



College of Social Work

ONLINE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The College of Social Work is committed to preparing the next generation of social work professionals through our BSW, MSW, and Ph.D. programs. We share the moral idea best expressed by one of the profession's founders, Nobel Laureate Jane Addams: "The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

Our professors are skilled practitioners, educators, and researchers who mentor students to become effective, ethical, and committed social work professionals. Our faculty and staff are eager to connect with each student as a person, and our team strives to be accessible and responsive as students navigate their exciting and rigorous pathways as scholars.

As the oldest program in Florida and one of the first programs in the Southeast, we are well established as a center of social work practice, policy, and research. Importantly, we are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, which opens up a world of opportunities for students charting successful careers in one of America's fastest-growing professions.

Our graduates are respected leaders in government, international NGOs, and other domains of public service who are making crucial impacts on social policy across the nation and the world. They are practice and organizational leaders in health and behavioral health, child welfare, criminal justice, gerontology, social justice, community development, law, business, and higher education — just to name a few. Alumni are also changing lives as clinical social workers who serve children, adolescents, adults, and families with approaches promoting wellbeing, dignity, and liberty.

The College recruits one of the most diverse student cohorts on FSU's campus. This gives each student the opportunity to learn from colleagues who bring amazing professional experiences and life histories to our classrooms and field placements. Our professors and students embrace the robust conversations and intellectual adventures that cultural and social diversity bring. I invite you to explore this website to read about our research institutes, online and off-campus programs, international programs, field opportunities, certificates and joint degree offerings, and faculty accomplishments.

We are very proud to have you join our outstanding professors, staff, alumni, community partners, and scholars!

Jim Clark, Ph.D., LCSW
Dean and Professor



ABOUT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Florida State University is a nationally recognized, student-centric institution that takes pride in offering challenging yet invigorating academic programs, open communication with students, and opportunities for students to assume leadership roles that help them develop leadership skills.

In addition to 16 on campus colleges that offer more than 275 undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctorate programs, Florida State University also offers a Master of Social Work online. The online program is 100 percent online and accessible to students throughout the United States. When you enroll in Florida State University Online, you join a body of more than 40,000 students who have chosen Florida State based on its focus on students, stimulating academic opportunities, and the pride of joining a culture unmatched in community strength.

Florida State University Highlights:

STUDENT-CENTRIC

- More than 40,000 students choose Florida State as their academic institution and alma mater
- Ranked as one of the top 100 graduate programs in social work (No. 38, *U.S. News & World Report*), Florida State offers students a prestigious program with a history of success
- Enjoy working and collaborating closely with 35 faculty and staff in a warm, caring environment
- In addition to online studies, FSU has four campuses in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Panama City, and Gainesville

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

- Florida State University has offered classes on social welfare for more than 100 years
- FSU is the first university in the U.S. to offer a Master of Social Work online
- An emphasis on classroom theory applied to real world scenarios makes the College of Social Work one of the top programs to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, FSU is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.



WHY FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY ONLINE?

COMMITMENT TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The mission of the College of Social Work at FSU is: “[To] prepare professional social workers to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of diverse populations with particular attention to the empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, or living in poverty.”

Through intensive classroom study and a focus on fieldwork, Florida State University is the top MSW program in Florida according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

By joining a culture of creativity, community, and respect, online students become a part of larger community that “upholds the garnet and gold” through a commitment to student success while offering flexibility in terms of three satellite campuses, the main campus, and the convenience of online education.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FSU’S ONLINE MSW PROGRAM

- Earn a degree from a top-rated institution no matter where you are in the U.S.
- Choose from two tracks offering flexibility for each student — Advanced or Traditional:
 - **Advanced Standing** — For students who already have their Bachelor of Social Work and are looking to obtain their Master of Social Work
 - **Traditional** — For students who have their bachelor’s degree in another concentration and wish to obtain their Master of Social Work
- Take advantage of fieldwork opportunities across multiple states, so you’ll go from the classroom to the clinic and apply theory to real world situations
- Take up to two courses at a time
- While studying or after completing the program, enjoy support and access to the College of Social Work’s Office of Professional Development
- A Student Success Advisor will be with you every step of the way
- Connect with your classroom, faculty, and colleagues, no matter where you might be studying, through FSU’s Blackboard online interface

COMMITMENT TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE



FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL LOANS

The U.S. Department of Education offers the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. It is a direct loan program where the U.S. Department of Education is the lender.

