

# MSW Degree Planning Packet

Fall 2025 and After

University of Denver  
Graduate School of Social Work



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25

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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 the [University of Denver Graduate Bulletin](#), which is specific to the academic year students are admitted to the program.

### 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 individual, family, group, organization and community systems 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) [2022 Educational Policy 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
SOWK 4000: Professional Development Seminar	1 credit
SOWK 4001: Clinical Social Work Skills	3 credits
SOWK 4020: Integrated Practice for Social Justice <i>* This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4003, 4007, &amp; 4120</i>	4 credits
SOWK 4132: Power, Privilege, and Oppression <i>*This course is a pre-requisite for SOWK 4007 &amp; 4120</i>	3 credits
SOWK 4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment <i>*This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4003</i>	3 credits
SOWK 4003: Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice	3 credits
SOWK 4007: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice	4 credits
SOWK 4201: Evidence for Practice	3 credits
SOWK 4120: Social Policy, Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice <i>* This course is a pre-requisite for SOWK 4655</i>	3 credits
<i>Required Field Internship*</i> <i>*This course is a pre-requisite for 4790</i>	9 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36 credits</b>

## Advanced Standing MSW Prerequisite Requirements

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

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

## Advanced Social Work Practice Concentration Curriculum Requirements

*See Pathway Information for applicable course suggestions*

The following is a chart of the required type of course and the corresponding credits.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Required Theory	3 credits
Required Assessment Skills	3 credits
Required Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities	3 credits
Required Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups	3 credits
Required Policy & Advocacy Skills	3 credits
Required Evaluation & Research Skills	3 credits
Required Values	3 credits
Required Field Internship* <i>*pre-approved concentration year internships <b>may</b> require more than 12 credits.</i>	12 credits
Required Electives* <i>*If field internship is over 12 credits, then elective credits will be reduced accordingly.</i>	12 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45 credits</b>

**Notes:**

- All students may take up to 10 credits in another graduate school or through MSW@Denver toward degree through the [Visiting Student application](#)
- For a complete list of all courses in each category, please consult the [Course Planning Tools within the Student Resource Portal](#).
- GSSW advises that you do your degree requirement buckets in a scaffolded order. We encourage to follow the order as follows but note that this is not required. We have adjusted the number of course offerings each quarter based on this order:
  - Theory
  - Policy\*
  - Assessment
  - Engage and Intervene with Individuals, Families and Groups
  - Engage and Intervene with Organizations and Communities
  - Research
  - Values
  - Electives taken each quarter

\*We encourage you to take policy in Spring or Winter quarters to align with legislative session - this is not required for assignments)

## Section 2: Pathway Information

This packet has shown you the overall requirements to obtain an MSW degree; adding a Pathway interest helps you think about how best to apply course content to align your interests and career aspirations.

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

A: You have a choice to create a curriculum plan that is an Advance Social Work Practice degree, solely based on a variety of interests in each requirement area (Theory for Practice, Assessment Skills, Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities, Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, Groups, Policy & Advocacy Skills, Evaluation & Research, Values, and Electives) OR you could focus your curriculum 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: No. Pathways are designed to give you flexibility for both your specific interests as well as course availability. If one of the classes that is suggested is not available or there is another course that interests you more, you may wait until another quarter or choose a different course that is listed within that category to fulfil the degree requirements. Pathways are *suggestions*!

***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. Think ahead about which courses would be best to take to meet your future licensure wants or needs. Consult the [Licensure page](#) in the MSW Student Resource Portal and reach out to GSSW Career Services team for more specific questions. You can also request to meet with an advisor [here](#) under the “Advising-Ways to Connect” tab.

***Q: What if the courses I want are mostly listed in the “Electives” category?***

A: If you are struggling to find courses that you want within the required categories, please check in with a faculty academic advisor using the ‘[Advising-Ways to Connect](#)’ tab on the MSW Student Resource Portal. Faculty academic advisors can help you think through how your interests may be represented within our current required course offerings or suggest electives that may be eligible for a waiver-substitution in some rare cases.

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

A: Review specific requirements associated with stipends, certificates, or dual degrees. Some courses may fulfill multiple requirements within the MSW degree. If a course is required for a certificate and meets one of the mandatory categories of the Advanced Practice Concentration curriculum, it can count towards the degree as well as the certificate/stipend requirement. The total number of credits per category and for the degree must still be met. For questions about stipends, certificates, or dual degrees, please visit the [MSW Student Resource Portal](#).

