advanced standing program and March 15 for the regular two-year program.

Applicants must apply online, both to the Graduate School and the School of Social Work. However, official transcripts should be sent directly to the School of Social Work. Students accepted into the M.S.W. program must register for the semester they are admitted.

This program requires a nonrefundable $50.00 application fee that must be submitted with the application for Admissions to Graduate Study in Social Work.

Degree Requirements

Students admitted to the regular two-year program are required to complete the first year foundation curriculum and the second year advanced curriculum. They are required to complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate course work taken in the approved sequence. The foundation curriculum consists of 30 semester hours and includes the following courses:

Fall (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 500-3 Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- SOCW 501-3 Generalist Practice
- SOCW 510-3 Families, Groups and Organizational Systems
- SOCW 541A-2 Foundation Seminar I
- SOCW 541B-2 Foundation Practicum I
- Elective 2

Spring (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 504-2 Ethnic Diversity and Social Service
- SOCW 511-3 Social Work Research
- SOCW 521-3 Social Welfare Policy
- SOCW 542A-2 Foundation Seminar II
- SOCW 542B-2 Foundation Practicum II
- Elective-3

Students admitted to the advanced standing program are required to complete nine semester hours of transition courses, with a grade of B or better in each course, and a minimum of 30 semester hours in the second year graduate course curriculum in the approved sequence. The transition courses include the following:

Summer (9 semester hours)
- SOCW 502-3 Perspectives on Human Behavior and Social Environment
- SOCW 512-3 Research Design/Theory Building
- SOCW 522-3 Social Welfare Policy Development and Analysis

The second year curriculum is organized around the following areas of emphasis: health/mental health; and children, youth and families. The school also offers course work in preparation for School Social Work Type 73 Certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Applicants must indicate their preference of area of emphasis. Although we attempt to accommodate each applicant’s first preference, we do not guarantee students will receive their first choice. The second year curriculum includes the following courses in each area of emphasis:

Health/Mental Health

Fall (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 531-3 Psychosocial Disorders
- SOCW 543A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar I
- SOCW 543B-3 Advanced Practicum I
- SOCW 551-3 H/MH Practice I
- SOCW 555-3 Advanced Policy Analysis: H/MH

Spring (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 532-3 Evaluation Research
- SOCW 544A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar II
- SOCW 544B-3 Advanced Practicum II
- SOCW 552-3 H/MH Practice II
- Elective-3

Children, Youth and Families

Fall (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 531-2 Psychological Disorders
- SOCW 543A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar I
- SOCW 543B-3 Advanced Practicum I
- SOCW 561-3 CY&F Practice
- SOCW 565-3 Advance Policy Analysis: CY&F

Spring (15 semester hours)
- SOCW 532-3 Evaluation Research
- SOCW 544A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar II
- SOCW 544B-3 Advanced Practicum II
- SOCW 562-3 CY&F Practice II
- Elective-3

Certification in School Social Work (Please refer to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) for the most current information on certification/endorsement requirements for Social Work)

Those students who wish to qualify for certification in school social work need to:

a. Complete the core courses listed above under the children, youth, and families emphasis.

b. Take the following courses (which will satisfy the elective requirements):
   1. SOCW 533-2 Social Work Practice in the School
   2. SPED 408-3 or SPED 420-3
   3. EDUC 319
   And
   EAHE 501-3 or EAHE 503-3 (A waiver may be available with permission of the School of Social Work)

c. The field placement (SOCW 543B-3 and SOCW 544B-3) will be in a school setting for two consecutive semesters.

d. SPED 408-3 or SPED 420-3 is a prerequisite to field placement for students in the School Social Work Certification
Program and must be completed before fall semester field placement (SOCW 543A,B).

e. Pass the Illinois State Board of Education Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) and the School Social Work Certification Test.

In each year of study, in addition to classroom work, students are required to take field practicum. Applied learning through field practice is an integral component of social work education. Field instruction provides the student with the opportunity for applying social work theory and conceptual learning to realistic and practical situations. Students may not substitute current or past, paid or volunteer, social work experience for the field practicum requirements of the M.S.W. program. While the school takes into account the student’s career goals in the selection of the field practicum assignment, we do not guarantee that students will receive their first preference of field assignment.

M.S.W. students must maintain an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

Within limits imposed by the policies of the Graduate School of the University, transfer credits will be permitted for up to 30 semester hours for applicants who wish to transfer from another accredited graduate program in social work.

