

# Master of Social Work Degree

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The Valdosta State University Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program prepares students for social work leadership and collaborations to enhance the well being and equitable treatment of diverse individuals and communities. As an accredited program through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the curriculum is aligned with the Advanced Generalist practice model. This model focuses on the utilization of eclectic and disciplined approaches in professional social work and uses a competency-based outcome program evaluation. In the M.S.W. program, students will develop innovative and reflective approaches to address the complexities of service provision in today's society.

## M.S.W. Program Outcomes

CSWE outlines nine competencies listed in the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards:

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
2. Advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice
3. Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion
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

Examples of Outcome Assessments for Measuring Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Cognitive and Affective Processes

1. Field experience evaluation
2. Case study analysis
3. Simulated practice
4. Individual and group projects

VSU graduate students who are not enrolled in the M.S.W. program may take elective courses with the permission of the Head of the Department of Human Services. Academic credit will not be given for life experience or previous work experience.

The M.S.W. program is offered in a two- or three-year format. Courses are taught using a hybrid model of teaching. In this program, students attend five intensive weekends during the fall and spring semesters, starting Friday afternoon and concluding Saturday evening. The remainder of the course work is completed online. Field education hours are required to complete the degree through practicum and seminar courses.

The regular M.S.W. option is for applicants with an undergraduate degree not in social work.

An Advanced Standing option is available only to students who received a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) from a CSWE-accredited program in the last five years. Additional admission requirements apply.

Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application to the Graduate School. A completed application packet includes official transcripts from the applicant's bachelor's degree-granting school and from any graduate coursework, completed application form, fee, and the M.S.W. Supplemental Application, submitted by the admission deadline. To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents.

## Application Deadlines

Students are admitted for Fall admission only. The deadline for the M.S.W. program is February 14 of each year. The deadline for Advanced Standing is January 14 of each year. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.

Go to the Graduate School website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/welcome.php>) and click on Our Programs, then click on MSW Program for information on:

- Specific MSW Program Admission Requirements
- MSW Program Retention, Dismissal, and Readmission Policies
- MSW Program Graduation Requirements

To Apply Online, click here (<https://www.applyweb.com/apply/vsug/menu.html>).

## Requirements for the Master of Social Work Degree

Code	Title	Hours
<b>First Year - Generalist Courses</b>		<b>30</b>
SOWK 6004	Social Work Practice with Groups	3
SOWK 6203	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3
SOWK 6204	Diversity	3
SOWK 6301	Generalist Practice I: Individuals and Families	3
SOWK 6302	Generalist Practice II Organizations and Communities	3
SOWK 6310	Models of Intervention	3
SOWK 6400	Social Welfare Policy and Services	3
SOWK 6500	Generalist Practice in Research and Evaluation Methods in Social Work	3
SOWK 6800	Field Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOWK 6900	Field Practicum and Seminar II	3
<b>Advanced Courses</b>		<b>24</b>
SOWK 7300	Advanced Practice with Individuals	3
SOWK 7310	Advanced Practice with Families	3
SOWK 7320	Advanced Practice with Organizations and Communities	3
SOWK 7400	Advanced Practice in Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3
SOWK 7500	Advanced Practice in Research and Program Evaluation	3
SOWK 7611	Advanced Social Work Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOWK 7612	Advanced Social Work Practicum and Seminar II	3
SOWK 7810	Psychopathology and Assessment	3
<b>Electives</b>		<b>6</b>
SOWK 7001	Special Topics in Social Work	
SOWK 7700	Social Work Practice with Older Adults	
SOWK 7775	Social Work and Trauma	
SOWK 7776	Military Social Work	
SOWK 7800	Social Work Practice in Health Settings	
SOWK 7820	Issues in Substance Use	
SOWK 7830	Social Work Practice in Mental Health	
SOWK 7840	Seminar on Loss and Bereavement	
SOWK 7850	Social Work Practice in Schools	
SOWK 7860	Grant Writing and Program Development for Human Services	
SOWK 7861	Human Services Organization Management	
SOWK 7870	Working with Victims and Perpetrators of Abuse and Neglect	
SOWK 7871	Advanced Direct Practice with Children and Adolescents	
SOWK 7890	Spirituality in Social Work Practice	
SOWK 7910	Advanced Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
<b>Total Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>60</b>

### Field Practicum

Field education is the signature pedagogy of social work education. Students in the M.S.W. program are required to complete two separate year-long practicum and seminar experiences. These field placements in social service agencies run concurrently with coursework and allow students an opportunity to integrate classroom content with actual practice experiences. Students are required to complete 16 to 18 hours per week in practicum, totaling 1,000 hours. Practicum placements are geographically limited and determined by the Director of Field Instruction.

### Requirements for the Master of Social Work Degree--Advanced Standing Option

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>24</b>
SOWK 7300	Advanced Practice with Individuals	3
SOWK 7310	Advanced Practice with Families	3
SOWK 7320	Advanced Practice with Organizations and Communities	3

SOWK 7400	Advanced Practice in Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3
SOWK 7500	Advanced Practice in Research and Program Evaluation	3
SOWK 7611	Advanced Social Work Practicum and Seminar I	3
SOWK 7612	Advanced Social Work Practicum and Seminar II	3
SOWK 7810	Psychopathology and Assessment	3
<b>Electives</b>		<b>9</b>
SOWK 7001	Special Topics in Social Work	
SOWK 7700	Social Work Practice with Older Adults	
SOWK 7775	Social Work and Trauma	
SOWK 7776	Military Social Work	
SOWK 7800	Social Work Practice in Health Settings	
SOWK 7820	Issues in Substance Use	
SOWK 7826	Perspectives in Substance Use and Mental Health	
SOWK 7830	Social Work Practice in Mental Health	
SOWK 7840	Seminar on Loss and Bereavement	
SOWK 7850	Social Work Practice in Schools	
SOWK 7860	Grant Writing and Program Development for Human Services	
SOWK 7861	Human Services Organization Management	
SOWK 7870	Working with Victims and Perpetrators of Abuse and Neglect	
SOWK 7871	Advanced Direct Practice with Children and Adolescents	
SOWK 7890	Spirituality in Social Work Practice	
SOWK 7910	Advanced Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	
<b>Total Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>33</b>