



**Sandra Rosenbaum
School of Social Work**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Part-Time MSW Program

Advanced Generalist Specialization Handbook

2021 – 2022

School of Social Work Building
1350 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706

Table of Contents

Advanced Generalist Specialization Framework	2
Specialization Outcomes	3
Core Social Work Competencies	4
Specialization Requirements	4
Optional Sub-focus Areas	4
Focus in Aging.....	5
Joint Focus in Aging & Health.....	6
Focus in Children, Youth & Family Welfare.....	7
Focus in Health	8
Focus in Mental Health	9
No Focus Area	10
APPENDIX I: Wisconsin Requirements for Clinical Social Work Licensure.....	11
APPENDIX II: State of Wisconsin Requirements for School Social Work License	12

Advanced Generalist Specialization Framework

The advanced generalist specialization is embedded within but builds upon the generalist practice framework. The School's commitment to the advanced generalist approach (Schatz, Jenkins, & Sheafor, 1990) is grounded in the understanding that this model is well-suited for the practice demands of the 21st Century, which require both breadth and depth of knowledge and skills, but that also employ essential elements that cut across fields of practice¹. The advanced generalist specialization provides knowledge and skills in direct services as well as administration, management, advocacy, system reform and the effects of social policies to effectively address complex pressing individual and social problems. Preparing social workers to be leaders in an increasingly diverse and global environment, marked by diminished resources, devolution of responsibility for social welfare from the federal, state and local governments, and the growing privatization of services, requires knowledge and skills that build on and extend the generalist practice foundation in the following areas:

- **Populations and related social-problems/issues:** Committed to serving and advocating for oppressed and marginalized populations, advanced generalist social workers understand the changing demographics locally and nationally with an eye toward related social-problems and their implications for social work practice, service provision and social policy (e.g., developing or enhancing services or policies for populations identified as at risk for life adversities and attendant social problems). They are competent to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate practice with members of diverse populations and to address attendant social problems, and complex chronic needs of client systems (Schatz, Jenkins, & Sheafor, 1990).
- **Social, health, and/or human services systems and policies:** Advanced generalist social workers are familiar with the contexts and policies relevant to populations served. They are able to evaluate systems of care and changes needed in those systems over time related to populations they are intended to serve and seek to address inequalities, as well as barriers to access and exit from service delivery systems.
- **Systems of oppression, privilege, and power:** To promote human and community well-being, human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice, advanced generalist social workers must not only understand, but employ strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers at multiple levels to ensure that social goods, rights and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights are protected.
- **A multilevel, multimethod and multidimensional approach:** Advanced generalist practice requires "multiple skills, a strategy for selecting among...various alternatives, and creativity to address complex practice issues" (Lavitt, 2009, p. 466). Advanced generalist social workers are skilled in assessing the focus of attention and the intervention that is likely to have the greatest impact and are prepared to work in more complex environments that may require specialized skills sets for addressing

¹ Schatz, M.S., Jenkins L. E., & Sheafor, B.W. (Fall, 1990). Milford redefined: A model of initial and advanced generalist social work practice. *Journal of Social Work Education*. Vol. 26, (3), pp. 217-231.

challenges or needs at the individual, family, group, organization, community or policy level (Schatz et al., 1990).

- **Ethical advocacy and social, economic and environmental justice:** Aware that values and ethics are central to advanced practice, the skilled advanced generalist is “purposeful in promoting justice-seeking interventions due to the multidimensionality of their problem-setting and a self-reflective stance” (Lavitt, 2009, p. 470).³ Primary commitment to promoting social justice requires an understanding of intersecting oppressions linked to myriad dimensions of diversity that shape exposure to life adversities and attendant problems as well as access to needed services. Social action on behalf of oppressed and marginalized populations recognizes the importance of empowering disenfranchised individuals and groups, and taking a stand for principles of justice, equity, and fair play, regardless of the social context or practice setting.
- **Reflective leadership:** Advanced generalist practitioners are reflective social work leaders capable of addressing unique, ambiguous, unstable and complex situations (Lavitt, 2009).² Advanced generalist practice requires ongoing reflection regarding various theoretical models, assessment and intervention methods and the efficacy of approaches to produce desired changes. Advanced generalist social workers are prepared to practice independently, hold supervisory and administrative roles, and take leadership in designing services and programs, working with and advocating for consumer groups, writing grants, performing other administrative tasks, and leading community action initiatives (Dakin, Quijana, Bishop & Sheafor, 2015).³
- **Research informed practice and practice and program evaluation methods that contribute to the profession’s knowledge base:** The advanced generalist social worker places value on and is competent to engage in research to improve and evaluate her/his own practice, programs and/or policies that they are working with, and to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession (Schatz et al., 1990).

