

CASWE distinguishes curriculum at the Master's level as providing provides knowledge and skills in research and scholarship, professional leadership, social work supervision, advanced practice and/or areas of specialization. The learning objectives for the MSW reflect an advanced level of knowledge and skills in selected major areas of social work practice.

The MSW at St. Thomas University focuses on advanced practice with a structural lens providing students with:

- advanced theory and practice skills in professional leadership and social work supervision
- advanced direct practice skills development

The program's objectives are consistent with the mission and social justice statements of St. Thomas University and its School of Social Work. Courses are based on the application of structural social work theory which places major emphasis on understanding the structural roots of personal and social problems. The program prepares social workers to analyze and challenge sites of privilege, as well as to assist individuals and groups experiencing the effects of marginalization and oppression.

### **Program Structure – Foundational Classroom and Field Instruction**

The two-year MSW program is comprised of a foundational year of studies in social work (30 credit hours), followed by one year of advanced social work course work in the Master of Social Work program.

The 30-credit hours foundation year of studies includes the following curriculum:

#### **Semester 1 – Fall Term**

SCWK 5116 Generalist Social Work Practice Skills (6 cr)

SCWK 5036 Theory for Social Work Practice (6 cr)

#### **Semester 2 – Winter Term**

SCWK 5313 Social Policy in the Canadian Context (3 cr)

SCWK 5943 Social Work Values and Ethics (3 cr)

SCWK 5013 Group Work in Action (3 cr)

#### **Semester 3 – Spring Semester**

SCWK 5059 Field Instruction (9 cr/450 hours)

Students in the first year of the program must successfully complete all course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be able to progress to the second year.

The program structure for the second year is the same as the one-year Master of Social Work.

## **D. School of Social Work Policies**

Please see: <https://stu.ca/socialwork/policies/> for all School of Social Work policies.

## **E. Social Work Courses**

Social Work courses are only open to social work students admitted to the social work programs. Courses for the MWBSW are only available to MWBSW students. Courses for the MSW are only for MSW students.

**SCWK-2013. Introduction to Social Welfare**

An examination of the history, philosophy, and development of social welfare as a social institution in New Brunswick and elsewhere. Analysis of the institution and its relationship to the history, philosophy, and values of the profession of social work. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-2023. Introduction to Social Work**

An introduction to the values, ethics, history, and methods of professional social work practice, with particular emphasis on the profession in New Brunswick. An introduction to generic practice and social work with various client groups. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3053. Field Instruction I**

This course will provide practical experience in the field, in an approved setting, three days per week. Students are expected to develop knowledge and skills in small teams utilizing a community based approach to practice under the supervision of a faculty liaison. Prerequisite: Available to BSW students only. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3163. Addressing Diversity in Social Work Practice**

Using critical, anti-oppressive, decolonizing, and Indigenous frameworks, this course analyzes structural social work practice in the context of diversity, recognizing social justice as being inextricably linked to social work. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3253. Organizing Action With Diverse Groups**

The pursuit of social justice is a core value of both social work education and social work practice. The purpose of this course is to teach students the historical context, the fundamental concepts, and the direct skills necessary for organizing and enacting social change efforts within diverse contexts and with diverse groups. Students will be exposed to various theories of social change, multiple modes of working for social change, and techniques for strategizing for maximum effectiveness in pursuing change efforts. Students will be expected to use their knowledge in an applied manner and will engage in hands on change efforts with diverse groups and in various diverse contexts. This course is a co-requisite of SCWK 3053: Field Instruction I. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3283. Preparation for Prof. Social Work Practice**

The purpose of this course is the development of personal and professional skills that prepare students for professional social work practice. This includes a focus in increasing self-awareness and mindfulness as important knowledge for practice; an emphasis on developing skills for experiential learning; an orientation to the values and characteristics of a competent social work professional and social work practice; and the development of a beginning competency in generic crisis intervention theory and skills. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3343. Social Policy in the Canadian Context**

