

SOCIAL WORK: FULL TIME, MSW

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

Graduate credits in equivalent generalist courses completed with a grade of B or better taken at CSWE-accredited MSW programs may be used to fulfill the minimum degree credit requirement. In general, coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW Program may not be used to satisfy degree credit minimums. Graduate credits from other MSW programs/institutions may not be used to fulfill the minimum residence credit requirement.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

Graduates of UW-Madison may transfer only those courses completed with a B or better and numbered 300 or above toward their minimum graduate degree credit requirement for coursework determined by the social work faculty to be equivalent to the MSW generalist coursework, up to 7 credits. Coursework completed through a degree earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW program may not be used to satisfy credit requirements. Students seeking credit for previously completed social work practice courses may only do so if completed while declared in the BSW degree program.

MSW students may transfer undergraduate coursework from external institutions as determined by the social work faculty to be equivalent to the MSW generalist coursework, up to 7 credits, if completed with a grade of B or better. Coursework completed through a degree earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW program may not transfer to satisfy credit requirements. Students seeking credit for previously completed social work practice courses may only do so if completed while enrolled in a CSWE-accredited BSW degree program.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

No credits accepted.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

On a case-by-case basis generalist Social Work courses completed with a B or better and numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student may transfer to fulfill degree requirements. No

more than 7 credits of generalist course may be used for this purpose. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW program may not be used to satisfy credit requirements.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

MSW Satisfactory Progress Criteria

Graduate students are required to maintain and graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.00.

Grades of "C" are accepted only if offset by an equal number of credits of grades of A. Students who receive more than two grades of C or a grade of D or F will be dropped from the MSW Program. (This policy does not apply to grades received for courses taken to meet the Statistic prerequisite while in the program but will affect the GPA).

Students who receive a grade of C in the Field and Integrative Seminar courses may continue only with permission of the faculty and may not offset the grade with a grade of A. Refer to the Field Education Handbook (found on the Social Work Student Resources site (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/students/resources/#full-time-msw-students>)) for more details about grades in Field.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All master's candidates are assigned to the social work academic advisors.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Full-Time Program students matriculating through the Full-Time MSW program on a part-time basis must enroll in a minimum of two courses each semester and complete one full-time semester of at least 8 credits. Candidates who withdraw from the Full-Time Program without having completed at least 8 credits must reapply for admission to the program. Students who withdraw from the Part-Time MSW Program without having completed at least 6 credits must reapply for admission to the Part-Time Program.

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)

- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeeabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

L&S POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC APPEALS

Graduate students have the right to appeal an academic decision related to an L&S graduate program if the student believes that the decision is inconsistent with published policy.

Academic decisions that may be appealed include:

- Dismissal from the graduate program
- Failure to pass a qualifying or preliminary examination
- Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
- Academic disciplinary action related to failure to meet professional conduct standards

Issues such as the following cannot be appealed using this process:

- A faculty member declining to serve as a graduate student's advisor.
- Decisions regarding the student's disciplinary knowledge, evaluation of the quality of work, or similar judgements. These are the domain of the department faculty.
- Course grades. These can be appealed instead using the L&S Policy for Grade Appeal (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/22258/>).
- Incidents of bias or hate, hostile and intimidating behavior (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>), or discrimination (Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>), Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/formal-investigations/>)). Direct these to the linked campus offices appropriate for the incident(s).

Appeal Process for Graduate Students

A graduate student wishing to appeal an academic decision must follow the process in the order listed below. Note time limits within each step.

1. The student should first seek informal resolution, if possible, by discussing the concern with their academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, and/or the department chair.
2. If the program has an appeal policy listed in their graduate program handbook, the student should follow the policy as written, including adhering to any indicated deadlines. In the absence of a specific departmental process, the chair or designee will be the reviewer and decision maker, and the student should submit a written appeal to the

chair within 15 business days of the academic decision. The chair or designee will notify the student in writing of their decision.

3. If the departmental process upholds the original decision, the graduate student may next initiate an appeal to L&S. To do so, the student must submit a written appeal to the L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs within 15 business days of notification of the department's decision.
 - a. To the fullest extent possible, the written appeal should include, in a single document: a clear and concise statement of the academic decision being appealed, any relevant background on what led to the decision, the specific policies involved, the relief sought, any relevant documentation related to the departmental appeal, and the names and titles of any individuals contributing to or involved in the decision.
 - b. The Assistant Dean will work with the Academic Associate Dean of the appropriate division to consider the appeal. They may seek additional information and/or meetings related to the case.
 - c. The Assistant Dean and Academic Associate Dean will provide a written decision within 20 business days.
4. If L&S upholds the original decision, the graduate student may appeal to the Graduate School. More information can be found on their website: Grievances and Appeals (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>) (see: Graduate School Appeal Process).

OTHER

Practice Sequence

SOC WORK 441 and SOC WORK 442 are taken concurrently with field, and are only offered in the fall for BSW students. Exceptions to this sequencing are rare and will only be made through consultation with an advisor and the Director of Field Education. SOC WORK 400 is offered in the fall and SOC WORK 401 is offered in the spring. None of the practice courses are available in the summer.

Coursework that doesn't meet the policy requirements

Coursework that does not meet the above policies (ie grade received was below a B, or degree was earned more than five years prior to admission) is not sufficient to meet program requirements. Students may choose to demonstrate competence in required foundation courses through examination for credit (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/students/exemptions/>) for select courses, or will be required to take the applicable course as part of their plan of study.

Credit by Exam

An exemption exam (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/students/exemptions/>) is a way to demonstrate sound understanding of foundational generalist social work content required for our MSW Program. Exemption exams are intended for students who have had prior exposure to the required content. This option is recommended for students who have taken a similar course, but NOT eligible for exemption by prior coursework review (such as if a grade below a B was received, or the course was taken more than five years prior to entry into the program). If a student passes an exemption exam, they will typically earn credit for that course.