Student Advisement

Upon admission to the Master of Social Work degree program, the student will be assigned a faculty adviser. The adviser is responsible for supervision of the student’s progress and is available for career counseling as well as assisting in other matters which might arise in connection with the student’s work.

Financial Aid

The program offers limited financial assistance through graduate assistantships. Other scholarships, grants-in-aid, etc., may be applied for through the Graduate School, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901-4716.

M.S.W./J.D. in Social Work and Law

A concurrent degree in social work and law is designed to educate practitioners in law and social work to effectively utilize the problem-solving strategies and techniques of both professions. Students prepared in this program will develop an understanding of the ethics, language, research, history, and processes of both professions. Individuals so trained will be uniquely prepared for careers which combine both legal and human service needs such as administration, supervision of the provision of services, legal aspects of services, public policy leadership roles, family practice and community planning and development. Accepted students could complete a concurrent program in as few as three years with full-time summer attendance. Students must meet the requirements of admission and be admitted separately to the School of Social Work and the School of Law. Students currently enrolled in social work or law programs must have a minimum GPA before they may enroll in the concurrent program. The minimum GPA for social work is 3.0 and for law is 2.5. Social work students interested in this program should consult with the School of Social Work Graduate Program Director.

Certificate in Gerontology

The School of Social Work participates in the Certificate in Gerontology interdisciplinary program and offers a class, SOCW 575 Policy and Program Issues of Aging, which is a Certificate requirement. For more information on the Certificate program, please see the section Certificate Programs in Chapter One of the Catalog.

Courses (SOCW)

478-1 to 6 International Social Work: Generalist Policy and Practice. (a) Germany; (b) Mexico; (c) India; (d) Bangladesh; (e) Canada; (f) South America; (g) Asia; (h) Africa; (i) Classroom based; (j) other. Provides an international perspective for the study of social work groups, organizations and communities. Focuses on the examination of assessment and problem solving interventions and cross-cultural comparisons of policy and practice.

496-1 to 3 Independent Research in Social Work. Provides opportunity for students to conduct independent research with the guidance of a faculty member. Topics of research are identified by the student and faculty member. Special approval needed from the instructor and School Director.

500-3 Human Behavior in the Social Environment. Life span development. Students acquire a foundation knowledge of human development in the social environment over the life span. Normal development stages and impacts of social systems on the growth of individuals in diverse populations of rural areas is emphasized. Prerequisite: admission to the School of Social Work. Restricted to admission to the program.

501-3 Generalist Practice. This course emphasizes the development of advanced intervention skills related to generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in multiple-service, community-based agencies characteristic of rural areas. Includes mandatory interviewing skills weekend. Restricted to admission to the program.

502-3 Perspectives on Human Behavior for Social Work Practice. Selective examination of the theoretical basis of development and inter-relational aspects of individuals and families throughout the life span. Normal development stages and impacts of social systems on the growth of individuals in diverse populations of rural areas is emphasized. Prerequisite: eligibility for advanced standing. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 512 and 522. Grade of B or better is required. Restricted to Admission to the School of Social Work with eligibility for advanced standing.

504-2 Ethnic Diversity and Social Service. Examination of issues involved in delivering social services to various ethnic and cultural groups. Sensitizes students to personal, familial, or community problems of ethnic or cultural origin. Implications for understanding social services to populations who have experienced discrimination are discussed. Restricted to admission to the program.