Four types of direct loans are available (click on the link below for more information):

- [Direct subsidized loans](#)
- [Direct unsubsidized loans](#)
- [Direct PLUS loans](#)
- [Direct consolidation loans](#)

Students with exceptional financial need can apply for the school-based loan program, The Federal Perkins Loan Program. Under this program, Florida State University is the lender.

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS

The federal government, nonprofit organizations, or state governments may offer grants. Apply to grants you might be eligible for.

PRIVATE LOANS

Private loans have a higher interest rate than federal financial aid; however, if you need more funding for college, you can seek out a private lending agency. FSU cannot recommend private lenders.



APPLY FOR FEDERAL AID

1. Complete the FAFSA, also known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, at fafsa.ed.gov. The Florida State University school code is 001489.
2. Go to studentloans.gov and complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Loan.
3. Once you hand in all the required documents, you will receive an Award Letter.
4. You can choose to accept or decline any of the aid listed on your Award Letter.

For a complete list of federal eligibility requirements, visit the [Federal Student Aid](#) website.

MILITARY BENEFITS*

Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

An educational benefit program exists for veterans who served active duty on or after Sept. 10, 2001.

Chapters 30, 31, 32, & 34

Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans.

Benefits paid 10 years after release from active duty.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (Chapter 35)

Eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and/or totally disabled due to a service related condition or who died while on active duty as a result of a service related condition may receive up to 45 months of education benefits.

Montgomery GI Bill — Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) (Chapter 1606 and 1607)

If you are a member of the Selected Reserve, you may be eligible. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard and Air National Guard. The Selected Reserve components determine eligibility. Eligible participants may receive 36 months of education benefits. Entitlement ends 14 years from date of eligibility of the program or the day the participant leaves the Selected Reserve.

*For more information about military benefits, contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551.



“The good social worker doesn’t go on mechanically helping people out of a ditch. Pretty soon, she/he begins to find out what ought to be done to get rid of the ditch.”

— Mary Richmond —

ONLINE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Prestige and status as a top ranking university come as the result of creating a space of collaboration, communication, and caring in the MSW program at FSU. You’ll be asked to solve real world problems based on in-class and in-the-field training. Through close work with faculty, staff, and working with your online peers, FSU will change the way you see care. FSU was the first in the world to offer an online Master of Social Work and has continued to be a leader in preparing the next generation of MSW graduates for success in their respective careers.

Graduates with an MSW have many career avenues they can choose to pursue, including work in child welfare; educational counseling across primary, secondary, and collegiate levels; substance abuse counseling; and more.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students must have a bachelor's degree and have good standing at prior institutions. You must also complete the College of Social Work application; submit a personal statement; and provide references, two employment or personal references and two academic references. In addition, students must submit a transcript with all undergraduate and graduate courses. If you’re still in a BSW program, you must submit a second official transcript with degree posted. GRE scores are sent from the Educational Testing Service (FSU’s code is 5219) to the Florida State University Office of Admissions.

If applicable, students must have earned a 3.0 or better on everything past the first 60 hours of undergraduate courses. In the case of some students, the applicant must provide proof that he or she has earned a degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution/international institution.

Applicants also must have a strong liberal arts base with either a degree or 36 hours of coursework in the following areas:

- Mathematics (6 hours)
- English (6 hours)
- History/ Social Sciences (6-12 hours)
- Humanities/Fine Arts (5-11 hours)
- Natural Science (7 hours)

Advanced standing MSW applicants MUST submit a copy of a final BSW internship evaluation form or a letter of reference from their field instructor. They must meet all general admissions requirements and have a minimum of 400 hours of educationally based field education in generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities.

PETITION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATION

If you don’t meet the 3.0 grade point average requirement, you may file a petition that explains exceptional qualities or experience that may, in certain instances, qualify you for the program.



MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK - ADVANCED STANDING

The Advanced Standing program is designed for students who have completed their Bachelor of Social Work from a Council on Social Work Education program or students looking to transfer from a two year traditional CSWE-accredited Master of Social Work program who have completed one year of their studies to include a generalist field placement.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- 39 credit hours
- Pace: Two courses at a time
- Courses are 16 weeks; summer may have 12 or 13 week courses depending on the year
- Average completion time: Two years
- Residencies: one field placement

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK - TRADITIONAL TRACK

Students who have a bachelor degree and meet all admissions requirements are able to participate in the traditional track program regardless of your undergraduate degree concentration.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- 61 credit hours — must have bachelor degree
- Pace: Two courses at a time
- Courses are 16 weeks; summer may have 12 or 13week courses depending on the year
- Average completion time: Three years
- Residencies:
 - Two mandatory weekends of face to face (second and third semesters)
 - Two field placements

TUITION:

ADVANCED STANDING

In-state tuition: \$21,811.14 — \$559.26 per credit hour
Out-of-state tuition: \$24,375 — \$625 (market rate) per credit hour

TRADITIONAL TRACK

In-state tuition: \$34,114.86 — \$559.26 per credit hour
Out-of-state tuition: \$38,125 — \$625 (market rate) per credit hour

FOR BOTH TRACKS:

Rates: Determination of whether or not a student is eligible for in state tuition depends on his or her classification as a Florida resident. For example, if you are new to the Florida area, but have not established residency, you may have to pay the out of state tuition.

In terms of market rate tuition, out of state students who attend the main campus pay the in state tuition plus an out of state tuition differential of approximately \$1,110 per credit hour. Those participating in the online program pay approximately \$625 per credit hour, about a \$400 difference between a student paying for the main campus experience and the online student in terms of market rate tuition.



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK?

Social work professionals have access to a variety of different career paths that include specializing in mental health, health care, substance abuse, child welfare, and gerontology. Legal, educational, and international social work are also options that may be available to an MSW graduate.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social workers stand to make more than \$40,000 a year with more than 600,000 jobs that may be available to individuals who specialize in the field. With FSU's Online Master of Social Work, you'll become part of a prestigious cohort of individuals and distinguished alumni who have been innovators as well as trailblazers in the field.

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MSW PROFESSIONALS MIGHT WORK IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS:

- Military bases
- Schools, universities, and other educational institutions
- Hospitals, medical clinics, and outpatient care centers
- Family service agencies
- Substance abuse rehabilitation facilities
- Private practice
- Community-based and nonprofit organizations
- Internationally focused organizations or programs
- Government agencies
- Corporations and high-profile business settings

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You'll learn how to diagnose and treat individuals, couples, and groups in a variety of settings. In addition, you'll help clients gain access to community resources, and you may work with other service professionals to aid clients. You'll also learn how to evaluate and implement best practices in your own practice and/or organization.



CURRICULUM

SOW 5034: THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION (3 CREDITS)

This course surveys the philosophy, history, and services of social welfare and the purpose, objectives, values, ethics, methods, and practice settings of the profession of social work. Attention is given to the role that social work and social welfare policies play in promoting social and economic justice for oppressed groups. This course includes a required 30 hours of volunteer work (can be credited for service learning).

SOW 5105: HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (HBSE) (3 CREDITS)

This course focuses on reciprocal relationships between human behavior and social environments. Content includes empirically based theories and knowledge that focus on the interactions between and among systems of all sizes, including individuals, groups, societies, and economic systems. Theories and knowledge of biological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and spiritual development across the lifespan are critiqued, especially as they relate to at-risk populations. In addition, theories and knowledge about the range of social systems (individual, family, group, organizational, and community) in which people live are examined, including the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well-being.

SOW 5125: Psychopathology in Clinical Practice (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of mental health assessment and diagnostic tools, including the Diagnostic Statistical Manual diagnostic categories, and touches on treatment strategies and techniques. Building on the knowledge base acquired in the foundation course SOW 5105, student will learn about the relationship between the biological, psychological, social, environmental, and cultural influences and emotional and mental health from an ecological context. Particular attention is given to variations in the assessment process and access to treatment for populations at social and economic risk. In addition, students examine the political and social implications of mental health and their relationship to social work values and ethics.