Specialization Outcomes

In order to support the development of competence for advanced generalist practice with an increasingly diverse population, complex chronic needs of client systems and myriad social problems, the curriculum introduces students to advanced generalist competencies that are taught within social problem areas and fields of practice referred to as focus areas of the specialization. This is consistent with the Advanced Generalist Practice Framework that emphasizes knowledge, values and skills to address the needs of diverse populations, social problems, service delivery systems and policies. This also allows students some level of choice in the breadth and depth of skills they cultivate within the advanced generalist curriculum. Students have an opportunity to select from the following focus areas offered in the Part-Time MSW Program: (1) Aging; (2) Aging and Health; (3) Child, Youth, and Family Welfare; (4) Health, (5) Mental Health, or (6) No focus area (see an advisor for more information).

² Lavitt, M.R. (2009). What is Advanced in Generalist Practice? A conceptual discussion. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 29,461-473.

³ Dakin, E.K., Quijana, L.M., Bishop, P.S., & Sheafor, B.W. (2015). Best of both worlds: A conceptual model for integrating an aging specialization within an advanced generalist MSW program. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 51,535-549.

Outcomes for the specialization are that students will become autonomous practitioners with the ability to integrate social work knowledge, skills, values, and affective and cognitive processes that promote well-being at the individual, family, group, organizational and community level. To achieve these aims, the curriculum is built around nine core competencies listed below:

Core Social Work Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
4. Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities

Specialization Requirements

The social work knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes embedded in the above competencies and demonstrated advanced practice behaviors are acquired through the following required courses in desired focus are:

- Advanced practice
- Policies and services
- Advanced macro-practice
- Advanced Generalist Specialization Field Placement & Integrative Seminar

In addition, students select three “free” elective courses to complete their MSW program. These courses can be within the same focus area or any course from any other focus area.

