Instructions for Completing the Exemption Form 2020-2021

ALL incoming MSW students MUST complete this form

Meeting the Statistics Prerequisite

Statistics Course Requirements:
- A statistics course **must be completed before** starting the MSW Program. See your advisor to discuss, if necessary.
- Course topics that must be covered include: distributions, measures of central tendency, dispersion and shape, the normal distribution, experiments to compare means, standard errors, confidence intervals, effects of departure from assumptions, method of least squares, regression, correlation assumptions and limitations, basic ideas of experimental design.
- The statistics course **must** have been completed within the past five years from academic year of graduation to academic year of enrollment in the MSW Program.
- A grade of C or better in a statistics course is required (no C- or CD).
- A syllabus from the semester you took the statistics course **must** accompany the Exemption Form, unless your course is listed on the Social Work/Welfare Equivalencies Chart.

Exempting from Generalist Course Work:
- Decisions for exemptions are made by UW-Madison faculty based on the information provided on the Exemption Form and attached syllabi (as needed).
- A grade of B or better (not B- or BC) is necessary in order to be exempt from foundation year courses.
- Courses must have been taken within the past five years from academic year of graduation to academic year of enrollment in the MSW Program.

**SW605, SW606, SW710 (formerly SW 640) and SW711:** To apply for exemption from these courses: 1) make sure your courses are from a CSWE accredited social work program. 2) complete the exemption form and provide a syllabus, as needed.

**SW612 and SW650:** To apply for exemption from these courses: 1) make sure the topics covered in your research methods or psychopathology course match those provided under "UW-MADISON GENERALIST COURSE DESCRIPTIONS" following this section, 2) complete the exemption form and provide syllabi, as needed. Sometimes courses taught in sociology, psychology or other departments are acceptable as equivalent.
Exempting from Generalist Course Work (BSW only):

- Decisions for exemptions are made by UW-Madison faculty based on the information provided on the Exemption Form and attached syllabi (as needed).
- A grade of B or better (not B- or BC) is necessary in order to be considered for exemption.
- Courses must have been taken within the past five years from academic year of graduation to academic year of enrollment in the MSW Program.
- SW400, SW401, SW441 and SW442: To apply for exemption from these courses: 1) make sure your courses are from a CSWE accredited social work program. 2) complete the exemption form and provide a syllabus, as needed.

Completing the Exemption Form:

1. Enter your statistics course information and attach a syllabus, as needed. If you have not yet taken a statistics course, please enter the course information for the course you plan to take and give an estimated completion date. You can verify the course is “pre- approved” prior to taking it by attaching a syllabus. When you receive your course grade, send a grade report via e-mail to an advisor in your program.
2. If you are not seeking course exemptions, check the last box and submit your form. Only your pre-requisite statistics course will be reviewed.
3. If you are seeking exemptions, start by determining your course equivalencies. Refer to the Social Work/Welfare Equivalencies Chart or, if your school is not listed there, please refer to the “UW-MADISON GENERALIST COURSE DESCRIPTIONS” to determine course equivalencies.
4. Enter the required course information for all the courses for which you wish to seek exemption.
5. PLEASE NOTE: all courses except SW650 and Statistics, must be from a CSWE accredited social work program in order to qualify.
7. If you do not submit a course for exemption, it is not guaranteed that your course will be reviewed at a later date for exemption.

Once submitted, your Exemption Form will be reviewed and you will be notified of your exemptions via email.

For questions, please contact an advisor:
- **Full-Time Program** (608.263.3660) – Sarah S Golla (sarah.seibold@wisc.edu) or Belinda Velazquez (bvelazqu@wisc.edu)
- **Part-Time Program** (608.263.3576) – Latoya Kirton (lkirton@wisc.edu) or Mary Paulauskis (paulauskis@wisc.edu)

Last updated: 2/24/2020
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**UW-Madison Generalist Course Descriptions:**

You are **required** to take all Generalist year courses unless you are granted an exemption. Below are descriptions of our courses to help you determine which of those you had and would like to submit for consideration for exemption.

**SW 605 Field of Social Work**

This course provides a basic introduction to the history, evolution, and current status of the profession of social work and social welfare institutions. It covers historical and political development that shaped the emergence and role of the social work profession and highlights critical issues for the profession as we move into the 21st century.

