Course Exemption Form Instructions 2022-2023

To complete the Course Exemption Form, first, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 (or later) to access, view, download, complete, and print the fillable Course Exemption Form. Adobe Acrobat Reader is available for free and can be downloaded from the following link:  

Meeting the Statistics Prerequisite

All incoming students MUST demonstrate they have either met the statistics requirement BEFORE starting the MSW Program or have a concrete plan to meet this program prerequisite promptly (i.e., FTP students – take statistics the summer before starting in the Program, as special students; PTP students – take statistics before starting year 3 of the program). See your Advisor to discuss, if necessary.

Statistics Course Requirements

- For a statistics course to meet program requirements, course topics covered must 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 the academic year of graduation to the academic year of enrollment in the MSW Program.
- A grade of C or better in a statistics course is required (not 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 (see page 3).

Completing the Course Exemption Form

- 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 “preapproved” before taking it by submitting a course syllabus along with this form. When you receive your course grade, send a grade report via e-mail to an advisor in your program.
- If you are not seeking other course exemptions (i.e., you do not have any other course(s) that meets the requirements outlined below), leave the rest of the form blank and submit your form to the appropriate email address (located at bottom of the form). Only your pre-requisite statistics course will be reviewed.
- Be sure your accompanying syllabus is labeled as follows:
  
  LAST NAME, FIRST NAME – COURSE NUMBER Syllabus
  
  Example: Hunte, Kimberley – Stats 201 Syllabus

Exempting from Generalist Course Work

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

Last updated: 2/19/2022
SW 605, SW 606, SW 710 (formerly SW 640) and SW 711
Only apply for exemption from these courses if your course was taken in a CSWE accredited program AND meet all the other criteria above. Courses taken in other fields of study will NOT be reviewed.

SW 612 and SW 650
If you have taken a research methods or psychopathology course whose topics match those provided under “UW-MADISON GENERALIST COURSE DESCRIPTIONS” following this section, you may be eligible for exemption from these courses. Note, sometimes courses taught in sociology, psychology, or other departments are accepted as equivalent.

SW 400, SW 401, SW 441 and SW 442
To apply for exemption from these courses, you must have taken your courses in a CSWE accredited social work program.

Completing the Course Exemption Form
- If you have taken courses that meet the requirements listed above, and are seeking exemptions, start by determining if your course equivalencies (i.e., which course is comparable to which UW-Madison course). Refer to the Social Work/Welfare Equivalencies Chart (see page 3).
- If your school is not listed on the Chart, please refer to the “UW-MADISON GENERALIST COURSE DESCRIPTIONS” to determine course equivalencies.
- Enter the required course information (i.e. course title, # of credits, course term & year, grade, etc.) for all the courses for which you wish to seek exemption.
- Syllabi attachments are required for ALL course(s) not listed on the Social Work/Welfare Equivalencies Chart except for SW 400 and SW 401.
- Be sure any accompanying syllabi are labeled as follows:
  
  \[ \text{LAST NAME, FIRST NAME – COURSE NUMBER* Syllabus} \]
  
  \[ \text{Example: Hunt, Kimberley – SW 606 Syllabus} \]
  
  * Should correspond to the UW-Madison course for which you are seeking exemption i.e., SW 605, SW 606, etc.

After Submitting Your Form – What to Expect
Once submitted, your Course Exemption Form will be reviewed, if additional information is needed, an Advisor will contact you using the email address provided on your form (please be sure it is accurate). If no other information is required, an Advisor will process your form and notify you of your exemptions via email. Note that if a syllabus review by a professor is needed, you should expect processing time to take longer.

For questions, please contact an Advisor:

**Full-Time Program**
(608.263.3660) – Hannah Klusendorf – will be available throughout the summer (hklusendorf@wisc.edu) or Belinda Velazquez – available through the end of spring term (bvelazqu@wisc.edu)

**Part-Time Program**
(608.263.6330) – Latoya Kirton (lkirton@wisc.edu)

NOTE
Failure to submit a course for exemption in a timely manner may result in you NOT being considered for exemptions at a later date. You are encouraged to submit a Course Exemption Form promptly after confirming admission into our MSW Program, and after you receive the Checklist by email, with instructions to follow.
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<tr>
<td>Field &amp; Seminar I</td>
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<td>Psychopathology in SW</td>
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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 the 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
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 policymaking 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 sciences 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 that could be tested empirically. Similar courses in other disciplines such as Sociology and Psychology where research methods are covered may be considered for exemption.

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 emphasizes 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 evidence-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.

SW 612 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.