



FSU

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

**MSW PROGRAM HANDBOOK
2026-2027**

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DEAN'S WELCOME



Welcome to the Florida State University College of Social Work!

The profession of social work seeks to bring people together to enhance human well-being and promote social justice. You are joining a tradition of excellence here at the college. FSU social work graduates are using their skills daily to improve the world in which we live. As you complete your degree, you will acquire knowledge and skills that will enhance your abilities to be an effective agent of change.

FSU has the oldest and most highly ranked social work program in the state of Florida. For this reason, we have an alumni base of exceptional practitioners and scholars across the state and throughout the nation. Our graduates and partnering agencies and community organizations offer wonderful field placements with the highest quality supervision as well as a large professional network to enhance career opportunities.

Whether you plan to work directly with individuals, families or communities or you aspire to shape policy or administer programs, you have come to the right place. Our faculty includes seasoned clinicians, policy experts, and world-class researchers who are interested in preparing you for a successful career. While much of the teaching happens within the classroom, our instructors work with students to apply their knowledge in real-world settings and situations to see where the curriculum meets community. Additionally, our staff and college community provide guidance and support along the way. We are all committed to providing you with an excellent learning experience where you feel valued.

The College of Social Work experience offers so much more than the curriculum. There are a number of different social work clubs and organizations that will allow you to explore specific interests while providing opportunities to engage in service. The college also has five research centers and institutes that are engaged in translational research as well as service provision, offering frequent opportunities for student involvement.

Please take advantage of all we have to offer. We are looking forward to getting to know you while we facilitate your educational journey!

Kirk Foster, PhD
Dean, Guy and Delores Spearman Professor of Social Work

THE COLLEGE, THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

The College of Social Work's tradition of excellence started with the introduction of social welfare into FSU's curriculum in 1926 by Dr. Raymond Bellamy, professor of sociology. Our fully-accredited program was the first in Florida and remains one of the longest standing in the Southeast. U.S. News and World Report ranks the FSU College of Social Work as among the top in the country. The College of Social Work adheres to accreditation standards established by the Council on Social Work Education.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Florida State University College of Social Work to provide quality educational services at the baccalaureate, master, and doctoral levels that prepare professional social workers to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of a variety of populations with particular attention to the empowerment of people who are vulnerable or living in poverty.

The College of Social Work also has as its purpose to contribute to the knowledge base that supports social

work practice and social policy development and to provide leadership through community service at the local, state, national, and international levels.

THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

The Florida State University is a major research and teaching university comprised of 17 colleges, serving a student population of more than 46,000+ and the people of Florida. The university maintains an intellectual climate of learning and strives for excellence and innovation in all pursuits. In the last few years, the university has reached a high level of innovation, thanks to its dedication to graduate study and research, and to its superior teaching faculty and student bodies. Nestled in Tallahassee, Florida's state capital, the university enjoys the extraordinarily rich cultural climate created by the presence of state and local government, a community college and a second major university. Along with the beauty of the "Big Bend" area, Tallahassee is near a wealth of Florida's resources including the Gulf of Mexico, the Apalachicola National Forest, and natural recreation areas.

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**Access the full Faculty and Staff
Directory on the College of Social
Work website.**

CALENDAR 2026-2027 FALL 2026

**Classes Begin August 24
Semester Ends December 11**

SPRING 2027

**Classes Begin January 6
Spring Break March 15-19
Semester Ends April 30**

SUMMER 2027

**Classes Begin May 10
Session C Ends July 30**

This document is available in alternate formats upon request. The publisher has attempted to present information that at the time of preparation for printing most accurately describes the course offerings, faculty listings, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements of the university. However, it does not establish contractual relationships. The university reserves the right to alter or change any statement contained herein without prior notice.



MSW PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MSW program, nationally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), offers a broad professional education based on a systems perspective, which stresses how individuals live in their environment and how the environment affects them.

The goal of the MSW Program at Florida State University is to provide quality preparation for advanced practitioners who will work with variety of client systems and problems. We emphasize empirically-based practice which focuses on preventing problems as well as treating them.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Social Work degree program is designed to enable students to develop advanced professional competence by providing a curriculum that includes five sequence areas: social work practice; social policy; human behavior and the social environment; social work research; and field education. The curriculum has been developed to emphasize the common elements in all social work practice areas so that persons receiving the professional degree will be able to practice in a variety of community agencies and settings.

At the master's level, students choose one of two advanced concentrations: Clinical Social Work, which focuses on theories, research and practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities; or Social Leadership, which focuses on the theory, research and practice of social work in organizations, administrations, policy-making and program

evaluation. While the curriculum is structured in this two concentration format, students are welcome to take courses in either concentration or customize their program of study by applying for our joint pathway and certificate programs. The Tallahassee main campus offers students an opportunity to pursue either the Clinical Concentration, Social Leadership Concentration or a joint pathway program, while the Panama City campus and online program solely offers the Clinical Concentration.

Note: Students must complete the MSW within seven years of beginning the program.

TRADITIONAL MSW CURRICULUM

The college offers full-time and part-time Master of Social Work programs comprised of sixty-one (61) credit hours of required social work courses and electives. Students bring to their graduate studies a liberal arts perspective and build on this background during the first year of the program which consists of a foundation curriculum that covers the professional body of knowledge required by the social work profession.

Courses are divided by sequence areas that include: practice, policy, research, human behavior and a 10 credit hour field internship (approximately 432 field hours). A variety of elective courses are available and may strengthen preparation in substantive areas of practice.

The second year of the curriculum focuses on advanced courses in either the Clinical Social Work concentration or Social Leadership concentration. The curriculum culminates with a final 12 credit hour internship (approximately 512 field hours) along with a 3 credit hour Advanced Seminar course that serves to integrate the curriculum with the field experiences. These internship locations are available in Tallahassee, around the state of Florida and in specified international locations.

Students are highly encouraged to track their program of study by consulting with our MSW Graduate Advisors who can assist in assuring that students will graduate in the planned time frame. Students should follow the approved curriculum plan outlined in this bulletin for the concentration selected in order to complete the MSW degree in a timely manner. A listing and description of graduate courses is found at the end of this bulletin.

ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM

The college also offers an Advanced Standing Master of Social Work program for applicants who have completed a BSW degree within seven years (from graduation date) from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Students in the Advanced Standing program complete 39 credit hours of required social work courses and electives, choosing either the Clinical Social Work concentration or the Social Leadership concentration. At the completion of all course work, the curriculum concludes with a final internship of 12 credit hours (approximately 512 field hours) and an Advanced Integrative Seminar (3 credits).

ONLINE MSW CURRICULUM

The College of Social Work offers an Online MSW program for students who reside outside the following counties: Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, and Jefferson to complete a graduate degree through part-time, online study. The program is designed for those who cannot set aside full-time jobs and family responsibilities for full-time graduate study, but who are willing to make the commitment to a part-time program. Applicants to these programs must meet the same standards for admission as students in the main campus program and follow a structured schedule of coursework, enrolling in two courses per semester.

Florida State University College of Social Work became the first program to offer an online, CSWE accredited Advanced Standing MSW program in the fall of 2002. In Spring 2015, the college began offering the Traditional MSW Online program as well. For both programs, most of the coursework is asynchronous and uses



a web-based format. The Traditional MSW Online program requires that students participate in two face-to-face weekend workshops during their studies.

Additionally, all students enrolled in SOW5807 Advanced Clinical Practice are required to participate in a mandatory Zoom session.

