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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Full-Time MSW Program
Advanced Generalist Specialization
Handbook
2023-2024**

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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).² 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 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

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.

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 their own practice, programs and/or policies they are working with, and to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession (Schatz et al., 1990).

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.

Advanced Generalist Specialization

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.

Focus Areas

Students have an opportunity to elect from the following focus areas offered in the Full-Time MSW Program, or may choose no focus and complete the Advanced Generalist focus:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Aging | (3) Health |
| (2) Child, Youth, and Family Welfare | (4) Mental Health |

Optional Sub-focus Areas

Students can elect to pursue a more specialized area (sub-focus) if they choose an area of focus in the advanced generalist specialization. At 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:

Focus Areas	Sub-Focus Examples (optional)
Aging	Intellectual Disabilities Policy and Administration
Child, Youth and Family Welfare	Child Welfare (includes Title IV-E) School Social Work Intellectual Disabilities Policy and Administration
Health	Intellectual Disabilities Policy and Administration
Mental Health	Substance Use Disorders Policy and Administration

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.

Details about sub-focus recommended coursework at [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\) > Sub-Foci](#).

Specialization Outcomes and Competencies

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, organization and community level. To achieve these aims, the curriculum is built around **nine core competencies** listed below:

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 specialization competencies and demonstrated advanced generalist behaviors are acquired through the following **required** courses:

- Advanced practice (area focused)
- Policies and services (area focused)
- Advanced Macro Practice
- Advanced Generalist Specialization Field Placement & Integrative Seminars III & IV (area focused)

In addition, students choose three free elective courses to complete their MSW program. These courses can be from within any focus area(s). Below is a model of how courses are taken in sequence:

<u>Semester I</u>	cr	<u>Semester II</u>	cr
Advanced Practice Course ¹	2	SW 840 Adv. Macro-Practice or Free Elective	2-3
Policies & Services Course ⁴ or Free Elective	2	Policies & Services Course ⁴ or Free Elective	2
Free Elective or SW 840 Advanced Macro Practice ²	2-3	Free Elective	2-3
SW 800 Specialization Field Practice & Integrative Seminar III ³	5	SW 801 Specialization Field Practice & Integrative Seminar IV ³	6
Total Credits	11-12	Total Credits	12-14

¹ The Advanced Practice Course is taken concurrently with field. Advanced practice courses are only available in fall.

² Free electives and macro practice courses may be taken in any semester. Electives may be taken inside or outside the School. Advanced Macro is 2 credits, electives may be 2 or 3 credits depending on the course.

³ A two-semester course sequence.

⁴ Mental Health Policy and Services (SW836) is only offered in spring in 2023-2024. Remaining policy courses offered in fall.

Putting It All Together

To help you organize your specialization year, the following pages provide you with a list of all the required and elective courses that are planned offerings for 2023-24. Next, each of the focus areas are presented mapping out the required courses and more relevant electives for the area of focus, but other electives may be taken that are tailored to your interests and career aspirations.

Planned Required and Elective Course Offerings At-A-Glance

Fall 2023	Spring 2024
<p>441 Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups</p> <p>442 Generalist Practice with Organizations and Communities</p> <p>605 Field of Social Work</p> <p>644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>646 Child Abuse and Neglect</p> <p>711 Human Behavior and the Environment</p> <p>712 Psychopathology for SW Practice in Mental Health</p> <p>721 (Urb R Pl) Methods of Planning Analysis²</p> <p>741 Interventions in Children, Youth and Family Welfare</p> <p>742 Assessing and Treating Children and Adolescents</p> <p>821 SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health</p> <p>822 (Law) Family Law: Marriage and Divorce²</p> <p>835 Advanced Mental Health Practice</p> <p>840 Advanced Macro Practice¹</p> <p>873 Social Work Practice in Health Care</p> <p>875 Health, Aging and Disabilities Policies and Services</p> <p>880 (Ed Psych) Prevention Science²</p> <p>921 Child Welfare Policies and Services</p> <p>920 Child, Youth and Family Policies and Services</p> <p>923 Family Violence</p>	<p>606 Social Policy</p> <p>612 Psychopathology for Generalist SW Practice</p> <p>636 Social Work in American Indian Communities: The Indian Child Welfare Act</p> <p>639 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Individuals and Social Welfare</p> <p>644 Issues in Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>646 Child Abuse and Neglect</p> <p>648 Palliative and End-of-Life Care Social Work Practice</p> <p>650 Methods of Social Work Research</p> <p>656 Family Practice in Foster and Kinship Care</p> <p>710 Social Work with Ethnic and Racial Groups</p> <p>746 (Nursing) Interdisciplinary, Coordinated Care of the Child with Chronic Illness²</p> <p>817 Social Work Practice in Schools II³</p> <p>823 (Law) Family Law: Parent and Child²</p> <p>836 Mental Health Policies and Services</p> <p>840 Advanced Macro Practice¹</p> <p>842 Consultation and Supervision in Social Work</p> <p>854 Crisis Intervention in Social Work</p> <p>870 Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults</p> <p>929 Social Work and Substance Use Disorders</p>
<p><i>Note: Course offerings, particularly electives, are subject to change at any time based on instructor availability, enrollment, and other factors. This list is planned offerings as of 3/20/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll (https://enroll.wisc.edu) for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.</i></p>	<p><i>Required Generalist Year courses are highlighted in bold.</i></p> <p>¹ 840 must be taken in either fall or spring of Specialization Year.</p> <p>² Social Work has no control over if/when these cross-listed courses are offered.</p> <p>³ SW 817 is restricted to only students in the Educational Settings field unit as an optional elective for students seeking School licensure.</p>