Optional Sub-focus Areas

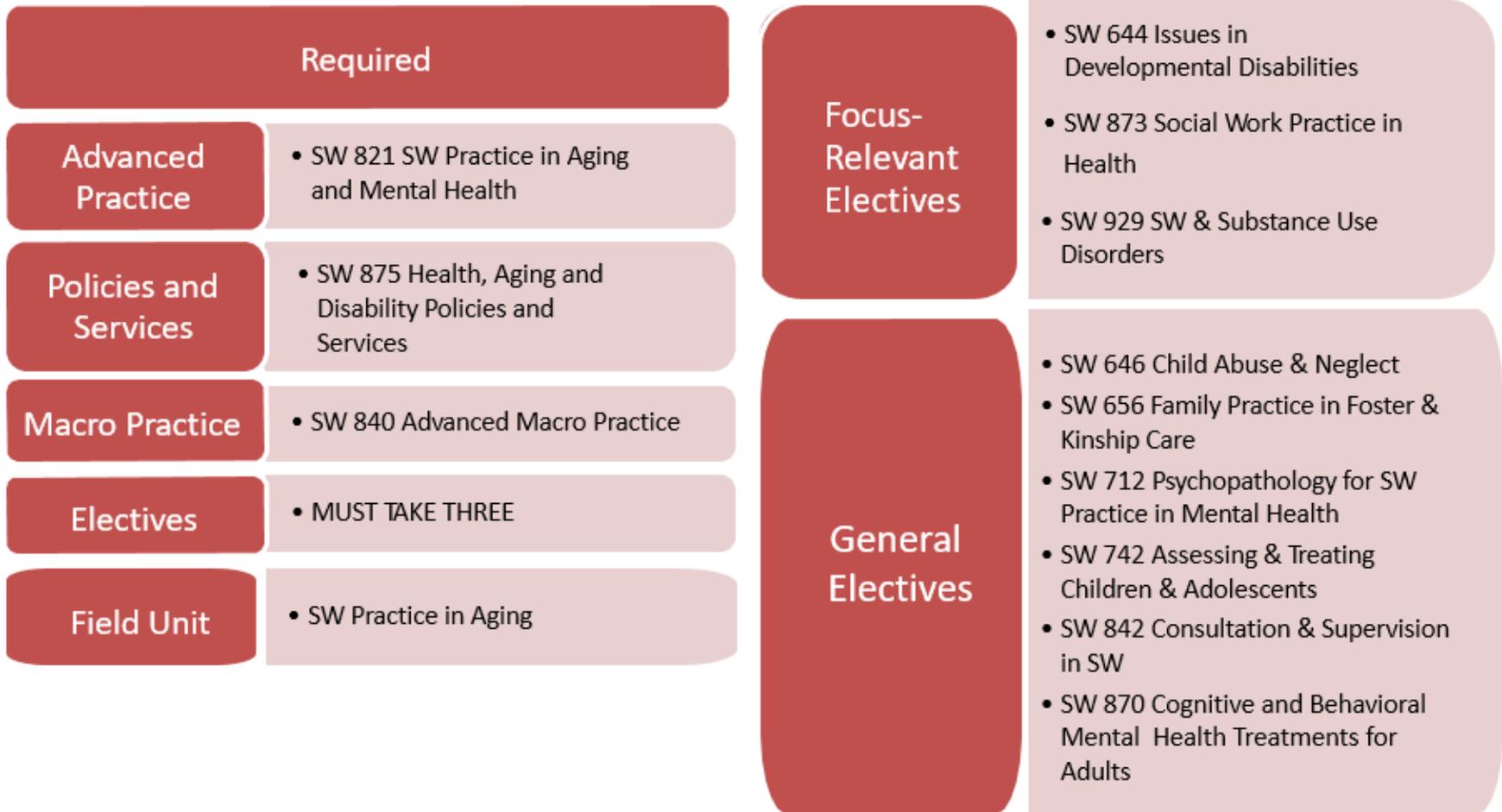
Students can elect to pursue a more specialized area (sub-focus) within their area of focus. At a minimum, a sub-focus area consists of one substantive course (content or practice) and a field placement in the sub-focus area. Current sub-focus areas are:

- Child, Youth and Family Welfare: Child Welfare or School Social Work
- Mental Health: Substance Use Disorders

Student-designed sub-focus areas may also be approved when an appropriate substantive course and field placement can be identified. Students should inform the advisors if they are choosing to pursue a sub-focus.