In Spring 2025, the college began an Advanced Standing full time online track. Students with an earned BSW complete courses at a mostly full-time pace to complete the MSW Program in 4 semesters.

PANAMA CITY MSW CURRICULUM

Our Panama City campus offers a mostly face-to-face Traditional MSW program and a fully in-person Advanced Standing MSW Program for individuals who reside in the following counties: Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun and Gulf.



MSW PROGRAM CONCENTRATIONS

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK CONCENTRATION

This concentration prepares students for evidence-based clinical social work practice with a variety of clients in numerous community settings. Overall, this curriculum emphasizes professional services to clients experiencing stressful situations which impair, or threaten to impair, psychological and social functioning. Clinical social work students develop knowledge and skills to enable them to assess, diagnose, and treat persons with social, emotional and/or behavioral disorders. The curriculum includes courses and seminars focusing on theory, research, policy, practice knowledge and skills deemed essential for clinical work with a broad range of populations of individuals, families, groups, and communities. Course work focuses on at risk and vulnerable populations. Field education provides hands-on opportunities for the application and integration of knowledge and skills.

The Clinical concentration curriculum enables students to meet the following objectives:

1. Assess and/or diagnose and intervene with client psychosocial problems through individual, couple, family, and/or group modalities. Analyze how policies impact clinical practice.
2. Conduct autonomous empirical evaluations of their own practice interventions, incorporating valid and reliable measures.
3. Critically evaluate, synthesize, and articulate empirical and conceptual literature related to an applied clinical context.

Students interested in pursuing their social work licensure must complete their MSW degree with a Clinical Social Work Concentration.

***This applies in the State of Florida. Other states' licensure requirements may vary. Please contact respective state licensure boards for specific requirements.**

SOCIAL LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION

The goal of the Social Leadership concentration is to prepare students for advanced, evidence-based social work practice in organizational and community settings to:

1. Provide leadership in organizations and communities within the public and private sectors.
2. Synthesize and apply theories and methods of policy analysis to advance social and economic justice.
3. Synthesize and apply theories of change and methods of program evaluation to assess the effectiveness of social programs.
4. Develop, provide, and assess effective administrative policies and practices.
5. Critically evaluate, synthesize, and articulate empirical and conceptual literature related to practice in social policy, program, and administrative contexts.

This concentration equips students to work in policy and/or administrative positions in governmental and non-governmental social agencies serving various individuals, groups, and communities. In the first year, our Traditional MSW Social Leadership students complete foundation courses and an internship (which requires direct client contact). They then begin advanced practice courses learning about organizational and community systems, advanced policy analysis, program evaluation, and personnel administration. Advanced electives allow students to focus their studies on a substantive area of interest. In the final semester, a policy/administration-advanced internship is completed along with an Integrative Seminar. Advanced Standing MSW Social Leadership students enter the program with their BSW and begin with advanced courses learning about organizational and community systems, advanced policy analysis, program evaluation, and personnel administration.



JOINT PATHWAY PROGRAMS

JOINT MSW/JD PATHWAY

This program is for students interested in combining an MSW with a degree in law. Persons graduating with this pathway go into areas such as family law, domestic violence, public policy, and public defense. Students interested in this joint pathway must be admitted simultaneously and independently to both FSU's College of Social Work and College of Law. This joint pathway can be paired with our Clinical or Social Leadership track.

JOINT MSW/MPA PATHWAY

FSU's Reuben O'D. Askew School of Public Administration and Policy and the College of Social Work offer a joint pathway program leading to the degrees of Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration. This is one of the few joint pathway programs in these fields offered in the U.S. that prepares MSW Social Leadership and MPA students for positions in public, private and nonprofit human service organizations by gaining knowledge in social work and public administration. Students must be admitted to both graduate programs independently. This joint pathway follows the Social Leadership concentration.

JOINT MSW/MS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PATHWAY

The MSW/MS is a joint collaboration between the College of Social Work and the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The joint pathway will be for graduate students in both programs who wish to expand their understanding of the connection between these two fields of study and gain expertise in work with forensic clients. Students must be admitted to both graduate programs independently. This joint pathway follows the Clinical concentration.

JOINT MSW/MBA PATHWAY

The MSW/MBA is a joint collaboration between the College of Social Work and the College of Business. The joint graduate pathway is designed for students in both programs who wish to expand their understanding of the connection between these two fields of study and gain expertise working in social services agencies. This joint pathway follows the Social Leadership concentration.

CURRICULUM

Specific programs of study for part-time and full-time students can be found on the college's website: csw.fsu.edu. Please note: all coursework must be completed the semester before beginning SOW5535 and SOW 5369.

MSW Course Descriptions

The FSU College of Social Work has many different courses, both core and elective. To view full course descriptions, please review the [FSU Graduate Bulletin](#).

TRADITIONAL MSW SOCIAL LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION (MAIN CAMPUS ONLY)

CORE CLASSES

- SOW5034, The Social Work Profession - 3 credits
- SOW 5105, Human Behavior and the Social Environment - 3 credits
- SOW5308, Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5235, Social Welfare Policy and Services - 3 credits
- SOW5324, Social Work Practice with Groups and Communities - 3 credits
- SOW5404, Introduction to Social Work Research - 3 credits
- SOW5532, Graduate Field Instruction I - 8 credits
- SOW5548, Graduate Field Seminar I - 2 credits

UPPER LEVEL CLASSES

- SOW5334, Organizational Development - 3 credits
- SOW5238, Advanced Policy Analysis - 3 credits
- SOW5377, Social Work Administration - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective, 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective, 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective, 3 credits
- SOW5369, Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5535, Graduate Field Instruction II - 12 credits

TRADITIONAL MSW - CLINICAL CONCENTRATION

CORE CLASSES

- SOW5034, The Social Work Profession - 3 credits
- SOW5105, Human Behavior and the Social Environment - 3 credits
- SOW5308, Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5235, Social Work Policy and Services - 3 credits
- SOW5324, Social Work Practice with Groups and Communities - 3 credits
- SOW5404, Introduction to Social Work Research - 3 credits
- SOW5532, Graduate Field Instruction I - 8 credits
- SOW5548, Graduate Field Seminar I - 2 credits

UPPER LEVEL CLASSES

- SOW5125, Psychopathology in Clinical Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5432, Evaluation of Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5807, Clinical Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5369, Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5535, Graduate Field Instruction - 12 credits

ADVANCED STANDING MSW - SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

UPPER LEVEL CLASSES

- SOW5534, Organizational Development - 3 credits
- SOW5238, Advanced Policy Analysis - 3 credits
- SOW5377, Social Work Administration - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5369, Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5535, Graduate Field Seminar II - 12 credits

ADVANCED STANDING MSW - CLINICAL CONCENTRATION

UPPER LEVEL CLASSES

- SOW5807, Clinical Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5125, Psychopathology in Clinical Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5432 Evaluation of Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5XXX, Elective - 3 credits
- SOW5369, Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice - 3 credits
- SOW5535, Graduate Field Instruction II - 12 credits

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The Master of Social Work Program in the College of Social Work seeks to enroll students who are intellectually and emotionally capable of completing graduate education and practicing at the advanced level in the profession of social work.

Criteria for admission are established in conformity with standards derived from the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education. Assessment of this potential is made on the basis of academic achievement, social service experience, personal strengths, references and indications of the applicant's commitment to the profession. Proper completion of admission requirements ensures consideration but does not guarantee admission. Full application directions can be found on the College of Social Work website: csw.fsu.edu.