Concepts in policy planning are studied, along with an examination of the process of planned change from problem identification to programming. Consideration will be given to the political arena, the bureaucracy and roles of the politician, and the public servant. Three hours per week. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-3503. Research Methods for Social Work**

Research methods as explored in this course are an invaluable means to social transformation and, therefore, the imperative of working alongside oppressed groups and social movements as members or allies is stressed. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-3553. Generalist Social Work Practice Skills I**

The overall purpose of this course is to assist students to strengthen both their theoretical foundation for social work practice and their ability to integrate into their personal and professional lives developing knowledge, skills, and values. This course will present some recent and critical developments in knowledge and theory along with a variety of theories that may enhance structural social practice if integrated appropriately. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-3613. Social Work and Human Development**

This 3-credit hour course will provide an overview of many human development theories used in working with individuals of various age groups. Topics covered include the selection and application of developmental theories for social work practice with children, youth, middle-aged adults, older adults and people at the end of life. These populations will be further explored in relation to family dynamics, trauma, diversity, grief and loss. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-3903. Theory for Social Work Practice I**

A central assumption of this course is that social work as a profession needs to be self-critical in order to guard against continuing and increasing oppression experienced by members of various groups as they access social welfare programs and social work intervention. Therefore, a critical analysis of social welfare, social services and social work practice (primarily in the Canadian context) will be the central focus in the course. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-3943. Social Work Values & Ethics**

Students will use a structural focus to critically examine the ethical issues and dilemmas across population groups of the social work profession as they relate to the development of a distinct theoretical knowledge-base, set of values, code of ethics, and approaches practice. The goals of this course involve students developing and demonstrating a critical understanding of ethics theory situated within a sociopolitical and cultural context; knowledge of common ethical issues in social work practice and ethical guidelines impacting on practice; application of this knowledge through assessment and ethical decision making skills; and self-awareness in relation to these issues. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4013. Group Work Theory & Design**

This is a laboratory course in which students will develop skills in group membership, leadership, and programme design. Practical group experiences and reflection activities are utilized to demonstrate theories of group dynamics and development, and to enhance group assessment and intervention skills. This course is only available to 4th year BSW students. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4033. Ecosocial Work**

This course provides an important opportunity for students to explore contemporary eco-realities in the context of social work and identify how ecosocial considerations can be incorporated into social work practice. Students are exposed to a variety of ecosocial work, Indigenous, anti-oppressive, structural, and other critical perspectives and the potential role these can play in social work with individuals, families, and groups, community engagement, policy development, and social change. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4089. Field Instruction II**

This is a mandatory course for all 4th year BSW students. The course provides a base for professional practice by introducing the values and ethics of the profession, and the theories

relevant to social work practice with individuals, groups, and communities. Knowledge drawn from the social sciences and other disciplines will be integrated with methods of intervention. Co-requisite with SCWK 4613: Field Integration Seminar. Note: This course is 9 credit hours. BSW students must have successfully completed all course work in the BSW program prior to commencing their direct practice placement.

### **SCWK-4533. Generalist Social Workpractice Skills II**

This course is an introduction to the application of skills of helping individuals and families. The course will focus on understanding the stages of the professional helping process, practice ethics, and the acquisition of specific anti-oppressive clinical skills in communicating, assessing problems, planning, contracting, implementing change, and terminating the process. Also, the course will include skills for approaching practice situations that commonly arise in a variety of social work contexts. The course emphasizes the skills of writing social work records. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4613. Field Integration Seminar**

The Field Integration Seminar is taken in conjunction with the direct practice field placement. Students are expected to present and discuss practice experiences from their field placements, integrating knowledge from social work theory and practice. Students will participate in collaborative discussions related to professional and ethical issues, as well as practice situations emerging from placement settings. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4723. Child Welfare**

