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**Master of Social Work**  
**Department of Sociology and Social Work**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

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<http://www.soc.appstate.edu/socialwork/index.htm>

The Department of Sociology and Social Work offers the Master of Social Work (135\*/44.0701) with concentrations in Community and Organizational Management (135B) and Individuals and Families (135C).

The Department of Sociology and Social Work also offers programs in Gerontology, listed under that heading in this bulletin.

Courses in the following disciplines are offered by the Department of Sociology and Social Work:

- SOC: sociology courses (please see the Gerontology program for course descriptions)
- SW: social work courses

The MSW degree is designed to prepare practitioners who can apply the knowledge and skills of advanced social work practice in an area of concentration. Students are provided a curriculum intended to prepare them to apply a broad range of knowledge and skills with a high degree of proficiency and deliver and evaluate services in ways that are discriminating and self-critical. A goal of the program is for graduates to advance the quality of their practice and that of the profession. The MSW curriculum provides the foundation content in values and ethics, diversity, populations-at-risk, social and economic justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research, and field education. An advanced curriculum focused upon one area of concentration addresses the foundation areas in greater depth, breadth, and specificity.

Appalachian is in candidacy for accreditation of this MSW program with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Academic Credit is not awarded for life or previous work experience.

**Entry with Advanced Standing:**

Applicants who are graduates of Council on Social Work Education-accredited Bachelor of Social Work degree programs during the seven years preceding application and who have earned average grades of 3.5 or greater in their undergraduate course work may apply, by letter, for Advanced Standing in the MSW program. Only graduates of such Bachelor of Social Work programs are eligible for Advanced Standing. The prerequisites and basic admissions criteria for Advanced Standing are the same as those for admission to the two-year program. Those admitted as Advanced Standing students are not required to complete the required foundation courses (SW 5005, 5010, 5020, 5040, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, and 5240).

Students admitted to Advanced Standing are required to enroll in and earn a grade of B or better in SW 5001, Advanced Standing Transitional Seminar, and up to six hours of additional course work, if deemed necessary by the social work faculty at the completion of the Transitional Seminar. The number of hours required for advanced standing students is 33 semester hours plus up to 6 additional hours if deemed necessary by the social work faculty.

**Location of Program:** This program is offered on campus in Boone in the format described in this Bulletin. Off-campus cohorts are started periodically, and follow a part-time extended program format. For information on upcoming off-campus cohorts, please contact the Office of Extension and Distance Education: <http://www.ext-dl.appstate.edu>.

**PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (Major code: 135\*/44.0701)**

**Admission Requirements:** Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; an undergraduate liberal arts background, including courses from the following areas: English/composition, biology (e.g., human biology), social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, political science, history), humanities, and mathematics; complete application to the Cratis Williams Graduate School (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu>), including resume, three letters of recommendation, official GRE general test scores, and official transcripts from all colleges attended; personal statement.

**Basic Criteria for Consideration:** Undergrad GPA = 2.5 with a 3.0 in last 60 hours;  
(GPA X 400) + GRE-V + GRE-Q = 2000.

**Hours:** 60 semester hours

**Location:** On Campus and Off Campus; Off-Campus cohorts begin periodically, and follow a part-time extended format.

**Foundation Courses:**

SW	5005	American Social Welfare History and the Social Work Profession.....	3
SW	5010	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I.....	3
SW	5020	Practice with Individuals and Families.....	3
SW	5030	Foundations of Social Work Research.....	3
SW	5040	Field Practicum and Seminar I.....	3
SW	5200	Social Welfare Policy Analysis and Practice.....	3
SW	5210	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II.....	3
SW	5220	Practice with Groups and Communities.....	3
SW	5230	Evaluation of Professional Social Work Practice.....	3
SW	5240	Field Practicum and Seminar II.....	3