All applicants for graduate admission must submit the following information to the FSU Graduate Admissions Office:

1. One official transcript of ALL undergraduate and graduate work courses. Applicants still in an ongoing degree program must submit a second set of official transcripts with degree posted.
2. The GRE is not required for the MSW application.

In addition, applicants must:

1. Have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university.
2. Be in good standing at the institution of higher learning last attended (if applicable).
3. Complete the College of Social Work application.
4. Submit a statement of purpose.
 - a. The personal statement that you submit must be your own writing and completed without the assistance of generative AI tools (such as but not limited to ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and Google Gemini). You may use an editing tool such as Grammarly. By submitting my personal statement for admission consideration to the FSU College of Social Work, I affirm that I have not used any generative AI tools in its preparation and that all content reflects my original ideas and writing.
5. Provide the College of Social Work with three references.
 - a. The three letters must be a combination of work or professional and academic references (minimally need to submit at least 1 academic reference if graduated in the last 3 years).
6. Submit a current resume.
7. Present evidence of a grade point average of at least 3.0 for all hours earned past their first 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours for the baccalaureate degree OR an earned graduate degree from a regionally/nationally accredited U.S. institution or a comparable degree from an international institution.
8. Have a liberal arts foundation, demonstrated by a liberal arts degree or 36 hours of course work in

the following curriculum areas:

Area I: Mathematics (6 hours)

Area II: English (6 hours)

Area III: History/ Social Sciences (6-12 hours)

Area IV: Humanities/ Fine Arts (5-11 hours)

Area V: Natural Science (7 hours)

All offers of admission are conditional upon the completion of these prerequisites.

9. Evidence of paid social services work or volunteer experience may strengthen one's application.

Meeting these requirements only assures consideration of an application. There is no single factor, by itself, which will either assure or bar admission. Untruthful, misleading and/or artificial intelligence (AI) responses will disqualify an application and if detected after enrollment, will automatically void an application and admission to the program along with being grounds for dismissal.

****Please note that if your Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) was earned 7 or more years from your application date, you must submit a waiver for the Advanced Standing MSW program.***

EXCEPTION POLICY

Applicants with an upper division GPA below 3.0 must submit a "Petition for Exceptional Consideration" for their application to be evaluated. The outline for this petition is attached to the application. A very limited number of exceptions to the minimum GPA requirements can be made for applicants who demonstrate exceptional qualities or experience. The total application process must be completed before exceptional consideration decisions can be made. Those admitted under the Exception Policy must meet the same performance standards in the program as a student who meets regular admission requirements.

ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM POLICY

Advanced Standing Program Waiver

The Advanced Standing Program is generally a three semester MSW program that is available to students who have earned their BSW (within the past seven years from graduation date) from a CSWE-accredited undergraduate program. ****If you have graduated prior to the seven-year limit, please disregard this step.***

Students who graduated from a BSW program more than seven years ago are eligible to complete a waiver statement, which will allow the applicant to provide justification to be admitted to the Advanced Standing program after the required time frame. ***To be considered for the Advanced Standing Program with a waiver statement, a student must have social work***

employment experience in the last seven years.
Advanced Standing (AS) Waiver Process

- Submit a recommendation letter from your current employer. (Make sure the letter from your current place of employment includes the dates you have been working and your passion for the field.) **This letter should be included as one of your three letters required for the application.*
- Submit a resume highlighting the past 7 years of work experience. (**Note that this should be the same resume submitted in the general application*)
- Submit a statement (approximately 2-4 paragraphs) with your BSW graduation date, work experience in the field of social work to date, and why the College of Social Work should consider your eligibility for the Advanced Standing Program. ** Please add this statement as an additional page after your Statement of Purpose.*

Questions?

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICY

International students who wish to apply for admission should contact the International Admissions Officer, Office of Graduate Admissions, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2400, for special information and application forms. Only degree-seeking international students are generally recommended for admission. Foreign nationals are required to receive a satisfactory score of '80' or higher on the Internet based TOEFL exam.

International applicants or degrees earned from international institutions, please review transcript evaluation requirements on the [FSU Graduate School's International Admissions website](#).

RETURNING STUDENT POLICY

Students in good standing who leave the FSU College of Social Work before completing requirements for the MSW may reapply and will be given consideration for readmission. Readmission can only be considered if the student will be able to complete all requirements of the MSW degree within seven years from the date of the initial enrollment, as required by Florida State University. (Students who are not enrolled for 2 or more consecutive semesters must submit an application for readmission.)

NON-DEGREE SEEKING STUDENT POLICY

The university allows non-degree-seeking students to enroll in select courses IF they have not previously been denied admission into the MSW Program. The primary purpose of this status is for continuing education or for students who are interested in obtaining a clearer understanding of a major. Up to twelve (12) elective credit hours (with a grade of B or better) may be accepted toward the degree if a student is later accepted into the graduate program.

Students on the Tallahassee main campus must **complete the non-degree-seeking student application** apply for non-degree-seeking status and notify main campus advisor Michael Robinson (merobinson@fsu.edu). Online non-degree students should contact Sydney Smith (scsmith2@fsu.edu).

Non-degree seeking students can ONLY register for program approved courses. Courses taken as a non-degree seeking student do not automatically carry graduate credit nor does this status constitute acceptance into the graduate program, even if a student excels in course work. Non-degree seeking students must still apply for the graduate program and meet the standard admissions criteria. Performance in non-degree seeking coursework will be a consideration in the evaluation of applications.

Non-degree seeking students may be eligible for financial aid; however, College of Social Work policy requires a non-degree seeking student to have an [active MSW application](#) on file with all supplemental documents submitted. Please consult the FSU Graduate Bulletin for further information regarding non-degree seeking student status.

ADMISSIONS APPEALS PROCESS

Any student who meets the minimum requirements and is denied admission to the College of Social Work has the right to appeal this decision by contacting the Graduate School. Decisions made after this appeal are final. Please refer to the appeals process in the [FSU Graduate Bulletin](#).

ADMISSION DATES

Please visit the [MSW Admissions Information web page for application deadlines](#). When considering applying, please note graduate school necessitates a tremendous commitment of time and energy. Therefore, students need to be fully aware of sacrifices that may need to be made both personally and financially before making such a commitment. It is the student's responsibility to remain flexible regarding class schedules and internships. All students, even

those attending part-time, must be prepared to make adjustments to their schedule to successfully complete the degree requirements. MSW advisors are available for consultation.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All MSW applicants can apply to the College of Social Work and Graduate Admissions using the **Florida State University's Graduate Online Application**.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The College of Social Work accepts transfer students into the program. These applicants must meet all the admission requirements of the college described previously. A student who was enrolled as a degree-seeking student in another Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited graduate social work program may transfer up to twenty-nine (29) credits towards the Traditional MSW Program (61 credit hours) or up to seven (7) credits toward the Advanced Standing MSW program (39 credit hours). A student must receive a grade of B or better in courses taken within the past seven years to petition for transfer credit consideration. Courses will be reviewed on a course-by-course basis. Transfer

students are expected to provide the following information for each course they wish to transfer:

- Course outline or syllabus
- Official transcript with course grade(s) posted

REGISTRATION FOR SOCIAL WORK CLASSES

All Social Work courses and their availability are viewable online from the Registrar's website. When classes are full, however, or there are "holds" that prevent students from registering, they are encouraged to contact an MSW Advisor for assistance.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition per graduate credit hour varies for Florida residents and non-residents. Please **visit the tuition.fsu.edu website** for the most current tuition rates.

