Overview

Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, this Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), offered through Colorado State University’s School of Social Work, provides the basis for obtaining your state social work license.

Our social work master’s degree features a nationally-recognized advanced generalist curriculum. This perspective recognizes that practice is informed by socio-behavioral and ecosystems knowledge rooted in ideologies that include democracy, humanism, and empowerment.

This is a part-time degree program designed for working professionals, allowing you to learn from experienced and knowledgeable CSU faculty members through a combination of face-to-face and online social work classes. We offer a traditional, three year M.S.W. program as well as a two year Advanced Standing program. To qualify for the Advanced Standing program, you must have earned a bachelor’s degree in social work (B.S.W.) no more than seven years ago. For both programs, in-person instruction is held twice per semester in the spring, summer, and fall in Colorado Springs, CO and in Denver (starting spring 2017). The ability to guide client-centered interventions is crucial to success in social work careers, making these in-person sessions with student-to-student interactions and role plays an invaluable part of this social work master’s degree.

Since starting this program, I have a better understanding and more tools for helping my clients. I have so many more tools now than I ever had in the previous 25 years of working in this field. With my work schedule, this program was the best fit for me. It worked out so very well.

Earl Poteet
Pikes Peak Pathways Program

Delivery

Colorado Springs (current cohort) or Denver (starting Spring 2017)

Location

Colorado Springs:
Tim Gill Center for Public Media
315 East Costilla Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Denver:
410 17th St.
Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202

Credits

62 credits for traditional MSW and 45 credits for Advanced Standing.

Tuition

$619 per credit; financial aid is available

Time Frame

Traditional MSW can be completed in 3 years and Advanced Standing MSW can be completed in 2 years.

Degree Awarded

Master of Social Work

Offered By

School of Social Work

Learn More

online.colostate.edu/degrees/social-work
Curriculum

Year 1
- SOWK 500 – Principles and Philosophy of Social Work (3 cr)
- SOWK 511 – Generalist Practice - Small Client Systems (3 cr)
- SOWK 512 – Small Client Systems Skills Lab (1 cr)
- SOWK 515 – Theoretical Foundations for Social Work (4 cr)
- SOWK 520 – Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3 cr)
- SOWK 588 – Foundation Field Placement (3 cr)
- SOWK 611 – Generalist Practice - Large Client Systems (3 cr)

Year 2
- SOWK 588 – Foundation Field Placement (3 cr)
- SOWK 600 – Methods of Research I (3 cr)
- SOWK 601 – Methods of Research II (3 cr)
- SOWK 688 – Concentration Field Placement (3 cr)
- SOWK 630 – Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals (2 cr)
- SOWK 632 – Advanced Practice: Manager/Administrator (3 cr)
- Elective* (2-3 cr)

Year 3
- SOWK 688 – Advanced Field Placement (12 cr)
- SOWK 602A – Macro-Level Social Work Practice Research (2 cr)
  OR
- SOWK 603A – Direct Practice Assessment and Evaluation (2 cr)
- SOWK 631 – Advanced Practice with Communities (2 cr)
- SOWK 633 – Advanced Practice: Social Welfare Policy (2 cr)
- SOWK 634 – Advanced Practice with Families and Groups (3 cr)
- SOWK 602B – Macro-Level Social Work Practice Research (2 cr)
  OR
- SOWK 603B – Direct Practice Assessment and Evaluation (2 cr)
- Elective* (2-3 cr)

*Elective can be any SOWK course offered through CSU Online. Other electives outside the School of Social Work are possible but should be discussed and approved by School of Social Work advisor.

Minimum Admission Requirements
- At least 400 hours of verifiable human service work and/or volunteer experience
- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited institution
- Admission to the Advanced Standing cohort requires students to have earned a bachelor’s degree in social work within the last 7 years from an accredited B.S.W. program
- 18 credits in social and behavioral sciences including: statistics, human biology, human life cycle development covering the life span
- 9 credits in any combination of the following courses: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, anthropology, or history; these courses must be completed and transcripts received by the first day of classes
- 3.0 GPA (4.0 scale) – occasional exceptions may be made if applicant demonstrates ability to successfully complete graduate-level work
- GRE scores are not required

Completion Requirements
- 62 credits over nine semesters