SOW 5235: SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES (3 CREDITS)

This course provides an initial opportunity to investigate the relationships among individual and collective social welfare and public policy in American society from a social work perspective, with emphasis placed on understanding these relationships in terms of social and economic justice. Particular attention is paid to acquisition of skills necessary to engage in policy advocacy and formulation consistent with social work values and ethics, fostering an appreciation for the roles played by social workers in the development of the American welfare state, and reviewing the history of the social work profession.

SOW 5308: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (3 CREDITS)

The course provides students with an understanding of the social work profession's history, mission, values, ethics, and roles. Content on generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities is covered, and attention is given to working with ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, and disabled people.

SOW 5324: SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES (3 CREDITS)

This course focuses on development of the generalist group practice skills of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with social work clients, community groups, and organizations. This class covers practice skills that contribute to group effectiveness, including composition, structure, dynamics, goal setting, and evaluation. Students will learn to respond to contexts that shape practice by recognizing social, political, economic, and environmental influences and applying them to social work practice. Content also includes examining the empirical base of a range of theories and models of group facilitation with clients, community groups, and organizations.



CURRICULUM CONTINUED

SOW 5369: INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR IN ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (3 CREDITS)

This course integrates theoretical models and concepts with practice gained in internships. The course utilizes an ecosystems perspective, focusing on the dynamic interaction between the individual, family, communities, organizations, and other social systems. A major focus is on the social worker's role in responding effectively to the challenges of working with these systems and exploring their own personal views of such issues as ethics, gender, ethnic minorities, gays, lesbians, and disabled people. (Corequisite: SOW 5535)

SOW 5376: BUDGETING AND FINANCE IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES (3 CREDITS)

This course emphasizes the political and technical skills of budgeting and financial management, source development via grant writing and fundraising, government contracting, fiscal reporting, and payroll management.

SOW 5377: PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES (3 CREDITS)

This course develops students' skills in personnel management in human service organizations to ensure effective service delivery to clients. Attention is given to staff management approaches, staff supervision, employee recruitment and retention, motivation, job design, staff development, and issues of diversity.

SOW 5404: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH (3 CREDITS)

This course introduces students to qualitative and quantitative research methods to provide an understanding of a scientific, analytic, and ethical approach to building knowledge for practice. Students' mastery of course content prepares them to develop, use, and effectively communicate empirically based knowledge. Students use research knowledge to provide high-quality services; initiate change; improve practice, policy, and social service delivery; and evaluate their own practice from an evidence-based perspective.

SOW 5432: EVALUATION OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (3 CREDITS)

Major emphasis is given to the use of single systems designs in client assessment and evaluation. Students consider the philosophical and ethical aspects of an evaluative approach to treatment and examine the policy implications of professional participation (or lack thereof) in evaluation processes. Topics will include the operational "diagnosis" of client problems; measurement and monitoring of symptoms, goals, and interventions; and analysis, interpretation, and reporting of case material for accountable social work practice. Issues of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability will be explored through application of course content to appropriate case examples. (Prerequisite: SOW 5404 or BSW equivalent)

SOW 5435: SOCIAL PROGRAM AND POLICY EVALUATION (3 CREDITS)

This course presents the historical and contemporary importance of social program evaluation and research methods. The course focuses on applied qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods that are useful to managers, public administrators, and policy analysts. Particular emphasis is placed on evidence-based procedures/methods that will be useful for social work administrators when designing and carrying out evaluations of social programs and policies. Students will also explore how programs and policies can further the cause of social and economic justice for oppressed and disadvantaged groups. (Prerequisite: SOW 5404 or BSW equivalent)

SOW 5455: GRANT WRITING AND GRANT MANAGEMENT (3 CREDITS)

While funding agencies may have their own guidelines, there are some commonalities among grant proposals. This course will cover the basics of proposals: purpose statements, background and justification, aims or objectives, personnel, timeline, methods, budget, evaluation, and how to effectively manage grants once they are funded. Particularly in the public and not-for-profit sector, grants may be necessary to expand the type or number of resources available to clients; therefore, grant writing is related to social work objectives that stress access to and availability of resources. The needs of disenfranchised groups or communities will be discussed in this course, along with the particulars of proposals that may be most effective in meeting such needs.



