

# MSW DEGREE PLANNING PACKET

*GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK*



*MSW@Denver Program*

*For students beginning the program between Fall 2023  
and Summer 2024*

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# Graduate Bulletin Information

The [University of Denver Graduate Bulletin](#) outlines Graduate School of Social Work program requirements. The advising and academic planning information in this manual is based on University of Denver Graduate Bulletin, and is specific to students who started within the corresponding academic year.

## Section 1: Degree Requirements

Students at the Graduate School of Social Work will complete the requirements for the Advanced Social Work Practice degree program to earn their Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The Advanced Social Work Practice degree program will prepare students with the theoretical knowledge, applied skills, and values to work across a continuum of services at micro, mezzo and macro levels. Our model prepares students to practice with a wide range of populations and settings to meet the needs of your community.

The curriculum emphasizes culturally responsive practice needed for the increasing diversity within communities at a local, state, national or global context. Faculty expertise anchors a curriculum that encourages students to focus their degree in alignment with specific areas of interest or career goals. Practice courses are taught by instructors who are actively involved in community engaged social work. The combination of scholarship and applied expertise synergizes the learning experience.

GSSW has structured the curriculum to meet the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) [Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards](#) for MSW programs. Competency-based education rests on a shared view of the nature of competence in professional practice. Social work competence is the ability to integrate and apply social work knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes to practice situations in a culturally responsive, purposeful, intentional, and professional manner to promote human and community well-being.

Competency-based education is an outcome-oriented approach to curriculum design. Overall, professional competence is multi-dimensional and composed of 9 inter-related competencies:

- Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- Competency 2: Advanced Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- Competency 3: Engage in Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice
- Competency 4: Engage in Practice Informed Research, and Research Informed Practice
- Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
- Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

For MSW students, the minimum total credits required for the Master of Social Work degree is 81. The requirement for Advanced Standing MSW students, who enter the program with a Bachelor of Social Work degree, is 54 total credits.

The information below outlines the courses required for MSW foundation requirements and Advanced Standing MSW prerequisite requirements, as well as the concentration overview of credits needed for all students.

## MSW Foundation Requirements

*Foundation requirements must be completed prior to moving forward with concentration requirements*

Course	Credits
<b>SOWK 4000:</b> Professional Development Seminar	1 credit
<b>SOWK 4001:</b> Clinical Social Work Skills	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4020:</b> Integrated Practice for Social Justice <i>This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4003, 4007, &amp; 4120</i>	4 credits
<b>SOWK 4132:</b> Power, Privilege, and Oppression	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4006:</b> Human Behavior and the Social Environment <i>This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4003.</i>	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4003:</b> Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4007:</b> Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice	4 credits
<b>SOWK 4201:</b> Evidence for Practice <i>This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4900</i>	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4120:</b> Social Policy, Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice <i>This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4655.</i>	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4950:</b> Foundation Field Internship (400 hours completed over 3 terms) <i>This course is a prerequisite for 4970.</i>	9 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	36 credits

## Advanced Standing MSW Prerequisite Requirements

*Prerequisite requirements must be completed prior to moving forward with concentration requirements*

Course	Credits
<b>SOWK 4299:</b> Advanced Standing Seminar	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4302:</b> Advanced Standing: Advanced Evidence for Practice	3 credits
<b>SOWK 4303:</b> Advanced Standing: Engaging in Anti-Oppressive Social Work	3 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	9 credits

## Advanced Social Work Practice Concentration Curriculum Requirements

*Select from the menu of required course option by each category*

*See pathway information for course suggestions based on career interests*

### Theory Requirement (3 Credits – Choose One)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4325:</b> Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4345:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Assessment Skills Requirement (3 Credits – Choose One)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Skills Requirement (3 Credits – Choose One)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4340:</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Interventions Skills Requirement (3 Credits – Choose One)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4430:</b> Substance Use Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4700:</b> Solution Focused Brief Therapy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4723:</b> SW Practice in Health	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement (3 Credits – Choose One)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Values Requirement** (3 Credits – **Choose One**)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4235:</b> Disproportionality & Disparities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4643:</b> Digital Justice	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4790:</b> Human Sexuality	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement** (3 Credits – **Choose One**)