**SW 711 Human Behavior and the Environment (HBSE)**

This course surveys the behavioral science knowledge base of social work practice as it relates to understanding and intervening in the problems of clients and constituents. It draws together relevant social science theories - primarily from sociology and psychology but also from biology, anthropology, economics, history and political science - to form a multi-disciplinary view of human behavior. Current knowledge about individuals, both male and female, families, communities, including racial and ethnic minority communities, society and culture is included in the course. The primary social work practice goal is to facilitate the process of problem identification and assessment, and intervention planning at both the direct and indirect service levels.

**SW 441 Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups**

This course focuses on developing generalist social work knowledge and skills for working with and on behalf of individuals, families, and groups. Lecture and labs focus on development of basic social work direct practice skills and techniques necessary for working at the micro level, with individuals, groups and families. It integrates content on multi-culturalism, diversity, social justice, and social change issues.

**SW 442 Generalist Practice with Organizations and Communities or SW 442: Generalist Approaches to Macro Practice I & II (for students in Part-Time Program)**

This course is designed to assist the student in learning about the theory and practice of planned change in communities and organizations and to incorporate a generalist model into practice at these levels of intervention. The course focuses on developing knowledge and skills that will allow the student to intervene in a variety of organizations and communities. It integrates content on multiculturalism, diversity, social justice, and social change issues.

**SW 606 Introduction to Social Policy**

Social Work 606 has three main purposes: To provide an overview of American social welfare policy, particularly income support policy (including descriptions of all the major social programs); to provide an analytic framework that can be used in understanding current social policy discussions; and to provide a brief overview of policy making processes. The course also includes content on the measurement of poverty, trends in poverty, causes of poverty, and the anti-poverty effectiveness of various social programs.

**SW 650 Methods of Social Work Research**

Social Work 650 presents the basic concepts of research methodology in the social services and the opportunity to apply these concepts to research situations in a laboratory setting. Students learn to phrase any social work practice question in a hypothetical form which could be tested empirically. Similar courses in other disciplines such as Sociology and Psychology where research methods are covered may be considered for exemption.

Last updated: 2/24/2020
SW 710 DIVERSITY, OPPRESSION & SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOCIAL WORK
This course prepares students for generalist social work practice in a multicultural and inequitable society. It places emphasis on understanding how racial and ethnic categorization, especially institutional racism and oppression impact the lived experiences and life chances of persons and groups within American society. Under current social welfare policy, the perception and the reality of the gender and race of the recipients shape social policy and social work practice. Toward these goals, we shall examine how racial categories differ from ethnic groups, how racial classification powerfully organizes peoples’ identities and experiences, privileges and opportunities in the U.S., and how racial oppression intersects with other forms of oppression, such as class, gender, sexual orientation, language, and citizenship lines, to maintain durable inequalities in and across U.S. social and economic institutions. By the end of the course, students will gain a more critical understanding of racial and ethnic identification (an opportunity to explore their own racial identity). Students will come to a deeper understanding of how the history of racial inequity and oppression in the U.S. currently impacts lives of marginalized individuals and groups.

SW 400 AND 401 FIELD PRACTICE AND INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR I & II
The practice perspective is generalist social work in direct service to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. As an integral component of social work education, the primary purpose of field placement and seminar is to provide generalist practice opportunities for the development, integration and application of key competencies that are met through measurable practice behaviors. Theory and concepts learned in the classroom are integrated with practice opportunities, fostering the implementation of evidenced-informed practice. The educational focus for MSW students is on acquiring the core competencies for entry level generalist practice.

The generalist perspective combines multidisciplinary knowledge bases, problem analysis skills, and multiple methods of practice to apply creative solutions to the problems and situational needs of people in their various life roles, or social and economic realities. Central to the generalist perspective are concepts of interrelatedness, wholeness, and potential for growth. The field practice and integrative seminars bridge agency-based practice with practice theory, human behavior, social work policy and services, and social work research.

SW612 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
This foundation course prepares social work students to recognize major mental health concerns across the lifespan. The course includes an introduction to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental disorders (DSM) as the organizing framework for reviewing major mental disorders and critique of the current "medical model" approach to mental health in the United States. The course considers mental health issues from a generalist perspective including the role of the social environment, culture and stigma in mental health services, access and policy.