Focus in Aging

Required Courses

Choose one from each area below



Advanced
Practice

SW 821 (fall)
SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health



Policies
and
Services

SW 875 (fall)
Health, Aging and Disability Policies and
Services



Macro
Practice

SW 840 (fall or spring)
Advanced Macro Practice



Field Unit

SW 800 (fall) & **SW 801** (spring)

- Practice with Older Adults,
- Practice in Health,
- Practice in Intellectual and Other Disabilities, **or**
- Practice in Policy and Administration

Relevant Free Electives

Choose at least three electives—listed below are suggested but not required

SW 644	(fall, spring)	Issues in Developmental Disabilities
SW 648	(spring)	Palliative and End-of-Life Care Social Work Practice
SW 825	(summer 2023)	Grief, Death, Loss, and Life
SW 842	(spring)	Consultation and Supervision in Social Work
SW 854	(spring)	Crisis Intervention in Social Work
SW 873	(spring)	Social Work Practice in Health Care
SW 929	(spring)	Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

Information on available sub-focuses can be found on the [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#) website, Sub-Focuses tab.

Focus in Child, Youth, and Family Welfare

Required Courses

Choose one from each area below



Advanced
Practice

SW 741 (fall)
Interventions with Children, Youth and
Families



Policies
and
Services

SW 921 (fall) Child Welfare
or
SW 920 (fall) Child, Youth and Family Pol-
icies and Services



Macro
Practice

SW 840 (fall or spring)
Advanced Macro Practice



Field Unit

SW 800 (fall) & **SW 801** (spring)

- Practice in Community Agencies,
- Practice in Intellectual and Other Disa-
bilities,
- Practice in Public and Private Child
Welfare,
- Practice in Educational Settings, **or**
- Practice in Policy and Administration

Relevant Free Electives





Choose at least three electives—listed below are suggested but not required

SW 636	(spring)	SW in American Indian Communities: Indian Child
SW 644	(fall, spring)	Issues in Developmental Disabilities
SW 646	(fall, spring)	Child Abuse and Neglect
SW 656	(spring)	Family Practice in Foster & Kinship Care
SW 742	(fall)	Assessing & Treating Children & Adolescents
SW 825	(summer 2023)	Grief, Death, Loss, and Life
SW 842	(spring)	Consultation and Supervision in Social Work
SW 854	(spring)	Crisis Intervention in Social Work
SW 923	(fall)	Family Violence
SW 929	(spring)	Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

*Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date infor-
mation on course offerings.*

Information on available sub-focuses can be found on the [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\) website](#), Sub-Focuses tab.





Focus in Health

Required Courses		Relevant Free Electives	
Choose one from each area below		Choose at least three electives—listed below are suggested but not required	
 Advanced Practice	SW 873 (fall) SW Practice in Health Care	SW 644 (fall, spring)	Issues in Developmental Disabilities
 Policies and Services	SW 875 (fall) Health, Aging and Disability Policies and Services	SW 648 (spring)	Palliative and End-of-Life Care Social Work Practice
 Macro Practice	SW 840 (fall or spring) Advanced Macro Practice	SW 746 (spring)	Interdisciplinary Care of Children with Special Health Care Needs
 Field Unit	SW 800 (fall) & SW 801 (spring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice with Older Adults, Practice in Health, Practice in Intellectual and Other Disabilities, or Practice in Policy and Administration 	SW 821 (fall)	SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health
		SW 825 (summer 2022)	Grief, Death, Loss, and Life
		SW 842 (spring)	Consultation and Supervision in Social Work
		SW 854 (spring)	Crisis Intervention in Social Work

Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

Information on available sub-focuses can be found on the [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#) website, Sub-Focuses tab.