This course is designed to introduce students to the child welfare system in New Brunswick and Canada, and to examine the policies, procedures, and practices which have been developed to respond to the needs of children and adolescents. As such, another purpose of the course is to critique existing policies, procedures, and practices and to discuss ways in which the child welfare delivery system could be more responsive to the needs of children and their families. Alternative responses and innovative programmes will be examined and students will be challenged to be creative in developing ideas which would lead to evolving the child welfare system in the direction of better meeting children's needs. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4783. Law and Social Work**

This course is designed to familiarize social work students with the relationship between law and social work in selected areas. An overview of civil, criminal and family law will be provided with a focus on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Indian Act, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the New Brunswick Human Rights Act, the Family Services Act (S.N.B.) and the Mental Health Act (S.N.B.). The course also examines the role of social work in the administration of justice and introduces students to basic legal concepts useful for social work practice. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-4903. Theory for Social Work Practice II**

This is a mandatory course for all post-degree BSW students. The course provides a base for professional practice by introducing the values and ethics of the profession, and theories relevant to social work practice with individuals, groups, and communities. Knowledge from the social sciences and other disciplines will be integrated with methods of intervention. Prerequisite: Theory for Social Work Practice I. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-5012. Field Instruction III (MWBSW Program)**

This course provides practical experience in the field, in an approved setting, under faculty supervision. Students are expected to develop knowledge and skills in the field sufficient for initial professional practice with various client constituencies. 700 hours. Note: This course is 12 credit hours.

### **SCWK-5013. Group Work in Action**

This course is a group work course for students enrolled in the foundational year of the MSW degree program. It critically analyzes social work group-based practice through an anti-oppressive and structural lens, and students will develop skills in group membership, leadership, and being a reflective social worker. Practical group experiences and reflection activities are utilized to demonstrate theories of group dynamics and development, and to enhance group assessment, facilitation, and evaluation skills. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-5036. Theory of Social Work Practice I**

This is a mandatory course for all students in the foundational year of the MSW degree program and for students in the MWBSW program. A central assumption of this course is that social work as a profession needs to be self-critical in order to guard against continuing and increasing oppression experienced by members of various groups as they access social welfare programmes and social work intervention. Therefore a critical analysis of social welfare, social services and social work practice (primarily in the Canadian context) will be a central focus in the course. (6 credit hours)

### **SCWK-5046. Theory for Social Work Practice II**

This is a mandatory course for all MWBSW students. The course provides a base for professional practice by introducing the values and ethics of the profession, and theories relevant to social work practice with individuals, groups, and communities. Knowledge drawn from the social sciences and other disciplines will be integrated with methods of intervention. Prerequisites: SCWK 5036. (6 credit hours)

### **SCWK-5089. Field Instruction III**

This is a mandatory course for all students in the foundational year of the MSW program. The course provides a base for professional practice by introducing the values and ethics of the profession, and theories relevant to social work practice with individuals, groups, and communities. Knowledge drawn from the social sciences and other disciplines will be integrated with methods of intervention. Prerequisites: SCWK 5036. Note: This course is 9 credit hours.

### **SCWK-5116. Generalist Social Work Practice Skills (MSW Foundational Year and MWBSW students)**

This course is an introduction to the theory and skills of helping individuals and families. The course will focus on understanding the stages of the helping process, ethics, and the acquisition of specific skills in communicating, assessing problems, planning, contracting, implementing change, and terminating the process. In addition, the course will include theory and skills related to practice situations that arise in almost all social work contexts - family interviews, grief work, crisis intervention, and work with people from cultures, religions and orientation other than one's own. The skills of writing social work records will be emphasized. (6 credits)

**SCWK-5223. Organizing for Action with Diverse Groups (MWBSW)**

The pursuit of social justice is a core value of both social work education and social work practice. The purpose of this course is to teach students the historical context, the fundamental concepts, and the direct skills necessary for organizing and enacting social change efforts within diverse contexts and with diverse groups. Students will be exposed to various theories of social change, multiple modes of working for social change, and techniques for strategizing for maximum effectiveness in pursuing change efforts. Students will be expected to use their knowledge in an applied manner and will engage in hands on change efforts with diverse groups and in various diverse contexts. (3 credits)

**SCWK-5313. Social Policy in the Canadian Context (MSW Foundational Year and MWBSW students)**

Concepts in policy planning are studied, along with an examination of the process of planned change from problem identification to programming. Consideration will be given to the political arena, the bureaucracy and roles of the politician, and the public servant. Three hours per week.