CURRICULUM CONTINUED

SOW 5532: GRADUATE FIELD INSTRUCTION I (5-10 CREDITS)

This course is required for first-year graduate students and taken concurrently with coursework. Students are provided with a supervised generalist social work practice experience in a variety of settings. (Prerequisite: SOW 5308 or BSW equivalent)

MSW SOW 5535: GRADUATE FIELD INSTRUCTION II (6-12 CREDITS)

This course is required for advanced graduate students and taken concurrently with Integrative Seminar in Advanced Social Work Practice. All coursework must be completed.

SOW 5603: SOCIAL WORK IN HEALTH SETTINGS (3 CREDITS)

This course focuses on social work practice in health settings from a “person-in-environment” perspective, preparing students with an understanding of the roles that social workers play in health settings, the structure of health care delivery systems, organizational and professional ethics and standards, challenges we face in health care policy, patient issues, and how to help address these issues. Specific knowledge and skills in a healthcare setting are addressed, including biopsychosocial assessments, chart documentation, treatment planning, and discharge planning.

SOW 5611: FAMILY COUNSELING IN SOCIAL WORK (3 CREDITS)

This course introduces students to various theoretical models of family counseling and presents assessment and intervention strategies and techniques.

SOW 5614: FAMILY VIOLENCE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (3 CREDITS)

This course, looking at violence across the lifespan, provides an ecological perspective emphasizing the interconnections between individuals experiencing violence and their social environments. Emphasis is placed upon broad coverage of all-important aspects of child abuse, incest, intimate partner violence, rape, and elder abuse. This course is appropriate for students who wish to gain skill in detecting and responding to incest situations for clients, sexual assault survivors, and victims of intimate partner violence or elder abuse.

SOW 5646: GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK (3 CREDITS)

This course introduces students to the field of social gerontology and gerontological social work. The class provides an overview of a variety of topics such as the demography of aging and the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial aspects of aging. The course also covers health care and social policies that impact older persons and caregivers, along with the aging network of services. How forms of oppression such as ageism, sexism, racism, ablebodyism, beautyism, and homophobia impact our work with older people are discussed, along with how to promote dignity, self-determination, and social and economic justice for older persons. The role of both informal and formal support networks is stressed as students learn to comprehensively assess older clients and devise intervention and evaluation plans.

SOW 5648: PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF AGING (3 CREDITS)

This course covers age and health demographics, along with attitudes toward aging and health. Basic cellular and molecular theories of aging will be presented, along with how the human body’s organ systems typically change over time. Pathologies associated with aging and psychosocial responses to normal and pathological changes will be discussed. Such responses will be viewed within a sociocultural context. Support services and resources for older individuals and their caregivers will be addressed.

SOW 5656: CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE (3 CREDITS)

This course provides a framework of values, knowledge, and skills necessary to practice with vulnerable children and their families. The major focus is on social work in public child welfare and children’s mental health agencies. The course utilizes an ecosystem perspective for understanding and assessing the special needs of at-risk children and families. Specific attention will focus on assessing families and children using the state of Florida’s risk and safety assessment protocols as well as other family assessment instruments.



CURRICULUM CONTINUED

SOW 5659: MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE (3 CREDITS)

This course provides students with knowledge and skills related to the theory, research, and implications of child and adolescent maltreatment for child development and psychopathology. Course content is presented within the context of child welfare practice and social work with children and adolescents in public agencies and programs. Particular attention will be given to common psychological disorders that result from maltreatment and accompanying treatment issues. Issues related to individuals, families, groups, and communities are covered and attention is given to working with ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, and persons with disabilities.

SOW 5712: CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS (3 CREDITS)

This course includes discussions, readings, lectures, and audio-visual materials on all the major drugs, including alcohol, opiates, stimulants, sedatives, hallucinogens, inhalants, and nicotine. We cover the etiology and epidemiology of drug abuse, physiological and behavioral consequences of drug abuse, treatment approaches, and major policies and programs. Special attention is directed toward drug use in special populations, such as women, racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, persons with other disabilities, and the elderly. We also spend a considerable amount of time discussing social work with involuntary clients, since most persons receiving treatment for chemical dependency probably fall into this category. A systems perspective will be used to relate drug-using behavior to family, community, and social systems.