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Concentration Field Internship Requirement** (12 Credits over 3 terms - **Required**)

Course	Credits	Completion	
<b>SOWK 4970:</b> Concentration Field Internship	12 credits	500 hours completed over 3 terms	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Electives Requirement** (12 Credits – **Choose Four**)

**Note:** Any course listed in the requirement areas above may also be used to fulfill elective credit requirements!

Course	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4521:</b> Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4325:</b> Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4345:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4340:</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4430:</b> Substance Use Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4700:</b> Solution Focused Brief Therapy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4723:</b> SW Practice in Health	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4235:</b> Disproportionality & Disparities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4643:</b> Digital Justice	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Total Concentration Credits = 45 credits**

### Electives Requirement, *continued*

There are also courses that may have limited online availability offered through our Denver Campus program that could complement your degree planning and elective choices, if available. Students are able to take up to 10 credits in a program outside of their “home” program. [Visiting Student Approval Required](#). Courses could include:

- SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use
- SOWK 4500: Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children
- SOWK 4505: Relationship Therapy
- SOWK 4520: Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families
- SOWK 4523: Care Management Skills
- SOWK 4530: Poverty & Community Economic Dev Development
- SOWK 4705: Forensic Orientation in SW Practice
- SOWK 4710: Intimate Partner Violence
- SOWK 4718: School SW Assessment & Realities
- SOWK 4720: Prev & Treat of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence
- SOWK 4721: Existential Social Work Practice
- SOWK 4727: Experiential Therapy in Nature
- SOWK 4732: Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice
- SOWK 4741: Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan
- SOWK 4749: Culturally Responsive Practice with Latinx
- SOWK 4760: Resource Development & Fundraising
- SOWK 4795: Foundation for HAEI-SW
- SOWK 4796: HAE Interventions in SW Practice
- SOWK 4797: Professional Integration of Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work
- SOWK 4990: Topics in Social Work
- SOWK 4370: Community & Organizational Change
- SOWK 4345: Planning & Program Development
- SOWK 4715: School SW Interventions
- SOWK 4418: Child Welfare Practice
- SOWK 4245: Restorative Approaches in SW Practice
- SOWK 4640: Mental Health & Substance Use Policies
- SOWK 4600: Child Welfare Policies & Services
- SOWK 4240: Intergenerational Justice
- SOWK 4390: Cultural & Linguistic Competencies in Integrated Behavioral Health
- SOWK 4641: An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition
- SOWK 4742: Disability Studies

## Section 2: Field Internship Overview

### Field Placement Overview & Registration

The MSW@Denver field placement process is managed in collaboration with our partners at 2U. You will begin receiving outreach from your individual Placement Specialist approximately 120 days prior to your internship start date; you will set up an appointment to discuss your interests, schedule availability, and considerations related to your field placement. Once your potential site has been identified, and the field team has been vetted and approved the agency, you will be offered an opportunity to interview. If the agency offers you a position as an intern, you will fill out a survey that indicates your interest in accepting the position.

You'll receive an email when it's time to register for your ELC (Experiential Learning Cloud) in preparation for completing the Site Placement Process and confirming your internship. You must register in ELC and complete the site confirmation process (connecting yourself to the site and to the supervisor(s), to track hours and complete required documentation and assignments to receive a field grade.

*For guidance throughout the placement process, please stay in close contact with your Placement Specialist and follow the timeline specific to your planned internship start date. If your internship needs to be delayed or rescheduled, please reach out to both your Student Success Advisor and Placement Specialist as soon as possible to discuss your options and next steps.*

### The Role of Field in Your MSW Degree

Field education is often referred to as the “signature pedagogy” of social work education—this means it's one of the most essential and distinctive components of your MSW degree. Your field internship is where theory meets practice. It provides a hands-on learning environment where you will apply concepts and skills from your coursework directly in real-world settings with individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Field education is intentionally designed to complement your academic coursework. As you move through both your internship and classes, you'll find yourself drawing meaningful connections between what you're learning in theory and how you engage in practice.