**SCWK-5713. Introduction to Research Methods in Social Work (Indigenous Focus) (MWBSW)**

This class provides an introduction to Indigenous and Western research paradigms and methods with an emphasis on social workers as social justice researchers. Students will learn about a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The focus will be on social justice oriented qualitative research methods, mainly Indigenous, anti-oppressive, and other critical approaches. Some quantitative methods endorsed by Indigenous scholars and communities will be highlighted.

**SCWK-5733. Social Work and Aging (MWBSW)**

An examination of present services to the aging population in New Brunswick, and elsewhere, including the analysis of knowledge and practice principles as developed in the field of gerontological practice.

**SCWK-5763. Spirituality and Social Work (Indigenous Focus) (MWBSW)**

This course explores the role of spirituality in social work, and to identify how the spiritual dimension can be incorporated into social work practice. Students are exposed to a discussion of the religious/spiritual dimensions of human behavior and the impact religion and/or spiritual issues have on individual growth, community functioning, policy development, and social change. Students will also have an opportunity to reconcile their spiritual beliefs with professional expectations and to develop a beginning level of comfort and competence at integrating the spiritual in practice.

**SCWK-5813. Indigenous Child Welfare (MWBSW)**

This course will provide theoretical frameworks and practice skills relevant to the field of child welfare in Native communities in Canada. As well, the course will review historical development and cultural factors which influence Native child welfare policies, services, and programmes.

**SCWK-5853. Mental Health Issues (MWBSW)**

This course examines mental health issues encountered by the professional with an emphasis on practice and policy implications. Students have an opportunity to explore the context of practice from a historical perspective and to critically examine the current mental health delivery system in New Brunswick. The role of the professional and professional interventions will be examined.

**SCWK-5863. Social Work and Addictions (MWBSW)**

In this course students develop an understanding of the components of substance abuse as well as the addictive process. Topics will include the various mood-altering drugs, the components of early identification, assessment and treatment, harm reduction, and health promotion programs.

**SCWK-5923. Trauma & Social Work Practice (MWBSW)**

This course introduces social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities who are coping with the impact of trauma in their lives. The goals of this course involve students developing and demonstrating a critical understanding of trauma theory in its historical, political and social contexts; knowledge of practice approaches to trauma work; application of this knowledge through assessment and beginning intervention skills; self-awareness in relation to traumatic material. Exploration of trauma theory beyond the dominant individualized, westernized, and medical model will be emphasized in the course. Ethical issues and exploration of personal and professional values, as they pertain to trauma work, will be incorporated into class material.

**SCWK-5943. Ethics in Social Work Practice (MSW Foundational Year)**

Using a case study approach that draws upon practice experiences of New Brunswick social workers, this course explores ethical issues and dilemmas across population groups, and levels and fields of practice. The goals of this course involve students developing and demonstrating a critical understanding of ethics theory situated within a sociopolitical and cultural context; knowledge of common ethical issues in social work practice and ethical guidelines impacting on practice; application of this knowledge through assessment and ethical decision making skills; and self-awareness in relation to these issues.