Focus in Mental Health

Required Courses		Relevant Free Electives	
Choose one from each area below		Choose at least three electives—listed below are suggested but not required	
 Advanced Practice	SW 835 (fall) Advanced Practice in Mental Health	SW 639	(spring) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Individuals and Social Welfare
 Policies and Services	SW 836 (spring) Mental Health Policies and Services	SW 644	(fall, spring) Issues in Developmental Disabilities
 Macro Practice	SW 840 (fall or spring) Advanced Macro Practice	SW 648	(spring) Palliative and End-of-Life Care Social Work Practice
 Field Unit	SW 800 (fall) & SW 801 (spring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice in Mental Health, or Practice in Policy and Administration 	SW 712	(fall) Psychopathology for SW Practice in Mental Health
		SW 742	(fall) Assessing & Treating Children & Adolescents
		SW 821	(fall) SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health
		SW 825	(summer 2023) Grief, Death, Loss, and Life
		SW 842	(spring) Consultation and Supervision in Social Work
		SW 854	(spring) Crisis Intervention in Social Work
		SW 870	(spring) Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults
		SW 923	(fall) Family Violence
		SW 929	(spring) Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

Information on available sub-focuses can be found on the [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#) website, Sub-Focuses tab.

Advanced Generalist Focus (no focus)

Required Courses

Choose one from each area below



Advanced Practice

SW 741 (fall) Interventions with Children, Youth, and Families

SW 821 (fall) SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health

SW 835 (fall) Advanced Practice in Mental Health or

SW 873 (fall) SW Practice in Health Care

Policies
and
Services

SW 836 (spring) Mental Health Policies and Services

SW 875 (fall) Health, Aging, and Disability Policy and Service

SW 920 (fall) Child, Youth, and Family Policies and Services or

SW 921 (fall) Child Welfare



Macro Practice

SW 840 (fall or spring)

Advanced Macro Practice



Field Unit

SW 800 (fall) & SW 801 (spring)

- Relevant field unit selected by Director of Field Education

Relevant Free Electives

Choose at least three electives

Choose three electives from those available this academic year by reviewing [Course Search & Enroll](#) and working in consultation with advisor.

Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

Information on available sub-focuses can be found on the [Full-Time Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#) website, Sub-Focuses tab.

My Advanced Generalist Year DIY Worksheet

Required Courses

Write one in each area below



Advanced
Practice



Policies
and
Services



Macro
Practice



Field Unit

Relevant Free Electives

Choose at least three electives

SW _____

SW _____

SW _____

Students should refer to Course Search & Enroll for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

APPENDIX I: Wisconsin Requirements for Clinical Social Work Licensure

Please see the [Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work Certification & Licensure](#) website for additional 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."

The Mental Health Focus Area meets this requirement.

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." Effective April, 2005 this means students must complete:

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 list below (*not all courses are offered each semester or academic year*)

SW627	Sex Trafficking and Sex Trading	SW821	SW Practice in Aging and Mental Health
SW639	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Individuals and Social Welfare	SW 825	Grief, Death, Loss and Life
SW644	Issues in Developmental Disabilities	SW835	Advanced Practice in Mental Health (required for Mental Health focus area)
SW646	Child Abuse and Neglect	SW854	Crisis Intervention in Social Work
SW648	End of Life: Implications and Challenges for Practice	SW870	Cognitive and Behavioral Mental Health Treatments for Adults
SW656	Family Practice in Foster & Kinship Care	SW923	Family Violence
SW741	Interventions with Children, Youth, and Families	SW924	Family Problems in Social Work
SW742	Assessing & Treating Children & Adolescents	SW929	Social Work and Substance Use Disorders

If two psychopathology courses are taken (such as SW612 and SW712), one may be counted 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."

The Mental Health Field Units generally meet this requirement.

4. After graduation, become certified as an Advanced Practice Social Worker (CAPSW).
5. After graduation and certification, engage in 3000 hours "clinical" practice including at least 1,000 hours face-to-face client contact under the supervision of an LCSW or LCSW who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years full-time clinical social work, psychologist, or psychiatrist.
6. Pass the LCSW Exam

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

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

Required Course Sequences

Social Welfare Policies & Services
Human Behavior & Social Environment
Social Work Practice
Social Work Research

UW-Madison Courses for School SW Licensure

SW605 and SW606
SW711, SW710, and SW612
SW441 and SW442
SW650
Field & Integrative Seminars I & II 400/401
Human Services; Child & Family Welfare; Intellectual and Other Disabilities; Community Agencies; or, other placements with children and youth.

Child, Youth, and Family Welfare Focus Area with School Social Work Subfocus

MSW Requirements

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

Required Courses for School SW Licensure

SW741
SW920 or SW921
SW800/801 SW in Educational Settings
SW840
SW644
SW646
SW815 Social Work Practice in Schools I (Part-Time Program Students) **OR**
SW624, SW742, SW842, SW817 or any elective relevant for School SW Practice (Full-Time Program Students)

2. Portfolio

Applicants for certification must demonstrate “proficient performance in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions” of 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