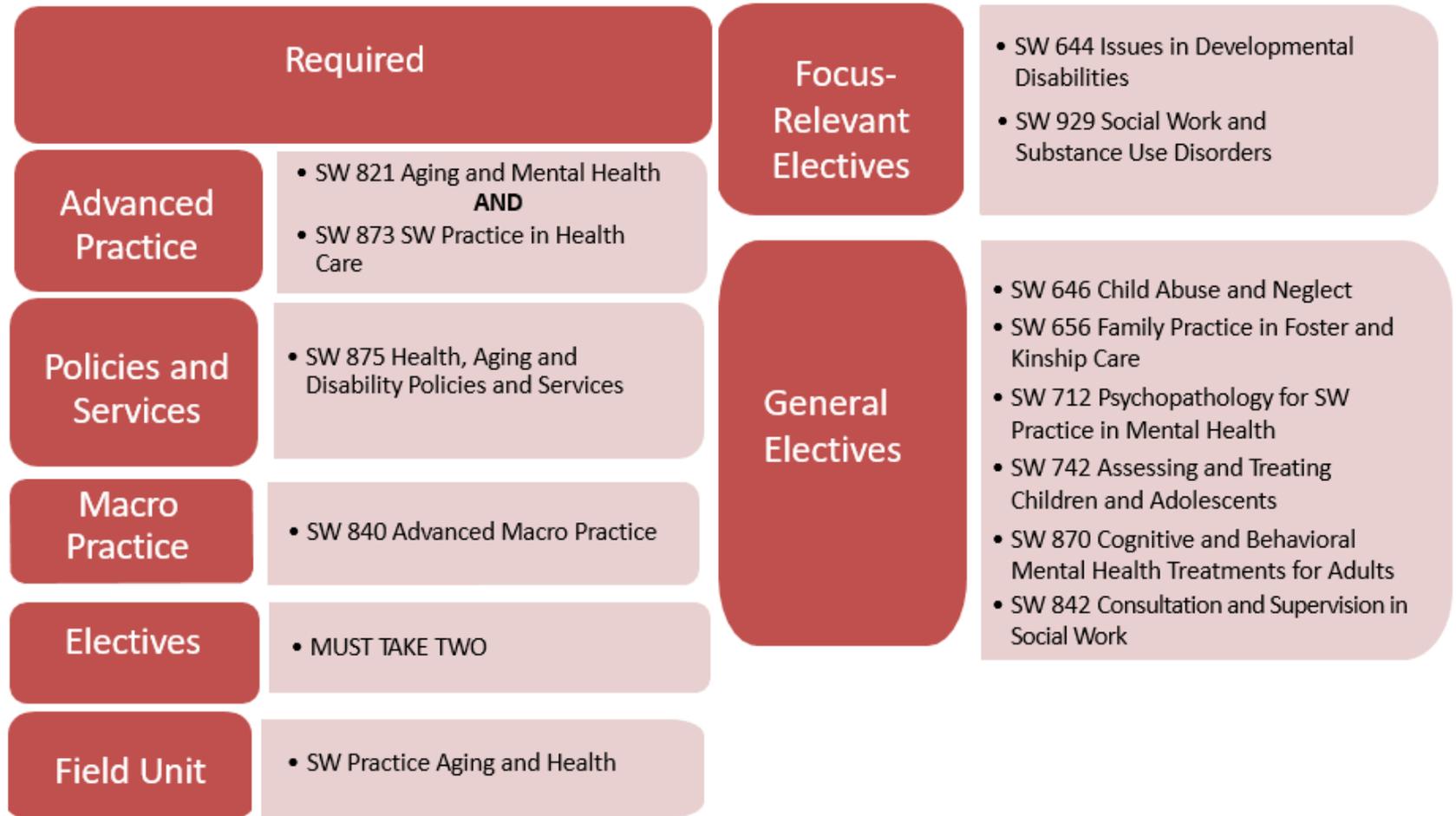
Focus in Aging

(Madison site only)



Joint Focus in Aging & Health

(Madison site only)