****THERE ARE ADDITIONAL FEES FOR ALL ONLINE COURSES.**





CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

LEAD IN SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATE (LEADERSHIP IN EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT)

The mission of this leadership certificate is to educate students about leadership theories and practices and provide students with leadership experience. Learning about leadership will give these students the skills that they will need for middle and executive positions in social service organizations. An in-depth curriculum emphasizing leadership, decision-making, client-centered management, team building, negotiating, budget and finance, and the successful management of grants will guide our students in the direction of being able to successfully manage social service agencies.

Please consult your MSW advisor to determine how a certificate impacts your program of study.

CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE CERTIFICATE

This certificate program offers both undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to focus their curriculum on issues related to child welfare. Course work addresses: prevention of neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of children; protection of homeless, dependent, or maltreated children; strengthening families to maintain children in their own homes; development of aid or support groups, and analysis of social policies and mental health issues related to this population. Child welfare practitioners provide a continuum of services in both public and private settings.

*This certificate requires that a final field placement be completed in a child welfare setting.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS MUST COMPLETE A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE APPLICATION. THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN COMPLETION OF THE SECOND CERTIFICATE QUALIFYING COURSE.

UNDERGRADUATE-LEVEL COURSEWORK (1000-4000 LEVEL) CANNOT BE USED, SUBSTITUTED AND/OR COUNTED AS PART OF THE TOTAL COMPLETION HOURS OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE.

Visit the [FSU College of Social Work website](#) for the applications and details.



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

STUDY ABROAD

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM

Belfast and Northern Ireland are defined by The Troubles, a period of sectarian conflict from the 1970s to 1998, with tensions rooted in centuries of division. The conflict largely centered on Protestants loyal to the United Kingdom and Catholics seeking social equality and potential reunification with Ireland. Despite the peace established by the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, Belfast remains divided by peace walls.

The region faces challenges in social welfare and human rights, yet is home to a rich cultural heritage and stunning natural landscapes. Studying here offers exposure to a unique social and political environment alongside remarkable scenery. Visit the [College of Social Work International Programs website](#) for information on Belfast Summer 2026.

SOCIAL WORK FIELD PLACEMENTS

International internships opportunities for full-time MSW students to complete their internships abroad may include Canada, United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (*Placement availability vary each semester). Due to visa restrictions, field placement opportunities for part-time MSW students are limited to Canada only and varies by semester. Students take advanced, full-time placements in a wide range of settings, including HIV/AIDS service organizations, child welfare agencies,

criminal justice settings and homelessness service teams.

New partnerships are constantly in development. Living options range from the comforts of the FSU Study Centre in London to independent living arrangements. Considerable planning is required, and interested students should contact Tan Edgerton, 3 semesters before placement.

ALTERNATE SPRING BREAK

Each March, students may participate in a week-long service-learning and cultural exchange experience with local partners and agencies in St. George's, Grenada in the East Caribbean.

This trip includes lodging with access to beaches and the capital city. Students complete a 3-credit hour course during the spring semester. The application opens each Fall before travel and is available on the college's website.

LEARN MORE AT: csw.fsu.edu/ip

OR CONTACT:

Jane Dwyer Lee,
International Programs Director
jane.dwyerlee@fsu.edu

Tan Edgerton, Academic Program Specialist



FIELD EDUCATION

Field education is an essential component of the Master of Social Work (MSW) program and provides students with supervised internship experiences designed to:

1. Enhance the ability to integrate theory into effective, evidence-based social work practice.
2. Broaden students' skills for performing high-quality social work functions.
3. Strengthen awareness of attitudes, motivations, and professional judgment associated with social work practice.

The Office of Field Education coordinates internships in collaboration with students and agency representatives. Placements are arranged on an individual basis and are determined by students' interests, geographic preferences, and information provided through the field application process. The College of Social Work does not offer evening or weekend field placements.

Students with a criminal record may be ineligible for certain internships due to agency requirements. Students are encouraged to discuss any criminal history with field faculty as early as possible to better understand potential limitations and available options.

Agencies affiliated with the College of Social Work reflect the diversity of the social service profession. The College offers a wide range of internship opportunities with public and private agencies serving diverse populations in areas such as child welfare, healthcare, mental health, family counseling, aging services, and corrections.

Students in the Traditional MSW program, regardless of concentration, are required to complete a generalist internship during the foundation portion of the program. This internship focuses on developing generalist social work and case management skills while students are concurrently enrolled in coursework.

The generalist internship requires 432 hours when completed full-time in one semester. Students completing the internship part-time over two

semesters complete approximately 216 hours per semester, for a total of 432 hours. Students must successfully complete SOW 5308 and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA before beginning the generalist internship.

Students in both the Traditional and Advanced Standing MSW programs complete a final advanced practice internship during the last semester of the program. This internship requires a total of 512 hours and is completed concurrently with a field seminar course.

Final internships may begin only after all program coursework has been successfully completed, including resolution of any outstanding incomplete grades, maintenance of a minimum 3.0 GPA, and submission of a completed field application. Field application forms are available through the student management system and must be completed by the designated deadlines.

Campus-based students who wish to complete their final internship outside of the Tallahassee area, but within the State of Florida, will meet with a faculty liaison to identify an appropriate placement agency.

Students are required to adhere to all policies, procedures, and deadlines established by the Office of Field Education. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in delays to field placement. Students are responsible for monitoring and responding to all posted deadlines, meetings, and communications. The Office of Field Education reserves the right to terminate placements for students who violate program policies or professional practice standards.

For additional information, please refer to the Field Education Manual available on the College of Social Work website at csw.fsu.edu.

In accordance with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accreditation standards, under no circumstance may previously work experience or life experience be credited or substituted for the required field education component of the MSW program.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK AND THE UNIVERSITY POLICY ON STUDENT CONDUCT

It is the university's policy to expect students to conduct themselves as responsible members of the community. If a student's conduct is a violation of federal, state, or local law, the appropriate authorities may charge the student. In addition, any students whose words or acts demonstrate disrespect for laws; rules or policies; the rights of others; or the health, safety, or welfare of members of the community shall be subject to disciplinary action by the university.

The nature of social work is based on ethical behavior, sound professional judgment, and competence. Therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the standards of the college, the university, and the National Association of Social Workers. The College of Social Work uses the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics as its guide. To be retained within the program, students must adhere to the practice standards of this Code of Ethics. The code is available by going to the [National Association of Social Workers website](#).

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The [FSU Academic Honor Policy](#) outlines the university's expectations for students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The College of Social Work at Florida State University prepares students for careers as professional social workers and to be leaders of micro and macro social work practice. Becoming a professional social worker is a gradual process and involves a commitment to lifelong learning and self-reflection. The College of Social Work is fully committed to supporting and educating students as they prepare to enter the social work profession. Given the ethical responsibilities of professional social work practice to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty (NASW Code of Ethics, 2020), the College of Social Work has established Professional Standards for students that not only focus on academic performance but that also emphasize the

abilities and attributes essential for the profession.

- The following are the Professional Standards each student must satisfy, with or without reasonable accommodations, to enroll in, fully participate in, progress through, and graduate from any College of Social Work program. These requirements apply in the classroom, field placements, our College, and the University.