### Field Registration & Credit Hours

Each term you are enrolled in field, you are required to register for field credits. The number of credits is based on the number of internship hours you will complete during the term.:

- 1 credit = approximately 42 internship hours

Every student in field is assigned a Field Liaison—a faculty member who supports your learning and acts as a connection between the University and your field agency. Your Field Liaison will review and evaluate key academic assignments, including:

- Your Safety Plan
- Your Learning Contract
- Mid-term and Final Field Evaluations

### Required Internship Hours

- **Foundation-Year Students** complete a minimum of 400 hours over three academic quarters (approximately 13.5 hours/week for 30 weeks). This is 3 credits/term for 3 terms.
- **Concentration-Year Students** (including Advanced Standing) complete a minimum of 500 hours over three academic quarters (approximately 16.5 hours/week for 30 weeks). This is 4 credits/term for 3 terms.

*Adjustments to internship hours or timelines may be made based on individual circumstances. If you are considering changing your field timeline before you have started placement, please contact your Placement Specialist for more information. If you are already enrolled in field, please contact your field liaison if changes to your field plan are needed. Changes to field hours or the number of terms must be discussed with the specific field agency to assess whether the options are viable*

For more detailed field policies, expectations, and forms, refer to the Field Manual, located in the MSW Student Resource Portal located in the [MSW Student Resource Portal](#).



## **Section 3: Academic Plan Overviews**

Use the [link](#) provided to access the following Academic Plan Overviews.

This is your roadmap for completing the MSW program. It highlights

- The cadence of Foundation and Advanced Standing courses
- Your academic load and credits per term
- General timelines for field internships

This tool is designed to help you anticipate workload, stay on track for graduation, and support conversations with your advisor about planning your terms and field placements.

### **Advanced Standing**

**Advanced Standing Online MSW Program 4 Quarter Accelerated Track**

**Advanced Standing Online MSW Program 6 Quarter Track**

**Advanced Standing Online MSW Program 9 Quarter Track**

### **Online MSW Two Agency Placement**

**Online MSW Program 7 Quarter Accelerated Track *Two Agency Placement***

**Online MSW Program 9 Quarter Track *Two Agency Placement***

**Online MSW Program 12 Quarter Track *Two Agency Placement***

**Online MSW Program 14 Quarter Track *Two Agency Placement***

## Section 4: How do I choose courses?

When planning your courses, don't just think about checking boxes—think about what excites you. What topics make you curious? What issues make you want to dig deeper? And what areas feel a little outside your comfort zone, but could help you grow?

You don't need to find the “perfect” set of classes. Every course will offer something valuable—whether it's a new skill, a fresh perspective, or a connection that sparks your passion. The goal isn't perfection—it's progress.

This is your opportunity to shape your MSW journey with intention. Ask yourself:

- *What kind of social worker do I want to become?*
- *What communities or systems do I feel called to serve?*
- *What skills will help me make meaningful change?*
- *Where do I already thrive—and where do I want to grow?*

And remember: you don't have to figure it all out alone. Your advisor, instructors, and peers are here to support you every step of the way.

Wondering what a course is about? Use [the course descriptions](#) in the Bulletin to learn more.

### Student Example

Meet Jordan! Jordan is passionate about supporting youth in school settings and wants to bring a trauma-informed lens to their social work practice. They're focused on building the skills and knowledge needed to create safe, supportive environments where students can thrive.

- For the **Intervention Skills** category, they choose *SOWK 4700: Solution Focused Brief Therapy* to strengthen their ability to partner with their students in identifying goals, building on strengths, and developing practical strategies for positive change.
- For **Values**, they pick *SOWK 4235: Disproportionality & Disparities* to better understand inclusive education.
- Their **Electives** include *SOWK 4784: Suicide Assessment & Interventions*, *SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions*, *SOWK 4545: SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities*, and they apply for *SOWK 4715: School SW Interventions through [the Visiting Student option](#)*.