**SCWK-6013. Advanced Theory for Direct Practice I**

This course is an advanced theory and practice course for students enrolled in the MSW degree program. It critically analyzes social work practice including discourse, anti-oppressive and structural practice theories, and the nature of practice knowledge. The course also emphasizes the integration of theory and practice and an understanding of the structural contexts in which social work operates. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6023. Advanced Theory for Direct Practice II**

This course is an advanced theory and practice course for students enrolled in the MSW degree program. It critically analyzes social work practice including discourse, anti-oppressive and structural practice theories, and the nature of practice knowledge. The course also emphasizes the integration of theory and practice and an understanding of the structural contexts in which social work operates. Pre-requisites: SCWK 6013, Adv. Theory of Direct Practice I. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6033. Advanced Theory for Social Administration**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth and advanced understanding of organizational management in human services. We will review and critically analyze major theories of organizational change and administration including ethics and diversity, promoting positive organizational culture, program design and administration, funding and accountability, strategic management, change management, and the analysis of power and empowerment in supervisory positions. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6043. Advanced Theory for Social Policy**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth and advanced understanding of Canadian social policy including: ideological and economics factors influencing policy; key structures, policies and issues in Canadian social policy; and how social workers can effect policy change. We will examine various paradigms in social policy analysis, introduce basic concepts and theories, explore specific areas of contemporary policy and real world aspects of policy analysis and development as well as critically examine the structural intersectionality of social policy issues. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6053. Research & Evaluation in Social Work (Qualitative)**

This course prepares students to understand and critically use research in evaluating social work direct and indirect practice. In addition to critically reviewing the theoretical underpinnings of social work practice, there will be an emphasis on the integration of research and practice. Relevant qualitative methods for social work practice will be explored. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6063. Research & Evaluation in Social Work II (Quantitative)**

This course stresses the importance of evidence-based theory and practice approaches. It also builds on research knowledge and skills learned in prior research methods courses. The course draws on materials from social work practice and social work research principles to develop a professional practice evaluation methodology for social work practice. Prerequisite: SCWK SCWK6053 Research and Evaluation in Social Work I (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6093. Seminar for Research Proposals (MSW Thesis Students)**

This course prepares students for undertaking a thesis. It is a student-led seminar series, providing students the opportunity to share ideas and support each other through the research process. The seminars will cover: Planning and writing your thesis; Research ideas and design; Literature searching and review; Choosing methods appropriate to your study; Applying for ethics approval; Knowledge transfer. (3 credit hours)

**SCWK-6103. Field Integration Seminar**

This course focuses on critical integration and transfer of knowledge, values, and skills derived from academic course work, experience, and within field placements. Students will be expected to identify, apply, critique, and evaluate social work practice methods and conceptual frameworks in a practice setting, using structured reflection and self-evaluation to understand their own practice in terms of ethics, values, policies, theoretical models, structural models, and agency expectations. Emphasis is placed on critical reflection and evidence informed advanced practice theory and skill development. (3 credit hours)



### **SCWK-6119. Advanced Field Placement**

This course provides practical field experience working with individuals, groups, and/or communities at an advanced level, in an approved field placement setting, under agency and faculty supervision focusing on the integration of classroom and field learning. The Advanced Practicum provides Students with an opportunity to be placed in a social work field setting where they receive professional field instruction and supervision. The focus is on developing advanced knowledge and skills for direct practice with individuals, families and groups. (9 credit hours)

### **SCWK-6129. Thesis**

The Master's thesis should demonstrate that the student has mastery of a particular field and is fully conversant with the relevant literature. The thesis is based on independent study and scholarly research which is of a theoretical, empirical or historical focus. The purpose of the thesis option is to build or test theory, explore an issue or concept, or address an aspect of social work history through a focused independent study.

## **ELECTIVES - MSW PROGRAM**

### **SCWK-6073. Social Work in Health Care**

This course introduces the multiple roles social workers play in health care delivery, and explores challenges faced by social workers in these settings. The course highlights a multidimensional approach to health, and describes the social determinants of health framework to link critical social work to health care. Legal and clinical issues social workers encounter within a complex and rapidly changing health care system will be explored. Students will have an opportunity to explore health care policies, as well as foundational clinical skills commonly used in hospitals, rehabilitation, family practice and long-term care. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-6083. Leadership & Supervision in Human Service Organizations**

Most professional social workers must learn to practice within the framework of human service organizations. This course will provide students with knowledge and practical skills to assume leadership and management positions in public and nonprofit organizations. Students will learn how to develop and lead effective and ethical teams and organizations that value diversity and build the capacities of staff and service users. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-6113. Practice Teaching and Learning in Social Work**