505-2 Foundations of Social Work and Services. Examination of both historical and philosophical developments of the social welfare system as an institution and social work as a profession in the United States. Future trends in social work education and practice are predicted based on social and political mentality prevailing at present time. Restricted to admission to program.
510-3 Families, Groups and Organizational Systems for Social Work Practice. Examination of systems and advanced generalist practice theories within the context of rural, integrated and multiple-service social services delivery systems. Specific practice examples will be used to facilitate understanding of how theory guides practice with families, groups, organizations and communities. Restricted to admission to the program.  
511-3 Designing and Measuring Performance in Social Work Practice. This course emphasizes the importance of scientific inquiry within social work practice and covers the application of basic concepts of research methodology to social work including problem formulation, research design, sampling, measurement, and data analysis. Includes single-system methodology as it applies to social work practice in rural areas. Prepares students to conduct an individualized single-system project based on practice intervention with clients or systems in their practicum setting in the final semester of their studies. Prerequisite: an introduction to statistics course or concurrent enrollment allowed. Restricted to admission to the program.  
512-3 Measuring Performance Outcomes in Social Work Practice I. Selective examination of inductive and deductive methods in social work knowledge building. Includes research methodologies and group designs as applied to social work practices in rural areas. Prepares students to conduct an individualized single-system project based on practice intervention with clients or systems in their practicum setting in the final semester of their studies. Prerequisite: eligibility for advanced standing. Must be taken concurrently with 502 and 522. Grade of B or better is required to continue in the advanced standing program. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.  
520-3 Social Work Practice II. Foundation practice focusing on process, methods, and skills for work with groups, communities, and organizations. Prerequisite: SOCW 510.  
521-3 Social Welfare Policy. Examines the historical development of social welfare and professional social work in Europe and the United States. The course introduces a systematic framework for policy analysis with particular attention paid to policies affecting diverse rural populations, women and minorities. Restricted to admission to the program; restricted to social work graduate students only.  
522-3 Social Welfare Policy Development and Analysis. Selective examination of the historical development of social welfare and professional social work in Europe and the United States. Uses a systematic framework for policy analysis with particular attention paid to policies affecting diverse rural populations, low income, oppressed and diverse rural populations. Prerequisite: eligibility for advanced standing. Must be taken concurrently with 502 and 512. Grade of B or better is required to continue in the advanced standing program. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.  
530-3 Substance Abuse and Social Work Practice. In-depth knowledge of social work assessment of both individuals and families involved in substance abuse. Students are provided with advanced knowledge and skills in various social work intervention models applicable to the area of substance abuse.  
531-3 Psychosocial Disorders. (Same as SOCW 446J) This course provides a basic knowledge of psychopathology and how it impacts individual functioning and family dynamics. Students become familiar with the theoretical basis and the basic structure of DSM-IV and models of interdisciplinary clinical practice in mental health. Prerequisite: Completion of foundation or transition courses (SOCW 502, 512, 522 or SOCW 500, 501, 504, 510, 511, 521, 541A&B, 542A&B) or consent from the School’s Graduate Program Director.  
532-3 Measuring Performance Outcomes in Social Work Practice II. This course focuses on the application of research methods especially in evaluating programs or program components in the area of concentration and to the practicum experience. Includes content on self-evaluation in practice. Prerequisite: SOCW 511 and 512 with a grade of B or better and an introduction to statistics course. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.  
533-2 Social Work Practice in the Schools. In-depth examination of the history and practice of social work in primary and secondary schools. Roles of school social workers and practice approaches are emphasized. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses, SPED 408 or SPED 420. Restricted to admission to the School of Social Work certification program.  
535-3 Legal Aspects of Social Work Practice. Examination of law and legal procedures that relate directly to social work practice in general. Legal perspectives of a specific concentration field of practice are discussed in depth.  
541A-2 Foundation Seminar I. Seminar which is taken concurrently with Foundation Practicum I. The seminar emphasizes the relationship between the practicum experience, social work practice, policy, human behavior and the social environment (HBSE) and research curricula. Restricted to admission to the program.  
541B-2 Foundation Practicum I. Field practicum which is taken concurrently with Foundation Seminar I and is a structured and supervised on-site field practice in a selected agency. Practicum is equivalent to 12 hours per week for 15 weeks (a total of 360 hours) over two semesters. Graded S/U. Restricted to admission to the program and concurrent registration in 541A.  
542A-4 Foundation Seminar II. Seminar which is taken concurrently with Foundation Practicum II and serves as a continuation of 541A. The seminar emphasizes the relationship between the practicum experience, social work practice, policy, human behavior and the social environment (HBSE) and research curricula. Prerequisite: SOCW 541A,B. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.  
542B-2 Foundation Practicum II. Field practicum which is taken concurrently with Foundation Seminar II and serves as a continuation of 541B, which is a structured and supervised on-site field practice in a selected agency with concurrent seminar. This is the second on-site field practice with concurrent seminar. Continuation of 541B. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: 541A,B and concurrent registration in 542A. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.  
543A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar I. Concentration specific practicum seminar with concurrent field practicum, 543B. Practicum seminar focuses on the application of advanced generalist theory, knowledge and skills covered in the curriculum within the specific concentration area (Children, Youth and Families/School Social Work; Health/Mental Health). Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.
543B-3 Advanced Practicum I. On-site concentration specific field practice in an approved agency with appropriate supervision equivalent to 20 hours per week for 15 weeks (a total of 607 hours is required to be completed in two semesters) with a concurrent seminar. The practicum focuses on the application of advanced concentration theory, knowledge and skills covered in the curriculum. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