1. Communication

Students must strive to:

- Communicate effectively, responsibly, and in a timely manner in interactions with other students, faculty, field instructors, staff, clients and client systems, and other professionals they might come in contact with in their student role.
- Demonstrate the capacity to use effective communication skills, including the ability to listen objectively and interpret nonverbal communication.
- Communicate clearly through written products at a level appropriate for their stage of education.
- Avoid unwarranted negative criticism of peers and colleagues in verbal, written, and electronic communications (includes demeaning comments that refer to a person's level of competence or a person's attributes on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans' status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other legally protected group status).

2. Intellectual and Cognitive Skills:

Students must strive to:

- Think critically and apply problem-solving skills.
- Acquire knowledge and process experiences to inform practice.
- Demonstrate a willingness to continually reflect on their own values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, biases, and current and past experiences and consider how these factors affect their thinking, behavior, and interactions.
- Exercise sound judgment and take responsible steps (including appropriate education, research, training, consultation, and supervision) to ensure the competence of their work.
- Demonstrate understanding of culture and its function in human behavior and society, recognizing the strengths that exist in all cultures
- Refrain from any form of discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans' status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other legally protected group status.
- Uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession through appropriate study, research, and active engagement.

- Promote conditions that encourage respect for cultural and social diversity within the United States and globally.
- I. Take responsibility for their own actions and consider the impact of these actions on others.
- Demonstrate organizational skills (e.g., punctuality, dependability, prioritization, and time management).
- Integrate new and changing information obtained from the classroom and practice environment.
- Accept and integrate into practice constructive feedback received.

3. Emotional and Behavioral Readiness:

Students must strive to:

- Prevent personal problems, psychosocial distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties from interfering with their judgment and performance.
- Seek appropriate support when emotional and behavioral stressors impede professional and academic performance.
- Consistently demonstrate the ability to manage demanding workloads and adapt to changing environments and situations (e.g., fluctuating caseloads during field placement, personnel and supervision changes, policy changes, etc.).
- Consistently demonstrate the ability to tolerate viewing, reading, and hearing disturbing content in educational and professional environments.
- Maintain respectful relationships with peers, faculty, field instructors, staff, clients and client systems, and other professionals.
- Demonstrate the capacity to successfully complete required field practicum hours and demonstrate positive progress in the required social work competencies.

Students who would like to request reasonable accommodations should **visit the FSU Office of Accessibility Services website.**

In addition, students should please contact the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, MSW Director, or BSW Director if they are having difficulty meeting the standards while enrolled in the program.

ACADEMIC LOAD

Online students adhere to a part-time program of two courses per semester. Students on the main Tallahassee campus may progress at a part-time or full-time pace. Please consult the various programs of study on the **FSU College of Social Work website.** Additionally, if you are a main campus student wishing to change your pace during your program, contact the main campus advisor. The Director of the MSW Program must approve an overload of credits above 18 hours (to a maximum load of 21 semester hours).

During the summer semester, all College of Social Work classes are offered during the 12-week Summer C session. All internships and online classes are taught during the full Summer C session.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 to remain in the program. If the GPA falls below 3.0, students will be placed on probation for one semester with the expectation that they improve the GPA. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the university. Students are not eligible to enter a field placement unless they have a 3.0 GPA. Degrees will not be conferred unless all course work is completed and the cumulative grade point average is at least 3.0. No course with a grade below "C" will be credited toward the graduate degree (effective for students with an initial start date in the MSW program of Fall 2018). Grades in all courses (except those for which grades of "S" or "U" are given) will be included in the computation of the grade point average.

Please note: incomplete I grades are at discretion of course instructor. I grades are usually resolved by end of the semester. However, if extended, can only go up to one year from semester of class.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Master's program has advisors who work with each student on issues related to coordinating a program of studies, graduation requirements, and general university issues. The graduate advisors and faculty mentors are available to students by appointment, telephone or email.

MSW ACADEMIC ADVISING POLICY

All MSW students are advised by two dedicated Academic Advisors. One Academic Advisor is assigned to the students in the Tallahassee and Panama City programs, and one Academic Advisor is assigned to the students in the online program. The Academic Advisors provide individualized support to students related to their academic goals and provides guidance while enrolled at Florida State University. The primary focus of academic advising is to assist and guide graduate students from enrollment through graduation. The Academic Advisors assist students with program planning, credit transfer issues, course drops and withdrawals, reviewing degree requirements, course substitutions, waivers, and other student needs. The Academic Advisors are also available to discuss other academic-related needs and may refer students to other university student support services for academic assistance,

financial resources, and/or personal counseling.

Academic advising includes activities related to:

- General education requirements
- Graduation requirements
- Course planning and selection
- Academic support if experiencing academic challenges
- Educational opportunities (education abroad, research, internships, etc.)
- Non-academic challenges
- Connection to campus resources

The Academic Advisors connects individually with each MSW student a minimum of one meeting while enrolled. Students are primarily notified of their advising appointments via email from their Academic Advisors. If students need additional support, they may contact the advisor to schedule other appointments.

Academic Advisor Responsibilities:

- Serve as the liaison with the Graduate School to ensure alignment with academic policies, procedures, and curriculum requirements
- Assist students in developing an individualized program of study for the MSW program
- Monitor students' progress each semester to ensure they are on course to earn timely degrees
- Support students in creating an educational plan consistent with their goals
- Communicate university policies, procedures, and deadlines to students
- Refer students to other university offices, resources, and services, as needed
- Be available to answer questions in a timely manner through individual appointments (virtual or in-person), walk-in hours, e-mail, and phone

MSW Student Responsibilities:

- Attend orientation and consult the MSW Handbook for details about the MSW Program.
- Provide a timely response to all Academic Advisor outreach from admission to the MSW Program through graduation
- Schedule and attend regular academic advising appointments
- Additional appointments are available when students are experiencing academic difficulty, personal challenges, or are feeling overwhelmed
- If a student is facing academic probation or dismissal, it is advised that they meet with the MSW Program Director and the Academic Advisor.
- Assume responsibility for knowing the policies of the University and the requirements pertaining to the MSW Program. Students should familiarize themselves with the University General Bulletin and MSW Handbook
- Monitor FSU student email account regularly for academic advising invites, ongoing communication, and program events
- Contact and utilize university resources (e.g., Office of Accessibility Services, Student Veterans

Services, Graduate Student Resource Center)

MSW PROFESSIONAL ADVISING POLICY

Professional advising is provided to all MSW students by the MSW Program Director and social work faculty teaching in the MSW Program. All faculty share responsibilities in providing professional advising during office hours and scheduled meetings, and faculty who are teaching field seminar courses integrate professional advising activities into classes. At orientation and through follow-up emails, the MSW Program Director encourages students to initiate contact faculty when exploring like-minded areas of interest.

The MSW Program uses a professional advising model to provide holistic advising to all enrolled MSW students to support postgraduation preparation for entry into the profession and/or continued education and learning. The activities for professional advising include but are not limited to career guidance and development (e.g., resumes, portfolios, or cultivating online professional presence such as a LinkedIn profile), field education support, interviewing tips, facilitate networking and professional connections, provide direction and guidance to prepare research, publications or presentations at professional conferences, advise on future educational opportunities and advancement. Students also receive professional advising through activities (resumes, mock interviewing, networking, field placement feedback relevant to their post- graduation goals) embedded in the graduate-level field seminar course: SOW 5369: Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice and SOW 5548: Graduate Field Seminar.

Students may receive professional advising from any faculty and are not assigned specific faculty for professional advising. At students' requests for professional advising, faculty members meet with students during office hours or scheduled meetings. Faculty members are to reach out to MSW Program Director if an unmet need or concern is identified.