SOW 5785: INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK (3 CREDITS)

This course prepares students for international social work practice abroad and/or for transnational work with immigrants, refugees, international migrants, etc. It presents an introduction to international perspectives in the field of social work and to varied examples of social work practice in the United States, Western and Central Europe, and the Caribbean nations — three very diverse regions of the world in which social issues present contrasting challenges to the profession. In providing an overview of the social work profession internationally, it examines the impact of global interdependence on social work practice and policy as current challenges are faced in the developed and developing world. Within the framework of the social work international code of ethics, students will learn to critically analyze varied practice approaches utilized in dealing with international social welfare issues.

SOW 5807: CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (3 CREDITS)

This advanced practice course emphasizes development of clinical skills. Students will refine their clinical skills, building on the research-based, nonspecific (common factors) components of therapeutic work (i.e., therapeutic alliance, empathy, goal consensus/collaboration, positive regard/affirmation, and genuineness) and specific factors (validated treatments). The course provides in-depth coverage of three empirically based models; Solution Focused, Motivational Interviewing, and Interpersonal Therapy. Learning applications of techniques informed by these models provides opportunities to enhance professional use of self. The course examines similarities and differences among models and allows students to discern appropriate use of techniques, client populations, settings, and problem interactions. Students will develop competency in the ethical and strength-based use of these models.

SOW 5938r: SELECTED TOPICS (3 CREDITS)

The selected topic courses are offered on a variety of issues and may be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. (Check schedule for different special topics courses to be offered.)



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The College of Social Work's Office of Professional Development provides a variety of services to students, alumni, and other social work professionals.

Some of the services offered include letting individuals know about continuing education opportunities, career advancement through

FSU's College of Social Work online job board, and helping students/alumni through the licensure process. Requirements may vary by state, so be sure to find out what's required by contacting your state board of licensing and handing the verification forms over to the FSU College of Social Work.



SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE

Florida has two forms of licensing: licensed clinical social worker and certified master social worker. For those moving to Florida from another state, licensure by endorsement is required for clinical social workers.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

To qualify as a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Florida, a Master of Social Work degree is required. The individual must have completed 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in the following:

- Theory of human behaviors and practice methods in clinically oriented services
- A minimum of one course in psychopathology in a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education

He or she must also have completed a supervised field placement that was part of the concentration in direct practice. The applicant must have provided clinical service to clients. He or she must also have two years of post master supervised experience under a qualified supervisor who is a clinical licensed social worker. Under that supervision, the applicant must have provided at least 1,500 hours in which he or she aided clients with face-to-face psychotherapy.

In addition, he or she must have had 100 hours out of each 1,500 hours psychotherapy face-to-face with intern provided clients, at least one hour of supervision every two weeks, and at least one hour of supervision per 15 hours of psychotherapy.

In addition, he or she must have had a minimum of one hour of supervision every two weeks. In the case of group supervision, every hour of group supervision must alternate with an hour of individual supervision. The definition of "individual supervision" involves one supervisor supervising no more than two interns. The definition of "group supervision" is one supervisor supervising no more than two interns with an allowed maximum of six interns. Individuals must pass the Association of Social Work Boards' national clinical level examination, pass an eight hour rules and laws course, and complete additional classes:

- Two-hour medical prevention course
- Three-hour HIV/AIDS course
- Two-hour domestic violence course from an approved provider

CERTIFIED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER

A certified master social worker license will not authorize/allow the provision of social services by a certified master social worker.

He or she must have a master degree of social work degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited university while placing an emphasis on administration or clinical practice.

In addition, three years of experience are required, two of which must be post master's supervision under the watch of an individual who meets requirements for certification as a certified master social worker or licensed clinical social worker.

You must also pass the national advanced generalist test examination of the Association of Social Work Boards. An eight-hour laws and rules course and a two-hour prevention of medical errors course must be taken from an approved provider.

LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

If you are moving to Florida from another state, you can qualify for licensure if you hold a license and have been actively practicing in another state for three of the last five years before you apply for licensure. You must meet the requirements set by Florida and pass the national examination for licensure in Florida or may pass again with Board approval. You must also complete an eight-hour laws and rules course and a two-hour prevention of medical errors course.

The Florida Board has a [Facts and Questions](#) page available.



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