

Dual MSW/MS in Special Education/Applied Behavior Analysis Degree

Program Description

The purpose of the MSW/MS dual-degree program is to prepare and train students in practicing in clinical settings that require in depth knowledge of both social work and applied behavior analysis. The dual degree allows the social work student to combine practice skills across social work settings with behavioral intervention skills gained in the Applied Behavior Analysis program. By combining the programs, students are able to develop a special expertise in applied behavior analysis and its applications to social work practice. At the completion of the program, students will be eligible to become both a Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Under the dual degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in approximately two semesters less than it would take to obtain them if pursued consecutively.

This interdisciplinary education supports the training of highly skilled professionals who are competent in both behavior analysis and social work. By combining the two degrees, students will have advanced clinical skills to practice across a range of employment settings including private practice, schools, and health care. In the past few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of children and adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. The dual degree is particularly useful in supporting individuals diagnosed with these disorders.

Admission criteria and process

Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Master of Social Work and the Master of Science degree programs. Both programs must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program that he/she intends to pursue the dual MSW/MS program.

Program completion requirements

A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The joint curriculum (see Table 1 below) will allow twelve credit hours to be shared between the two degrees.

Award of degree

A student enrolled in the dual degree program may receive the MSW degree or the MS degree when he or she has satisfied the requirements for either degree.

Admission

A potential student must make separate application to, and be independently accepted to, both the MSW and MS programs. Application to both programs at the same time is encouraged. This dual program is designed for students who wish to complete both degrees simultaneously. Students are admitted into each program separately; completion of one degree is not contingent upon completion of both.

Table 1: MSW/MS Three Year Plan of Study**Year 1**

| FALL | | | SPRING | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------------|---|
| SWRK 7001 | Social Work Practice Skills | 3 | SWRK 7003 | Groups | 3 |
| SWRK 7002 | Individuals and Families | 3 | SWRK 7005 | Psychopathology | 3 |
| SWRK 7021 | SW Across Lifespan | 3 | SWRK 7022 | Organizations & Communities | 3 |
| SWRK 7030 | Social Welfare Policy | 3 | SWRK 7052 | Field Placement II | 3 |
| SWRK 7051 | Field Placement I | 3 | | | |

Year 2

| FALL | | | SPRING | | |
|--------------|---|---|---------------|--|---|
| SWRK 7028 | Adv. Individual Practice Across Systems | 3 | SWRK 7026 | Evaluative Research | 3 |
| | | | SWRK 7034 | Adv. Community Practice Across Systems | 3 |
| SPED 7514 | Intro to ABA | 3 | SPED 7518 | Evidence Based Practice | 3 |
| SPED 7010 | Ethics | 3 | SPED 7517 | Functional Behavior Analysis | 3 |

Summer 2

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|-----------|---|
| EDPR 7581 | Single Subject Design | 3 | SPED 7519 | Practicum | 3 |
|--------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|-----------|---|

Year 3

| FALL | | | SPRING | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| SWRK 7055 | Integrative Field Seminar I | 3 | SWRK 7056 | Integrative Field Seminar II | 3 |
| SPED 7519 | Practicum | 3 | SPED 7519 | Practicum | 3 |
| SPED 7516 | Advanced ABA | 3 | SPED 7520 | Behavior Seminar | 3 |
| SWRK | Social Work Elective | 3 | | | |

Summer 3

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------|----------------------------|---|
| SPED 7900 | Advanced Practicum | 3 | SPED 7521 | Facilitating Gen and Maint | 3 |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------|----------------------------|---|