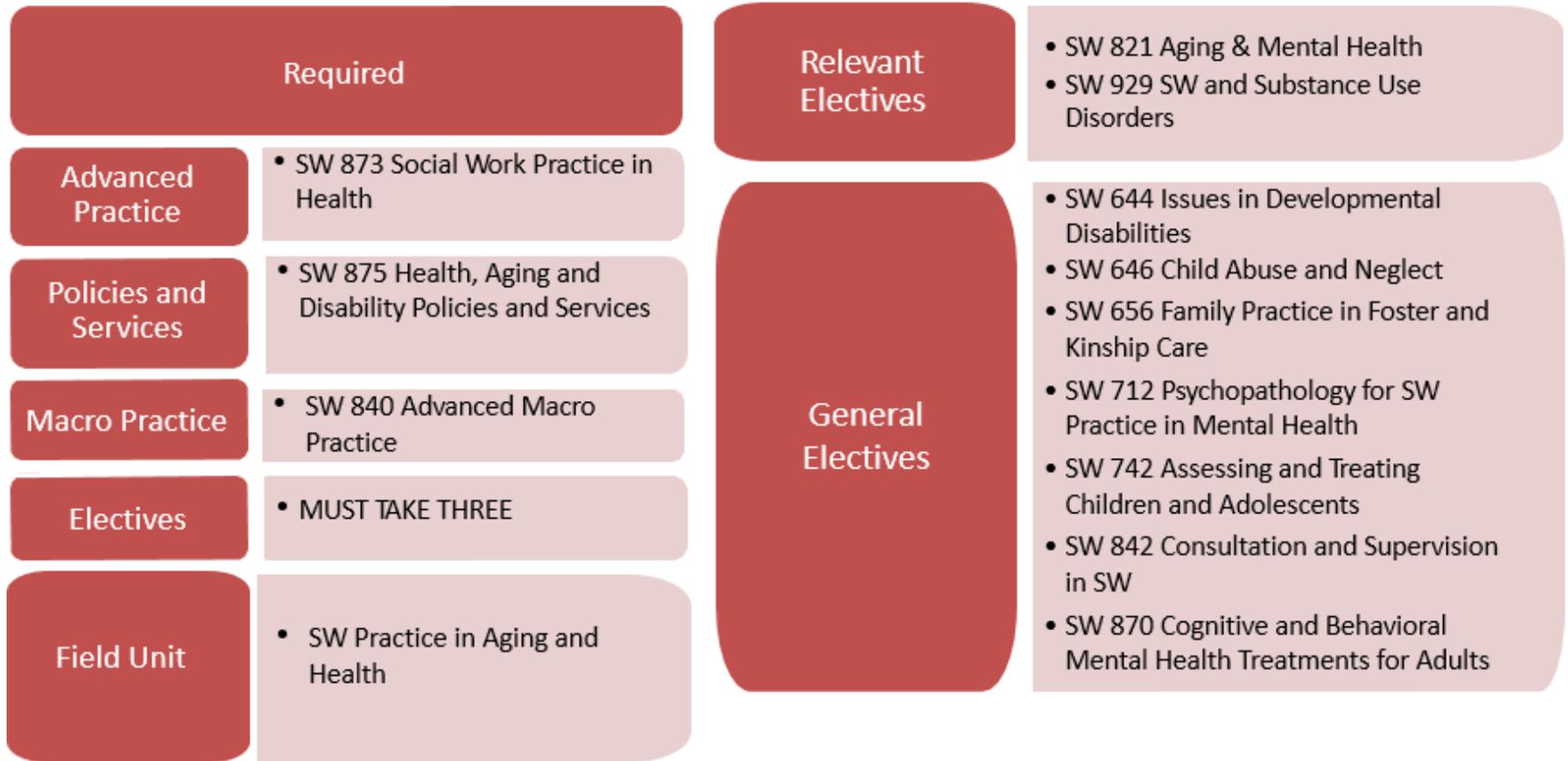


Focus in Children, Youth & Family Welfare

Required		Relevant Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect SW 656 Family Practice in Foster and Kinship Care SW 742 Assessing and Treating Children and Adolescents SW 842 Consultation and Supervision in SW
Advanced Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 741 Interventions with Children, Youth and Families 		
Policies and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 920 Child, Youth and Family Policies and Services 	<i>Sub-focus in Child Welfare (Title IV-E)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect SW 656 Family Practice in Foster and Kinship Care SW 842 Consultation and Supervision in SW
Macro Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 840 Advanced Macro 	<i>Sub-focus in School Social Work</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect SW 815 Social Work Practice in Schools I <i>OPTIONAL ELECTIVE:</i> SW 817 Social Work Practice in Schools II
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUST TAKE THREE 		
Field Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW Practice Public and Private Child Welfare & Educational Settings 	General Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW 712 Psychopathology for SW Practice in Mental Health SW 870 Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults SW 929 Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

Focus in Health

(Madison site only)



Focus in Mental Health

Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 835 Advanced Practice in Mental Health 	Focus-Relevant Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 712 Psychopathology for SW Practice in Mental Health • SW 742 Assessing and Treating Children and Adolescents • SW 870 Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults • SW 929 Social Work and Substance Use Disorders
Advanced Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 836 Mental Health Policies and Services 	General Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities • SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect • SW 656 Family Practice in Foster and Kinship Care • SW 842 Consultation and Supervision in SW
Policies and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 840 Advanced Macro Practice 	<i>Sub-focus in Substance Use Disorders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW 929 Social Work and Substance Use Disorders
Macro Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST TAKE THREE 		
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW Practice in Mental Health 		
Field Unit			

No Focus Area

Students must meet with an advisor when choosing this option

Required		Field Unit	Students opting for no focus may express a preference for a field of practice; Final decision on field placement is made by Associate Director of Field Education		
Advanced Practice <i>(choose one)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW 741 Interventions with Children, Youth and Families• SW 821 Aging and Mental Health*• SW 835 Advanced Practice in Mental Health• SW 873 SW Practice in Health Care*			General Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW 644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities• SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect• SW 656 Family Practice in Foster and Kinship Care• SW 712 Psychopathology for SW Practice in Mental Health• SW 742 Assessing and Treating Children and Adolescents• SW 815 Social Work Practice in Schools I• SW 817 Social Work Practice in Schools II• SW 870 Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults*• SW 842 Consultation and Supervision in Social Work• SW 929 SW and Substance Use Disorders
Policies and Services <i>(choose one)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW 836 Mental Health Policies and Services• SW 875 Health, Aging and Disability Policies and Services*• SW 920 Child, Youth and Family Policies and Services				
Macro Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW 840 Advanced Macro Practice				
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUST TAKE THREE				