544A-3 Advanced Practicum Seminar II. A continuation of the concentration specific practicum seminar with field practicum 544B. Continuation of 543A. Prerequisite: SOCW 543 A & B and registration in SOCW544B. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

544B-3 Advanced Practicum II. A continuation of the concentration specific practicum of 20 hours per week in the field for 15 weeks with a concurrent seminar 544A. Graded S/U. Continuation of 543B. Prerequisite: SOCW 543 A&B and concurrent registration in 544A. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

546-3 to 33 Selected Topics. (Same as SOCW 446) Selected Topics (may be repeated with different sections) a. Social work counseling with individuals; b. Social work practice with groups; c. Social work intervention with traumatic stress events; d. Medical social work; e. Substance abuse and mental health; f. Social work family therapy; g. Administration and grant writing; h. Child welfare; i. Spirituality; j. Adoption; k. Other.

550-2 Social Work Practice in Health and Mental Health Settings. Examination of social and emotional impacts of illness and death on individuals. Implications of physical and mental disorders to social work practice are discussed with particular emphasis on cultural, racial, religious, gender and other psychosocial aspects of illness. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.

551-3 Health and Mental Health Practice I. This is the first of a two-part course that emphasizes health and mental health delivery within systems theory and an advanced generalist practice skills framework. Includes case studies and exercise aimed at practice with diverse populations in rural areas. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.

552-3 Health and Mental Practice II. The second part of the practice course on advanced skills in health and mental health. Continuation of 551. Application of treatment modalities. Prerequisite: SOCW 543 & SOCW 551. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

555-3 Advanced Policy Analysis: Health and Mental Health. This course applies a systematic analytical framework for a critical and in-depth analysis of federal, state and local policies that shape programs affecting mental health in rural settings. Examines how policy impacts practice with diverse populations. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

557-3 Community Mental Health and the African-American. An exploration of the culture of the African-American community builds the basis for community mental health service strategies.

558-3 Women and Community Mental Health. Examination of mental health problems of American women and exploration of effective interventive strategies. Emphasis on rural mental health services for low-income women.

559-3 Aging and Mental Health. (Same as GRON 559) Examination of the nature and etiology of mental health problems facing older Americans. Review of research reports to build a theoretical basis for mental disorders.

560-2 Social Work Practice with Children and Youth. Advanced level of knowledge and skills that are relevant to the prevention and amelioration of problems related to maladaptive parent-child interaction, parental inability to provide child care, parents’ unrealistic expectations of a physically and mentally limited child. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.

561-3 Children, Youth and Families Practice I. This is the first part of a two-part course that emphasizes family-centered practice (family preservation, integrated services) within systems theory and an advanced generalist practice skills framework. Includes case studies and exercises aimed at practice with diverse populations in rural areas. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

562-3 Children, Youth and Families Practice II. The second part of the practice course on advanced skills. Continuation of 561. Application of treatment modalities. Prerequisite: SOCW 543 & SOCW 561. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

565-3 Advanced Policy Analysis: Children, Youth and Families. This course applies a systematic analytical framework for a critical and in-depth analysis of federal, state and local policies that shape programs affecting children, youth and families in rural settings. Examines how policy impacts practice with diverse populations. Prerequisite: completion of foundation transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.


570-3 Gerontology and Social Work. Examines the major psycho-social and ecological theories of human aging within the framework of social work practice. Extrapolations of these theories and application of them to social work practice and research are emphasized.

575-3 Policy and Program Issues of Aging. (Same as GRON 575) Examination of public policies that impact on the quality of life of the elderly. Major programs are identified and analyzed. Future policy issues are discussed.

576-1 to 6 Selected Topics in Aging Practice Issues. Examination of selected knowledge and skills useful for gerontological social work practice. In-depth study on specific topics will be conducted. Prerequisite: SOCW 570.

577-1 to 4 Selected Topics in Research. Individualized advanced research projects related to student interest. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.
578-3 **International Social Work.** Critical examination of the nature and scope of social welfare programs in other nations including: personal social services, income maintenance, health care and social development programs. Emphasis is on policies in Third World countries. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.

598-1 to 4 **Social Work Research Paper.** Preparation of a final research paper as partial requirement for the M.S.W. degree. Graded S/U only. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Special approval needed from the school.

599-3 **Thesis in Social Work.** A partial and optional requirement for the M.S.W. degree. A written report of the student's research project in the chosen area of concentration. Graded S/U only. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses or consent of the school.

601-1 **per semester Continuing Enrollment.** For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs or who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only.