### Looking for More Ideas?

If you need inspiration or want to see recommendations based on your interests, head to [the Sample Pathways](#) section of this planner. You'll find curated course combinations for different career directions, practice areas, and passions.

## **Section 5: Pathway Information**

This packet has given you the essentials—how to earn your MSW, what courses are required, and how to navigate the curriculum. But here’s where it gets exciting: while every student graduates with an Advanced Generalist concentration, how you get there is up to you.

That’s where **Pathways** come in!

**What’s a Pathway?** A Pathway is a way to personalize your MSW experience. It helps you think about how to apply your coursework to the areas of social work that matter most to you—whether that’s mental health, schools, policy, health care, or something else entirely.

You can:

- Mix and match courses across categories to build a broad, flexible skill set.
- Or, follow a Pathway that aligns with your interests, values, and career goals.

### ***Q: How do I use this Pathway option?***

A: You have a choice to create a curriculum plan that is a broad “Advanced Generalist” degree, solely based on a variety of interests in each requirement area OR you could focus your curriculum choice toward an area of practice, population, or a social work setting that appeals to you and your career interests.

### ***Q: If I choose a pathway, do I need to follow the course recommendations exactly?***

A: Not at all! Pathways are here to guide and inspire you—not box you in. If a recommended course isn’t available, you can choose another from the same category or wait for a future term.

### ***Q: What if I want a specific type of license after my MSW degree?***

A: You should consult the state licensing board for your particular area, such as LSW, LCSW, CAC, School Social Worker, etc. Some courses will be more geared toward specific types of social work practice. Students should think ahead about which courses would be best to take for their future licensure wants or needs. Students can always consult the GSSW Career Services team for more specific questions. Please visit the [Social Work Licensure page on the Student Portal](#) for more information

### ***Q: What if I want to complete a certificate or stipend?***

Certificate and stipend information can be found [here](#).

## SAMPLE PATHWAYS - Mental Health & Trauma Focus

### Sample Mental Health & Trauma Pathway (*Substance Use & Addictions Focus*)

**Sample Job titles may include:** Case Manager, Clinical Social Worker, Clinical Therapist, Clinician, Counselor, Mental Health Therapist, Social Worker, Behavioral Health Therapist

#### Course Considerations

Theory Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4345:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intervention Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4430:</b> Substance Use Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Values Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4790:</b> Human Sexuality	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electives Requirement Options (12 Credits – <b>Choose Four</b> )	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4700:</b> Solution Focused Brief Therapy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4245:</b> Restorative Approaches in SW Practice	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4640:</b> Mental Health & Substance Use Policies	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4410:</b> : Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Sample Mental Health & Trauma Pathway (*Trauma Informed Focus*)

**Sample Job titles may include:** Case Manager, Clinical Social Worker, Clinical Therapist, Clinician, Counselor, Mental Health Therapist, Social Worker, Behavioral Health Therapist

### Course Considerations

Theory Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4345:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Interventions Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4700:</b> Solution Focused Brief Therapy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Values Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4235:</b> Disproportionality & Disparities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Electives Requirement Options (12 Credits – <b>Choose Four</b> )	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4521:</b> Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4340::</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4643:</b> Digital Justice	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4245:</b> Restorative Approaches in SW Practice	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4732:</b> Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4410:</b> : Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Sample Mental Health & Trauma Pathway (*Community Focus*)

**Sample Job title may include:** Case Manager, Community Outreach Specialist, Community Advocate, Community Liaison

### Course Considerations

Theory Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4345:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4340:</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Intervention Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4430:</b> Substance Use Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Values Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Electives Requirement Options (12 Credits – <b>Choose Four</b> )	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4790:</b> Human Sexuality	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Therapies	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Intervention	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4370:</b> Community & Organizational Change	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4535:</b> Planning & Program Development	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4530:</b> Poverty & Community Economic Development	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4641:</b> An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4742:</b> Disability Studies	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SAMPLE PATHWAYS – Health, Equity and Wellness Focus