The MSW Program and Director hosts webinars and events both in person and virtual on topics related to professional advising (i.e., career exploration, professional modalities, self-care) and fosters networking opportunities between students and professional social workers. The MSW Program in connection with the Office of Professional Development updates resources about professional development for current students (and alumni and the general public) that are available on the professional development website (<https://csw.fsu.edu/professional-development-overview>). This includes information and resources on continuing education and career advancement , including

certificate programs, career services, and social work licensure. The MSW Program is responsible for updating the most current information about licensure for all states on the website. The MSW Program also makes connections and referrals for students to various supports across the university (e.g., Student Veterans Services, Graduate Student Resource Center, Career Center).

Responsibilities of the MSW Program:

- During orientation, provide an overview of professional advising
- Guide students on how to connect and schedule meetings with faculty
- Plan and facilitate professional advising events during the academic year
- Work with program staff to distribute emails to students with pertinent information about program-level initiatives and larger institutional services and supports
- Refer and connect students to additional supports offered within the institution to supplement program-level advising (e.g., Student Veterans Services, Graduate Student Resource Center, Career Center)
- Foster networking opportunities to connect students with internal and external social work professionals (e.g., program alumni, community practitioners)
- Maintain updated information on professional development webpage, including information about licensure

Responsibilities of the faculty:

- Provide professional advising during office hours and scheduled meetings with students
- Faculty teaching field seminar courses integrate professional advising activities into classes
- Communicate with the MSW Program Director if they notice an unmet need for professional advising
- Refer and connect students to additional supports offered within the institution to supplement program-level advising (e.g., Student Veterans Services, Graduate Student Resource Center, Career Center)

Responsibilities of MSW Students:

- Reach out to faculty and MSW Program Director with needs for professional advising
- Actively participate in the professional advising and development activities during field seminar classes
- Adhere to the program's Professional Standards in all communications and interactions

COURSE WAIVERS

The College of Social Work provides a waiver exam for those with prior knowledge/experience in Human Behavior and the Social Environment and Introduction to Social Work Research. If a student

successfully passes any waiver examination, the student must substitute a social work elective in place of the waived course. Waiver exams may be scheduled through graduate advisors.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE CREDIT

Students who have completed a course at the BSW level may not repeat that course, regardless of the instructor, at the graduate level and have it count for graduate credit.

The Social Work Profession (SOW 3203/SOW 5034), if taken as a Social Welfare Minor at FSU, can be substituted with a social work elective class if a B or better was attained. Please consult your MSW advisor to determine how this will affect your program of study.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL

Students are eligible for course withdrawals based on personal, medical or mental health reasons. The deadline for students to withdraw from the semester without grade liability is up to the end of the 7th week. However, students will remain fee liable.

After the 7th week deadline, students are only eligible for a medical/mental health withdrawal. Students should contact their advisor for additional information.

DROP/ADD

The deadline for students to drop a course without grade or fee liability is before the end of the drop/add period (end of the 4th day of the semester).

SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL, AND REINSTATEMENT

The university reserves the right to exclude, at any time, a student whose conduct is deemed improper or prejudicial to the interest of the university community or whose academic performance is substandard.

A graduate student whose cumulative grade point average for courses taken at The Florida State University falls below 3.0 at the end of term (not counting courses for which "S" or "U" grades may be given) will be considered not in good standing by the university and will be placed on academic probation. If a 3.0 cumulative grade point average is not attained by the end of the next full term of enrollment, the student will not be permitted to register for graduate study – including registering as a non-degree seeking student. Owing to the differential uses of the

designation, “academic probation” shall not appear on permanent records of regular graduate students. After one probationary period, however, a student whose average falls within the probationary range (below a 3.0 cumulative graduate GPA) will receive automatic dismissal. Transcripts will reflect the designation “academically dismissed.”

The university reserves the right to terminate enrollment in an academic program and dismiss a student whose academic performance is below the standards of the program, regardless of GPA, or whose conduct is deemed improper or prejudicial to the interest of the university community. Dismissed students will not be permitted to register for graduate study, including registering as a non-degree student.

RETENTION POLICY

Professional responsibility, ethics, and integrity are major parts of the social work profession. Those who violate the academic standards through plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be disciplined according to the procedures noted in the **FSU Graduate Bulletin**.

GRADE APPEALS SYSTEM

The purpose of the grade appeals system is to afford students an opportunity to appeal a final course grade under certain circumstances. Faculty judgment of student academic performance is inherent in the grading process and hence should not be overturned except when the student can show that the grade awarded represents a gross violation of the instructor’s own specified evaluation (grading) statement and therefore was awarded in an arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory manner. The evaluation (grading) statement utilized during the grade appeals process is the one contained in the instructor’s syllabus at the beginning of the semester. This system does not apply to preliminary or comprehensive exams or to thesis or dissertation defenses; these issues are reviewed by the Student Academic Relations Committee via the Dean of the Faculties. For further information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Buchanan in the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement at 850-644-6876.

FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACADEMIC RELATIONS

The Faculty Senate committee on student academic relations hears appeals from students concerning decisions about their academic work in which they believe to have been arrived at improperly or unprofessionally in departments, schools, or colleges.

The committee comprises five faculty members, appointed annually by the faculty Senate steering committee with the advice and consent of the senate for staggered two-year terms, and two students, one undergraduate and one graduate, appointed annually by the university president. The committee elects its chair annually from the faculty representatives and reports its findings and recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students wishing to make appeals to the committee on student academic relations should consult the Dean of the Faculties. Appeals to this committee are made after all other available remedies have been exhausted.

POLICY FOR STUDENT SANCTIONS FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REASONS

The primary objective of the College of Social Work is to prepare students for social work practice. The college is responsible for the educational preparation of students for this role and for the evaluation of students’ achievement of our academic standards. Moreover, as a professional school, we are responsible for ensuring that students meet standards of behavior that are congruent with expectations of the social work profession, as outlined in the **NASW Code of Ethics** and in standards for Licensed Clinical Social Workers in the state of Florida. Such professional schools have the ability to set consequences for behavior that go beyond those for other departments on campus. Our students are also expected to comply with the FSU Academic Honor Policy and the FSU Student Conduct Code.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK ELECTRONIC POLICY

It is the policy of the College of Social Work that technology applied to or used for a course and/or official college business cannot be used for any other purposes than those that directly relate to the curriculum and/or official college business.

Technology includes but is not limited to electronic mail services (including electronic mailing lists), the Internet, software, and course web site programs. Furthermore, this policy applies to the use of all computer equipment owned by the College of Social Work.

Activities that are expressly prohibited under this policy include:

1. Giving or selling e-mail addresses and/or other personal information regarding students, instructors, staff, or faculty to any outside person or organization;

2. Using e-mail lists for students, instructors, staff, or faculty for commercial and/or solicitation purposes;
3. Enabling anyone who is not registered for a particular course to access the system without permission and consent from the instructor for the course;
4. Enabling anyone who is not authorized to use the university or college database to access the system without permission and consent from the supervisor;
5. Utilizing the college's electronic system for activities or purposes which do not pertain to course content and/or official school business, illegal activities, or for other activities not authorized by the College of Social Work; and,
6. Installing (or allowing to be installed) "pirated", i.e. copied unlawfully, software on any college computer or distributing software purchased with college (including grant) resources to persons for non-college-related purposes.

Any person found in violation of this policy will be sanctioned by the College of Social Work according to the appropriate university policies.