**FOUNDATION HOURS.....30**

**Elective Courses:**

Select two electives (6 s.h.) in consultation with an advisor

**ELECTIVE HOURS ..... 6**

**Concentration (CHOOSE ONE):****COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICE CONCENTRATION (135B)**

SW	5810	Advanced Community Social Work Practice.....	3
SW	5820	Social Welfare Organizational Management.....	3
SW	5830	Community and Organizational Practice Field Practicum and Seminar I...3	
SW	5840	Nonprofit and Public Human Services Administration.....	3
SW	5850	Community and Organizational Cultures.....	3
SW	5860	Community and Organizational Practice Field Practicum and Seminar II..3	
choose two (6 s.h.) of the following courses.....			6
SW	5700	Advanced Social Work Assessment (3 s.h.)	
SW	5710	Advanced Social Work Practice with Families (3 s.h.)	
SW	5730	Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents (3 s.h.)	
SW	5740	Advanced Social Work Practice with Adults (3 s.h.)	

**INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CONCENTRATION (135C)**

SW	5700	Advanced Social Work Assessment.....	3
SW	5710	Advanced Social Work Practice with Families.....	3
SW	5720	Individuals and Families Field Practicum and Seminar I.....	3
SW	5730	Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents.....	3
SW	5740	Advanced Social Work Practice with Adults.....	3
SW	5750	Individuals and Families Field Practicum and Seminar II.....	3
choose two (6 s.h.) of the following courses.....			6
SW	5810	Advanced Community Social Work Practice (3 s.h.)	
SW	5820	Social Welfare Organizational Management (3 s.h.)	
SW	5840	Nonprofit and Public Human Services Administration (3 s.h.)	
SW	5850	Community and Organizational Cultures (3 s.h.)	

**CONCENTRATION HOURS.....24**

**TOTAL HOURS FOR MSW DEGREE .....60**

**Thesis:** None required.

**Proficiency:** None required.

**Comprehensive:** None required.

**Product of Learning:** None required.

### **COURSES IN SOCIAL WORK (SW)**

**SW 5001. Advanced Standing Transitional Seminar/(3).SS.** This course is intended for students seeking advanced standing in the MSW Program and is open only to those with a BSW from a CSWE accredited program. Students enrolling in this course will be tested on their mastery of the content of the foundation year (the first 30 hours) of the MSW Program. Successful completion of this course is required of all students seeking advanced standing in the MSW program.

**SW 5005. American Social Welfare History and the Social Work Profession/(3).F.** This course is an introduction to MSW-level professional Social Work. It provides a comprehensive overview of the social, political and economic contexts that led to the emergence of the profession of Social Work, service delivery systems and related policies, and professional ethics and values.

**SW 5010. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I/(3).F.** This is the first of two courses in the MSW foundation year that provide knowledge for understanding and assessing human behavior and interaction in varied social, cultural, and economic contexts as a necessary foundation for effective social work practice. The course will examine bio-psycho-social development from birth through early adolescence, utilizing ecological systems and life span/life course perspectives.

**SW 5020. Practice with Individuals and Families/(3).F.** This first practice course of the MSW foundation year includes development of basic social work skills regarding communication and interviewing, assessment and intervention, evaluation, and termination, with an emphasis on micro systems. There is emphasis on the application of social work theory, values and ethics to practice and adaptation of intervention approaches to meet the needs of vulnerable groups and diverse populations.

**SW 5030. Foundations of Social Work Research/(3).F.** Examines processes of theory building and a variety of scientific methods that provide the foundation for research in social work settings. Students will have the opportunity to learn about elements in social work research that include social work ethics, problem formulation, research design, data analysis and reporting, and utilization of research in social work venues.

**SW 5040. Field Practicum and Seminar I/(3).F.** Supervised placement in a human service agency provides the student the opportunity to apply in a practicum setting material learned in the other MSW foundation courses. The practicum will include micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. The seminar will provide the student opportunities to explore field-based practice, policy issues, and theories. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Graded on an S/U basis.