*Only available at the Madison site

APPENDIX I: Wisconsin Requirements for Clinical Social Work Licensure

Please see the [licensure website](#) for more information. Those who wish to be licensed as clinical social workers (LCSW) in the State of Wisconsin must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete a master's level "Clinical Social Work Concentration." This requirement is met through the Mental Health Focus Area.
2. According to state statutes, a clinical social work course of study "shall include one course in psychopathology in social work and, two (2) theory and practice courses from among the following: (a) Case Management (b) Clinical assessment and treatment of specific populations and problems, such as children, adolescent, elderly, alcohol and drug abuse, family or couples relationships (c) Psychopharmacology (d) Psychotherapeutic Interventions (e) Electives such as family therapy, social work with groups, sex- or gender-related issues, and topics."
 - A. At least one course must be in Psychopathology (SW 612 or SW 712 meet this requirement); **AND**
 - B. A minimum of two courses from the list below (2021-22 Part-time Program planned offerings)*
 - SW 644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities
 - SW 646 Child Abuse and Neglect
 - SW 656 Family Practice in Foster Kinship Care
 - SW 741 Interventions with Children, Youth & Families
 - SW 742 Assessing and Treating Children and Adolescents
 - SW 821 Aging and Mental Health
 - SW 835 Advanced Practice in MH (required for mental health focus area practice course)
 - SW 870 Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults
 - SW 929 Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

** if two psychopathology courses are taken, one may count toward 2.B. requirement*
3. Statues require that "...field training must be in a primary clinical setting and must include at least two semesters of field placement where more than 50% of the practice is to assess and treat interpersonal and intrapsychic issues in direct contact with individuals, families or small groups." This requirement is generally met through the Mental Health Field Unit.
4. After graduation become certified as an Advanced Practice Social Worker (CAPSW).
5. After graduation and certification, engage in 3000 hours of "clinical" practice including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact under an approved supervisor.
6. Pass the LCSW Exam

State of Minnesota: Effective August 1, 2011, those who wish to be licensed as an Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) in Minnesota must, after graduating with their MSW, obtain a LGSW, practice under supervision and document 360 clock hours in six clinical knowledge areas. Please see [our Social Work Certification and Licensure website](#) for more information.

APPENDIX II: State of Wisconsin Requirements for School Social Work License

Applicants for licensure as a School Social Worker in the State of Wisconsin must meet the following requirements:

1. Curriculum & Course Requirements

Foundation Year Courses or Equivalent (from other accredited schools of social work)

Required Course Sequences

Social Welfare Policies & Services
Human Behavior & Social Environment Social Work Practice
SW Research
Field & Int. Seminars I & II

UW-Madison Courses for School SW License

SW 605 & SW 606
SW 710, SW 711 & SW 612
SW 441 & 442
SW 650
SW 400/401 *Human Services; Child & Family Welfare; or other placements with children and youth*

Children, Youth and Family Welfare Focus Area with School Social Work Sub-focus

MSW Requirements

Specialization Advanced Practice Course
Specialization Policies & Services Course
Specialization Field & Int. Seminars III & IV
Advanced Macro Practice Elective
Elective
Elective
Elective

UW-Madison Courses for School SW License

SW 741
SW 920 or 921
SW 800/801 SW in Educational Settings
SW 840
SW 644
SW 646
SW 815 SW Practice in Schools I

2. Portfolio

Applicants for certification must demonstrate “proficient performance in the knowledge, skills and dispositions” of the following three areas by means of a Portfolio they keep.

- 8 School Social Worker Standards
- 7 Pupil Services Standards
- 10 Teacher Standards

Examples of evidence are: course syllabi, major course assignments (papers or other graded written work); written field evaluations from faculty and supervisors. May also include any documented outcomes from workshops and conferences relevant to the three areas.

3. MSW Degree

Effective November, 2014