GRADUATION

APPLICATION

Application for a degree must be made to the Office of the University Registrar by the date stated in the academic calendar in the General Bulletin during the first two weeks of the term of expected graduation. If a student is unable to graduate at the end of the term for which the application was made and the diploma was ordered, he or she must again make application for degree no later than the deadline for the next term of expected graduation.

Students may check application deadlines and commencement dates on the [FSU Registrar website](#).

he or she must speak with an MSW Graduate Advisor. Certain restrictions apply.

Each semester the College of Social Work hosts a graduation event. Graduates and their guests are invited. To learn more about College of Social Work graduation celebrations, [visit the FSU College of Social Work Events page](#).

GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT

University Commencement is held at the end of every semester: fall, spring, and summer. The ceremonies are held at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.

Information about graduation tickets, invitations, and caps and gowns is distributed by the Graduation section of the Office of Admissions and Records after application for graduation.

If a student wishes to participate in graduation ceremonies one term prior to actual graduation,



RESOURCES AND SERVICES

ASSESSMENT, LEARNING, EVALUATION, AND COUNSELING CENTER (ALEC)

annescollege.fsu.edu/alec
(850) 644-6885

The Assessment, Learning Evaluation, and Counseling (ALEC) Center provides psychoeducational evaluations for college students, adolescents aged 16 and older, and other adults who may be experiencing difficulties due to a learning disorder (LD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intellectual disability (ID), and other mental health difficulties (e.g., depression, anxiety, bipolar, autism, etc.) that may negatively affect one's academic, vocational, or interpersonal functioning.

ALEC also provides in-person and online ADHD coaching services to help individuals achieve their goals by developing skills and strategies to compensate for areas of functioning affected by ADHD or poorly developed study skills.

Additionally, we offer individual, couple, and family counseling to students, adolescents (ages 12+), and adults in the Tallahassee community. Our practitioners can help you enhance your psychological well-being, achieve personal growth, and overcome inner turmoil in a supportive and confidential environment. The center offers support and treatment for a wide range of emotional, psychological, interpersonal, and behavioral issues; common issues addressed at ALEC include depression, anxiety, stress management, motivation, self-esteem, anger management, conflict management, relationship issues, and adjusting to changes or challenges.

Counseling is offered year-round, and appointment days and times vary between semesters. Counseling

sessions occur once per week for 50 minutes.

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

thecenter.fsu.edu
(850) 644-3342

FSU's Center for Leadership and Service offers numerous volunteer experiences. The Center also offers SERVSCRIPT, a mechanism to add to a student's official transcript the actual number of community service hours worked. Social work internships can be recorded in the hours documented on SERVSCRIPT.

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY/ FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

A full-time student at FAMU or FSU may enroll for course credit at the other institution with prior approval. (See the FSU General Bulletin.) Social work majors who have had at least six credit hours of social work and nine credit hours in a given term at FSU may take advantage of this opportunity. However, FSU students may not enroll in courses at FAMU during a semester in which those same courses are offered at FSU.

FSU CAREER CENTER

career.fsu.edu
(850) 644-6431

The Career Center, located in the Dunlap Success

Center, helps students in all phases of career development. The Center's Curricular-Career Information Service unit helps explore skills, interests, and values and select appropriate academic programs and occupations to reach career goals. The Career Experience Opportunities Program helps students explore career choices through various pre-professional internships and cooperative education work experiences. Students nearing the end of their academic programs may find help in the Career Placement Services unit that administers the on-campus recruitment program. The Career Center also has developed a state-of-the-art online Career Portfolio that enables students to document skills throughout their academic career.

FSU READING/ WRITING CENTER

wr.english.fsu.edu/reading-writing-center
(850) 644-6495

Located in Room 222-C Williams Building. Students can receive individual tutoring, feedback on papers, and special assistance with writing skills by contacting the center.

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OAS)

dsst.fsu.edu/oas
(850) 644-9566
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) serves as an support for FSU students with disabilities and ensures that reasonable accommodations are provided.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AT FSU (CAPS)

counseling.fsu.edu
(850) 644-2003

On-campus counseling services are available to students and their families, primarily through Counseling and Psychological Services in the Student Life Center. Services that are covered through student activity fees include crisis counseling and short-term treatment for personal, social, and psychological problems. CAPS sponsors a peer program called RENEW (Realizing Everyone's Need for Emotional Wellness) that provides presentations and resources on stress and time management, study skills, healthy relationships, and conflict resolution.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

uhs.fsu.edu
(850) 644-6230
Health and Wellness Center
960 Learning Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm

The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment. Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence prevention.

Under University Health Services, the Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness at University Health Services encourages students to make healthy lifestyle decisions to facilitate academic success and lead to life-long health and wellness and provides quality, research-based wellness services and Health Promotion programs available to all FSU students.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

lib.fsu.edu
(850) 644-2706

There are three major libraries on campus: Strozier Library, Dirac Library, and the Law Library. More than a million volumes are available on open shelves, for easy browsing. Every month, 9,000 new journals and periodicals are added to the collection. A sophisticated library data search computer system and inter-library loan are also available. Additional resources include computers, reading rooms, calculators, and copying machines.

VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM

dsst.fsu.edu/vap
victims-advocate@fsu.edu
Call 24/7: (850) 644-7161
Text: (850) 756-4320
University Center A, Room 4100
Available 24/7/365, Office Hours: M-F 8-5

The Victim Advocate Program Provides support to victims of crime. Victim Advocates are is on call twenty-four hours a day to respond to students or to anyone who has been victimized on FSU's campus. Services offered include emotional support, instructor notification, referrals, and educational programming for our campus community.



SOCIAL WORK ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

FSU CSW AMBASSADORS

CSW Ambassadors are a group of students who represent the college internally and externally through college events, student engagement, community outreach and marketing activities. These students are the face of the College of Social Work and work closely with staff, faculty, and fellow students to promote the college's mission and social work values.

MACRO SOCIAL WORK STUDENT NETWORK

The mission of the Macro Social Work Student Network (MSWSN) is to promote the value of macro social work practice through education, networking, and activism. This group provides opportunities to inspire and educate Social Work and other FSU students about macro social work career opportunities and the role of macro social work throughout communities.

PHI ALPHA

Phi Alpha, the social work honorary society is open to undergraduate and graduate students who make up the top 35 percent of social work students in your rank (Bachelors or Masters).

STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

SASW is open to all undergraduate and graduate social work students. Early in the fall semester each year the SASW elects members to serve on its leadership panel and faculty committees.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has nearly 150,000 members worldwide. As members, students receive all of the benefits and privileges of regular membership at a reduced cost. Members receive the national journal; newsletters; group rate health, disability, and malpractice insurance coverage; discounts on NASW specialty journals; and other valuable information.

NASW Florida Chapter

naswfl.socialworkers.org

(850) 224-2400 / (800) 352-6279

931 Dellwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303

National Headquarters:

socialworkers.org

(800) 638-8799

750 1st Street NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-4241

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND RESEARCH

sswr.org

Students are invited to join the Society for Social Work Research, an independent professional social work organization dedicated to promoting, conducting, and disseminating high quality research by and for social workers to improve practice. Member benefits include subscription to the bimonthly journal, discounts on various journals, SSWR Newsletter, and a reduced registration fee for the annual SSWR Conference.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FINANCIAL AID

The College of Social Work offers several support resources.

A limited number of scholarships, grants, and graduate student assistantships are available. Various forms of financial aid are available to graduate students through the College of Social Work and the FSU Office of Financial Aid through separate application processes. Resources are limited and not all requests for financial aid can be met.