### Sample Health, Equity and Wellness Pathway (*Community Health Focus*)

**Sample Job titles may include:** Health Advocate, Public Health Educator, Health Equity Specialist, Community Health Advocate, Community Wellness Clinician

#### Course Considerations

Theory Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4325:</b> Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics, Safety, & Supervisory Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4340:</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intervention Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4700:</b> Solution Focused Brief Therapy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Values Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4235:</b> Disproportionality & Disparities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electives Requirement Options (12 Credits – <b>Choose Four</b> )	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4723:</b> SW Practice in Health	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Theories	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4742:</b> Disability Studies	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4535:</b> Planning & Program Development	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4370:</b> Community & Organizational Change	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Sample Health, Equity and Wellness Pathway (*Medical Focus*)

**Sample job titles may include:** Medical social worker, dialysis social worker, hospice social worker, outpatient clinical social worker, LCSW, Behavioral Health Clinician/Therapist

### Course Considerations

Theory Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4325:</b> Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of MH Across the Lifespan	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4340:</b> Leadership & Supervision Skills	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Intervention Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4401:</b> Integrated Health Care	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Values Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4790:</b> Human Sexuality	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>

Electives Requirement Options (12 Credits – <b>Choose Four</b> )	Credits	Availability	
<b>SOWK 4235:</b> Disproportionality & Disparities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4752:</b> Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4784:</b> Suicide Assessment & Interventions	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4723:</b> SW Practice in Health	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> Intersections of MH, Substance Use, & Trauma	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4730:</b> Cognitive Behavioral Theories	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4545:</b> SW Practice with LGBTQIA Communities	3 credits	Offered Every Term Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4742:</b> Disability Studies	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SOWK 4535:</b> Planning & Program Development	3 credits	Limited Online Availability ( <a href="#">Visiting Student Approval Required</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>



## **Section 6: GSSW Certificate & Stipend Overviews**

GSSW students can further customize their learning by adding on a certificate or stipend to their degree plan. The below information can be used in conjunction with information posted on the Student Portfolio page in order to determine if a stipend/certificate is right for you. Some stipends/certificates have strict deadlines associated with them; take care to submit all materials by posted deadlines. Noting your interest in a stipend/certificate in your GSSW application does not enroll you in a stipend/certificate program. Students must follow all directions in order to be considered for a stipend/certificate.

### **Certificate Options**

#### **Human–Animal–Environment Interactions in Social Work (HAEI-SW) Certificate**

MSW@Denver online students may apply to complete the Human–Animal–Environment Interactions in Social Work (HAEI-SW) **certificate of specialization** in the Denver Campus MSW program through the Visiting Student option. It is also possible to take the first course in the sequence (SOWK 4795) as a standalone course offering. For completion of the HAEI-SW certificate, please review the following process and disclaimers in full:

The HAEI-SW courses are taken sequentially:

1. SOWK 4795 Foundation for HAEI-SW (3 credits; the only course available as a standalone course offering)
2. SOWK 4796 HAE Interventions in SW Practice (3 credits)
3. SOWK 4797 Professional Integration of Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work (3 credits)

*\*Students do not need a specialized field internship placement to complete the certificate.*

If approved, the HAEI-SW courses are counted as electives in your program.

- HAEI-SW online courses are held through the Denver Campus online learning management system, Canvas, rather than Digital Campus.
- We cannot guarantee that courses will be offered each term and/or fully online throughout the academic year, as these are Denver Campus courses.
  1. You can reference the online schedule through My4D to see which courses are available. On the online schedule, under the course title, “Lecture” signifies an on-campus course and “Online/Distance” signifies an online course.

MSW@Denver Students must apply for the courses through the [Visiting Student Application](#). If approved, Visiting Students can take up to 10 credit hours outside of their “home” program. Students must submit their request by the deadline posted on [the Registration Toolkit](#).