**SW 5200. Social Welfare Policy Analysis and Practice/(3).S.** This course provides an in-depth knowledge of social welfare policies, including exploration of social problems, assessment of policy alternatives, analysis of policy implementation, prioritization of revisions, and introduction to strategies for policy change. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact of policies on varied client populations. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030 and SW 5040.

**SW 5210. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II/(3).S.** This is the second of two human behavior courses in the MSW foundation year that provide a basis for effective social work practice. This course examines bio-psycho-social development from late adolescence through the late adulthood, utilizing ecological systems and life span/life course perspectives. The influence of macro systems on human development and behavior will be addressed. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, and SW 5040.

**SW 5220. Practice with Groups and Communities/(3).S.** The course uses the knowledge and skills of social work and builds on this foundation to include groups and community practice. Knowledge of theories, models and interventions for group and community practice that are learned in the class are integrated and applied in the concurrent student field internship. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, and SW 5040.

**SW 5230. Evaluation of Professional Social Work Practice/(3).S.** This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental knowledge and skills to conduct planned evaluations of social work practice with varied client populations at the micro- and macro- levels. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, and SW 5040.

**SW 5240. Field Practicum and Seminar II/(3).S.** Supervised placement in a human service agency provides the student the opportunity to apply in a practicum setting material learned in the other MSW foundation courses. The practicum will include micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice. The seminar will provide the student opportunities to explore field-based practice, policy issues, and theories. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, and SW 5040. Graded on an S/U basis.

**SW 5555. Death, Dying, and Living/(3).F.** An examination of how dying, death, and grief are experienced, including how support can be given through helping relationships to those who are dying or experiencing bereavement. Consideration will be given to the issues of euthanasia, suicide, body disposition, living wills, and the relationship of death to life. Students will have the opportunity to explore personally the meaning of death, other experiences of loss, and the quality of life. [Dual-listed with SW 4555.]

**SW 5565. Human Sexuality and Family Living/(3).S.** Information and concepts of human sexuality including physiological, social, psychological, and moral aspects will be studied. Such topics as dating, marriage, prenatal and postnatal care and intrafamily relationships leading to reduction of stress on family members are also to be included. Emphasis will be placed on communication skills-building. [Dual-listed with SW 4565.]

**SW 5630. Programs and Services for Older Adults/(3). F.** This course focuses on both policy and practice issues related to services for older adults. Drawing on research from both sociology and social work, the long-term impact of an aging society on social institutions as well as relevant modes of practice in addressing the needs of the older population are emphasized. (Same as SOC 5630.) [Dual-listed with SW 4630.]

**SW 5700. Advanced Social Work Assessment/(3).F.** Building on beginning practice skills developed in the MSW foundation year, this required course in the Individuals and Families concentration will provide students with advanced skills for conducting comprehensive, social work theory-based assessments of individuals, couples, and families across the life span. In preparation for interdisciplinary practice, various theoretical perspectives regarding assessment and diagnosis and common classifications of mental health disorders, including diagnostic criteria, will be explored. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240).

**SW 5710. Advanced Social Work Practice with Families/(3).F.** This practice course in the Individuals and Families concentration builds on the two practice courses and other content from the MSW foundation year, and integrates content from the advanced assessment course taught in this concentration. It is designed to provide students with theory, intervention techniques, and practice skills for social work practice with families across the life span and in the context of larger environments. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240).

**SW 5720. Individuals and Families Field Practicum and Seminar I/(3).F.** The field practicum consists of an agency experience that offers opportunities for advanced practice with children, adults, and families. Students will demonstrate advanced skills in assessment, intervention, and practice with children and adults using an ecological-systems and strengths-based perspective. The seminar will provide an opportunity for students to examine their practice and the influences of theory and policy on practice. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240). Graded on an S/U basis.

**SW 5730. Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents/(3).S.** This course is the second practice course in the Individuals and Families concentration under the MSW degree building on Advanced Social Work Practice with Families (SW 5710). It is designed to provide students with a theory, practice skills and techniques for social work practice with children and adolescents. Continued emphasis is given to a family systems theory and ecological systems and strengths-based perspective as it applies to treatment for children and adolescents within a social work practice context. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5700, SW 5710, and SW 5720.