Students must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours to receive federal financial aid.

FSU Office of Financial Aid
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2394
(850) 644-0539
financialaid.fsu.edu

Federal Loan Options

[Learn about available scholarship and loan options.](#)

Federally Insured Private Loan Program

Students can obtain a loan through a bank or credit union, and the Federal Government will provide the guarantee of the loan. The government will pay interest to the lender while the student is enrolled and for nine months following termination of studies. Loan repayment will begin nine months after a student terminates school. Applications take a minimum of six weeks to process after approval by the lending institution.

Federal/State Work Study Program

The FSU Office of Financial Aid administers this program, sponsored by the Federal Government.

[Visit the office's Federal/State Work Study website](#) for more information. Students must be enrolled on a full-time basis (a minimum of 12 hours) and be in good academic standing. Students accepted to this program are assigned to work part-time as student assistants. New students should apply by March 1. Whenever possible, Social Work students will be assigned to the College of Social Work.

Graduate School Fellowships and Grants

A limited number of university fellowships are awarded each year. [Visit the Graduate School's Fellowships and Grants website](#) to view submission details and application deadlines.

College of Social Work Financial Programs

The College of Social Work offers student financial support through stipends, fellowships, grant work, and graduate student assistantships that are awarded on the basis of merit and the early application to the graduate program.

Graduate assistants may be offered two semesters of matriculation waiver (students are responsible for university fees) and a paid stipend for approximately 10 hours per week of work within the college. Recipients of stipends from the university (both fellowships and assistantships) must be full-time students and registered for at least 9 semester hours. Students in their internships are not eligible for assistantships. [Learn more on the college's Financial Assistance web page.](#)

FSU CSW SCHOLARSHIPS

The application period for most CSW scholarships is in the early spring. Awards are presented once a year, in the fall. Information and updated applications are available each January on the College of Social Work Financial Assistance website.

- Barbara White Social Work Scholarship
- Bill and Nolia Brandt Scholarship
- C. Aaron McNeece Field Education Scholars Award
- Cheryl Rowland Endowed Scholarship
- Citrus Health Network Scholarship For Graduate Students
- Coyle and Mabel Moore Scholarship
- Delia Sanchez Social Work Scholarship
- Donald J. Hevey Memorial MSW Scholarship
- Mark DeGraff and Lula Hamilton DeGraff Scholarship
- Guy and Delores Spearman Scholarship
- Gomory Family Scholarship for Homeless Services
- Grace Ann Graduate Scholarship
- Herndon Scholars/ Helios Education Foundation Scholarship
- Jane Addams Fund
- Jim Clark Leadership Fund
- Joanna F. Gorman Scholarship
- John and Meg Paschal International Scholarship
- John P. and Jane W. Wakeman Memorial Scholarship For Arts In Social Work
- Joyce Harper Laidlaw Scholarship In Child Welfare
- Katherine Kole MSW Scholarship
- Lamar F. Everett Scholarship
- MacDill-Wold Unconquered Scholarship
- Margaret H. Jacks Scholarship In Aging
- Mary DiNitto Endowed Scholarship
- MSW Class of 1975 Scholarship
- Richard M. King Scholarship In Social Work and Business Administration
- Robert P. Hurtle International Scholarship
- Spearman Veteran MSW Field Placement Scholarship
- Spearman Social Work and Veteran Support Scholarship
- Victoria Warner Scholarship

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK MSW PROGRAM COURSES

The FSU College of Social Work has many different courses, both core and elective. To view full course descriptions, please review the [**FSU Graduate Bulletin**](#).

NUMBER	TITLE	TYPICALLY OFFERED MAIN CAMPUS	TYPICALLY OFFERED ONLINE	CLINICAL	MSW ELECTIVE COURSES
SOW5034	The Social Work Profession	Fall	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5105	Human Behavior and the Social Environment (HBSE)	Fall	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5109	Women's Issues and Social Work	Spring	n/a	Check with th Florida Board	Yes
SOW5116	Trauma Informed Social Work	Fall	Fall Spring Summer	Check with th Florida Board	Yes
SOW5125	Psychopathology in Clinical Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	*No if Clinical
SOW5128	Cognitive-Behavioral Social Work Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring	Check with th Florida Board	Yes
SOW5145	Working with Families: An Interprofessional Perspective	Fall	n/a	No	Yes
SOW5153	Human Sexuality	Fall Summer	Fall Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5235	Social Welfare Policy and Services	Fall	Fall Spring Summer	No	No
SOW5238	Advanced Policy Analysis	Fall	n/a	No	*No if Social Leadership
SOW5248	Homelessness in America: People, Program and Policies	Spring	n/a	No	Yes
SOW5282	Legislative Advocacy	Spring	n/a	No	Yes
SOW5308	Social Work Practice	Fall	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5324	Social Work Practice with Groups and Communities	Spring	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5334	Organizational Development	Spring	n/a	No	*No if Social Leadership
SOW5369	Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5376	Budgeting and Finance in the Social Services	n/a	Spring	No	Yes
SOW5377	Social Work Administration	Fall	Summer	No	*No if Social Leadership

NUMBER	TITLE	TYPICALLY OFFERED MAIN CAMPUS	TYPICALLY OFFERED ONLINE	CLINICAL	MSW ELECTIVE COURSES
SOW5404	Introduction to Social Work Research	Spring	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5404	Introduction to Social Work Research	Spring	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	No
SOW5432	Evaluation of Social Work Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	*No if Clinical
SOW5435	Social Program Evaluation	Fall	Fall	No	Yes
SOW5455	Grant Writing and Grant Management	Fall Summer	Summer	No	Yes
SOW5532	Graduate Field Instruction I	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	No	No
SOW5535	Graduate Field Instruction II	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	No	No
SOW5548	Graduate Field Seminar	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	No	No
SOW5603	Social Work in Health Settings	Spring Summer	Spring Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5611	Family Counseling in Social Work	Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5614	Family Violence Across the Life Span	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5646	Gerontological Social Work	Fall	Fall	Yes	Yes
SOW5648	Physical Aspects of Aging	n/a	Varies	Yes	Yes
SOW5655	Social Work with Children and Adolescents	Spring	n/a	Yes	Yes
SOW5656	Child Welfare Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Spring Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5659	Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring	Yes	Yes
SOW5666	Theory and Practice of Social Work in Criminal Justice Settings	Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	Yes
SOW5712	Substance Use and Misuse	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	Yes

NUMBER	TITLE	TYPICALLY OFFERED MAIN CAMPUS	TYPICALLY OFFERED ONLINE	CLINICAL	MSW ELECTIVE COURSES
SOW5745	Seminar on Loss and Bereavement	Fall Spring	Fall Spring	Yes	Yes
SOW5785	International Social Work and Social Welfare	Spring	Varies	Yes	Yes
SOW5807	Clinical Practice	Fall Spring Summer	Fall Spring Summer	Yes	*No if Clinical

*Consult specific MSW programs of study for detailed course tracks and required course information. Please note that this information may change based on funding/enrollment limitations. **Please note that these courses have generally been accepted as clinical courses by the Florida Board of Licensure. This information may change at any time. Any required course in the Social Leadership concentration may be taken as an elective in the Clinical track and vice versa. Main campus/Tallahassee students are not able to take online courses.*

Florida State University
College of Social Work
296 Champions Way
P.O. Box 3062570
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2750
(850) 644-5713
CSW.FSU.EDU

Change a Life. Start with Yours.

MSW PROGRAM BULLETIN
2026-2027