- Approval is not guaranteed, and courses are subject to availability.
- *Note:* The Denver Campus summer term does not follow the typical 10-week structure that the MSW@Denver program follows. View [GSSW academic calendars](#).

***For more information about the certificate, please contact HAEI-SW Certificate Coordinator [Nina Ekholm Fry](#).***

If you are interested in more learning opportunities related to human–animal interactions during or after your MSW@DU degree, please see the professional development offerings at University of Denver's [Institute for Human–Animal Connection](#).

## Stipend Options

### *CLIMB@DU Stipend*

- **Program Requirement:** Any program, with Colorado and/or Four Corners residence
- **Field Requirement:** Concentration internship in an Integrated Behavioral Health setting
- **Travel Requirement:** Interregional Internship Exchange (Spring)
- **Other Requirements:** Fall kick-off, orientation, monthly/quarterly cohort meetings, IDI, Interprofessional Speaker Series

Additional information can be found on the [CLIMB Website](#)

#### **UPCOMING DUE DATES:**

- Priority deadline typically end of Spring term
- Applications will be accepted until all stipends are awarded
- When available, the application can be found at the [CLIMB Website](#)
- The decision date is generally by Fall term

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models & Practice
  - offered Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters
- SOWK 4390 Cultural & Linguistic Competency in Integrated Behavioral Health
  - offered Winter quarter only
- One Additional Course from the list of courses on the [CLIMB Website](#) (see application for course listings)
  - Psychopharmacology - One weekend workshop

**Contacts:** If interested, contact [Erin.Poole@du.edu](mailto:Erin.Poole@du.edu)

## Section 7: Putting it All Together - Tracking Your Degree Progress

From your very first quarter, you'll want to keep an eye on your progress toward completing your MSW. Staying on top of your degree requirements helps you plan ahead, avoid surprises, and make the most of your time in the program.

Before diving into your Advanced Generalist Concentration curriculum, you'll need to complete your Foundation Curriculum (or Advanced Standing requirements, if applicable). These are the building blocks of your MSW journey and serve as prerequisites for your concentration courses.

The best way to track your degree progress is to use the GSSW Degree Planner and your DU Degree Audit. Here are the tools you'll use throughout your MSW journey:

### ✓ [Academic Plan](#)

This is your roadmap for completing the MSW program. It highlights

- The cadence of Foundation and Advanced Standing courses
- Your academic load and credits per term
- General timelines for field internships

This tool is designed to help you anticipate workload, stay on track for graduation, and support conversations with your advisor about planning your terms and field placements.

### ✓ [Degree Audit](#)

This is your personalized progress report. It shows:

- What you've completed
- What's in progress
- What's still required

Use it to double-check that you're meeting all degree requirements and staying on track for graduation.

### ✓ [Degree Planner](#)

This tool helps you map out your courses term by term. It's especially helpful for visualizing how your required and elective courses fit together over time.

### ✓ [Registration Toolkit](#)

Everything you need to register successfully each term—how-to guides, timelines, and tips for choosing courses.

#### **Pro Tip**

Use these tools together! Start with your **Degree Audit** to see where you stand, then use the **Degree Planner** to sketch out your next few terms. When it's time to register, the **Registration Toolkit** will walk you through the process.

## Section 8: Sample Pathway Planning Worksheet

You can use the worksheet below to help plan your academic path.

Theory Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
	3 credits		

  

Assessment Skills Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
<b>SOWK 4338:</b> Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan	3 credits		

  

Ethics, Safety & Supervisory Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
	3 credits		

  

Intervention Skills Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
	3 credits		

  

Policy & Advocacy Skills Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
<b>SOWK 4655:</b> Mental Health & Health Care Policy	3 credits		

  

Values Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
	3 credits		

  

Evaluation and Research Skills Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
<b>SOWK 4900:</b> Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs	3 credits		

  

Electives Requirement	Credits	Planned Term	Notes
	3 credits		
	3 credits		
	3 credits		
	3 credits		