**SW 5740. Advanced Social Work Practice with Adults/(3).S.** This course is the fourth required in the Individuals and Families concentration under the MSW degree. Building on content regarding advanced assessment and practice with

families in context, this course provides students with theory, intervention techniques, and practice skills for advanced social work practice with adults across the life span. Attention to the vast differences among adults, and to the meanings and influence of diverse cultures, organizations, and institutions, will serve as the framework for this course. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5700, SW 5710, and SW 5720.

**SW 5750. Individuals and Families Field Practicum and Seminar II/(3).S.** The field practicum consists of an agency experience that offers opportunities for advanced practice with children, adults, and families. Students will demonstrate advanced skills in assessment, intervention, and practice with children and adults using an ecological-systems and strengths-based perspective. The seminar will provide an opportunity for students to examine their practice and the influences of theory and policy on practice. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5700, SW 5710, and SW 5720. Graded on an S/U basis.

**SW 5810. Advanced Community Social Work Practice/(3).F.** This advanced course focuses on the social work principles of empowerment and social change as they apply to communities. Building upon the foundation introduction to macro community practice and related theories, students will gain a more detailed knowledge of the skills and strategies needed to engage effectively in community organizing, development and planning. Consistent with social work's focus on oppressed and disenfranchised populations, students will explore the concept of community diversity, moving beyond the concept of race/ethnicity. Students will also gain advanced skills in the use of various community assessments. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240).

**SW 5820. Social Welfare Organizational Management/(3).F.** Examines the social work professional issues and trends that influence planning and managing human service organizations, including organizational theories and conflict management. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240).

**SW 5830. Community and Organizational Practice Field Practicum and Seminar I/(3).F.** The field practicum consists of an agency/organization experience that offers opportunities relative to community and organizational practice. Building on the skills and knowledge learned in the MSW foundation year, students will demonstrate advanced skills in working in the areas of community practice, nonprofit and public administration, and organizational management. The seminar will provide an opportunity for students to examine their practice and the influences of theory and policies on practice. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Prerequisites: successful completion of the MSW foundation curriculum (SW 5005, SW 5010, SW 5020, SW 5030, SW 5040, SW 5200, SW 5210, SW 5220, SW 5230, and SW 5240). Graded on an S/U basis.

**SW 5840. Nonprofit and Public Human Services Administration/(3).S.** This course provides students with the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders within nonprofit and public human service organizations. Students will have the opportunity to learn about key organizational issues such as organizational goals and objectives, strategic planning, personnel and Board management, fundraising, proposal writing, and budget development and oversight. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5810, SW 5820, and SW 5830.

**SW 5850. Community and Organizational Cultures/(3).S.** This advanced course in the Communities and Organizational Management concentration under the MSW degree builds on the theories of community from SW 5220 and SW 5810, and management skills and organizational theories from SW 5820. Students will develop the skills needed to critically analyze the nuances of organizational and community cultures from a social work perspective. Students will also gain advanced skill in applying social work concepts such as empowerment and social justice to their analysis. Finally, students will be exposed to a variety of tools for examining organizational and community culture and will explore social work interventions to form, maintain, change and manage organizational community cultures. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5810, SW 5820, and SW 5830.

**SW 5860. Community and Organizational Practice Field Practicum and Seminar II/(3).S.** The field practicum consists of an agency/organization experience that offers opportunities relative to community and organizational practice. Building on the skills and knowledge learned in the MSW foundation year, students will demonstrate advanced skills in working in the areas of community practice, nonprofit and public administration, and organizational management. The seminar will provide an opportunity for students to examine their practice and the influences of theory and policies on practice. Students will complete 240 hours in the practicum. Prerequisites: successful completion of SW 5810, SW 5820, and SW 5830. Graded on an S/U basis.