This course is aimed at MSW students who want to develop their knowledge and skills in supervising students on placement. It covers the key elements of adult education: andragogy (adult learning), experiential learning, paragogy (peer learning), and heutogy (self-directed learning); practice teaching and learning; theory and practice of social work supervision; establishing learning contracts; ethics in supervision; organizational aspects of student placements; and, EDIA in practice teaching and learning. (3 credit hours)

### **SCWK-6193. Narrative Social Work: Theory and Application**

This course introduces students to key elements of narrative theory and how these might be applied to both social work as a discipline and in social work practice. In three parts, the course covers narrative theory; the basics of narrative therapy; and, narrative in social work organizations and professional development. The course will build on students' experience of working in social work agencies through lectures, case studies, reflection, experiential exercises, and group work.

## ELECTIVES - BSW PROGRAM

### **SCWK-3973. Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Analysis (SOC GERO PSYC ENGL)**

Framed around three key approaches to narrative this course will provide students with the basis on which to develop their understanding of narrative and their skills in narrative analysis. The three approaches are: the narrative study of lives; the narrative analysis of texts; and, the analysis of narrative dynamics. Through these approaches students will be introduced to the work of key narrative thinkers. The course, in content and delivery, reflects the interdisciplinary nature of narrative.

### **SCWK-4733. Social Work and Aging**

An examination of present services to the aging population in New Brunswick, and elsewhere, including the analysis of knowledge and practice principles as developed in the field of gerontological practice.

### **SCWK-4763. Spirituality and Social Work**

This course explores the role of spirituality in social work, and to identify how the spiritual dimension can be incorporated into social work practice. Students are exposed to a discussion of the religious/spiritual dimensions of human behavior and the impact religion and/or spiritual issues have on individual growth, community functioning, policy development, and social change. Students will also have an opportunity to reconcile their spiritual beliefs with professional expectations and to develop a beginning level of comfort and competence at integrating the spiritual in practice.

### **SCWK-4843. Social Work With the Bereaved**

This course familiarizes students with the impact that loss has on one's everyday life, to examine theoretically the concepts of grief and bereavement, and to be able to integrate those theories into social work practice. Loss at multiple levels will be explored; including loss experienced through ill health, breakup of relationships, life-changing events, and death. Grief counselling theories and skills will be integral components of the course.

### **SCWK-4853. Mental Health Issues and Professional Practice**

This course examines mental health issues encountered by the professional with an emphasis on practice and policy implications. Students have an opportunity to explore the context of practice from a historical perspective and to critically examine the current mental health delivery system in New Brunswick. The role of the professional and professional interventions will be examined.

### **SCWK-4863. Social Work and Addictions**

In this course students develop an understanding of the components of substance abuse as well as the addictive process. Topics will include the various mood-altering drugs, the components of early identification, assessment and treatment, harm reduction, and health promotion programs.

### **SCWK-4923. Trauma and Social Work Practice**

This course introduces social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities who are coping with the impact of trauma in their lives. The goals of this course involve students developing and demonstrating a critical understanding of trauma theory in its historical, political and social contexts; knowledge of practice approaches to trauma

work; application of this knowledge through assessment and beginning intervention skills; self-awareness in relation to traumatic material. Exploration of trauma theory beyond the dominant individualized, westernized, and medical model will be emphasized in the course. Ethical issues and exploration of personal and professional values, as they pertain to trauma work, will be incorporated into class material.

**SCWK-4963. Narrative for Social Workers**

This course will explore the theory and practice of narrative as it relates to social work. Integrating narrative theory with personal and professional experience, the course will provide an opportunity for students to explore how narrative can provide a creative and constructive way of working with service users, both individually and collectively. The course will cover narrative theory, narrative therapy, thinking with stories for personal and professional development and working with narratives in groups and with those who are narratively dispossessed.