***Q: What if I want to take a class within another program at GSSW?***

A: Students in the Denver Campus, Four Corners, or Western Colorado programs may take classes as offered or cross listed between these 3 programs and may take up to 10 credits in the MSW@Denver program as a visiting student, as space allows. Additionally, students in these 3 programs may take up to 10 graduate course credits within any other institution within the University of Denver, with approval from an academic advisor and the course instructor. Students in the MSW@Denver program may take up to 10 credits in any other GSSW program.

Students enrolled in a dual degree program should consult their faculty academic advisor in both programs.

# Aging Services & Policy Pathway

A pathway in Aging Services will prepare you for a career working with older adults and their families, or to lead change efforts regarding aging services both locally and nationally. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4320: Family Systems Theories  
SOWK 4325: Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4501: Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4465: Human Security  
SOWK 4340: Leadership & Supervision Skills

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4401: Integrated Health Care  
SOWK 4420: Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems  
SOWK 4723: Social Work Practice in Health  
SOWK 4725: Mind-Body Connections in Social Work Practice  
SOWK 4784: Suicide Assessment & Interventions

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4630: Family Policies & Services  
SOWK 4645: Health Care Policy  
SOWK 4650: Aging Policy  
SOWK 4712: Social Work & the Law

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs  
SOWK 4903: Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology

### **Values**

SOWK 4240: Intergenerational Justice  
SOWK 4742: Disability Studies

### **Electives**

SOWK 4523: Care Management Skills  
SOWK 4741: Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4445: SW Assessment & Intervention in Aging

# Child Welfare Pathway

A pathway in Child Welfare will prepare you for a career working with children, youth and families across the continuum of care within the child welfare system, from entry to exit in both public and private child welfare agencies. Consider adding on the [Colorado Child Welfare Scholarship](#) to your degree plan in order to maximize learning and employability. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4315: Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development  
SOWK 4370: Community & Organizational Change  
SOWK 4320: Family Systems Theories

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4340: Leadership & Supervision Skills  
SOWK 4465: Human Security

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4418: Child Welfare Practice  
SOWK 4420: Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems  
SOWK 4454: Child & Adolescent Trauma  
SOWK 4700: Solution Focused Brief Therapy

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4600: Child Welfare Policies and Services  
SOWK 4610: Policies & Programs for Children & Youth  
SOWK 4630: Family Policies & Services  
SOWK 4660: Social Policy Advocacy  
SOWK 4712: Social Work & the Law

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs  
SOWK 4902: Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing and Research Dissemination

### **Values**

SOWK 4235: Disproportionality & Disparities

### **Electives**

SOWK 4732: Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice  
SOWK 4520: Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families  
SOWK 4741: Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4710: Intimate Partner Violence

# Children & Youth Pathway

A pathway in Children and Youth will prepare you to work across developmental stages from birth to early adulthood in settings that include mental health clinics, family services, community and government agencies, schools, youth programs, treatment centers and the juvenile legal system. Consider adding on the [School Social Work certificate](#). This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4315: Critical Theories of Child & Adolescent Development

SOWK 4320: Family Systems Theories

SOWK 4360: Social-Eco Resilience: Connecting Human & Environmental Wellbeing

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan

SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4340: Leadership & Supervision Skills

SOWK 4465: Human Security

SOWK 4202: Creating a Regenerative Future

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4412: Practice Elements in Interventions with Children & Youth

SOWK 4454: Child & Adolescent Trauma

SOWK 4715: School Social Work Interventions

SOWK 4784: Suicide Assessment & Interventions

SOWK 4245: Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4610: Policies & Programs for Children & Youth

SOWK 4712: Social Work & the Law

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4425: Positive Youth Development Programming

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs

SOWK 4904: Introduction to Human Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development

### **Values**

SOWK 4240: Intergenerational Justice

SOWK 4545: Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA

### **Electives**

SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use

SOWK 4500: Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children

# Ecological Justice Pathway

A pathway in Ecological Justice will prepare you to cultivate a compassionate human presence on Earth guided by social work values of equity and justice. This specialty will challenge you to envision and create a world— inclusive of natural and built environments—that is thriving, healthy and regenerative for all. Consider adding the [Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work certificate](#), the [Mental Health for Eco Resiliency and Adaptation Certificate](#), or the [Global Social Work Certificate](#) to this pathway. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4325: Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness

SOWK 4360: Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human & Environmental Well-Being

SOWK 4370: Community & Organizational Change

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4501: Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan

SOWK 4565: Social & Environmental Impact Assessments

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4202: Creating a Regenerative Future

SOWK 4203: Environmental Change & Resilience for Mental Health

SOWK 4205: Contemporary Eco Justice Issues

SOWK 4435: Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice

SOWK 4465: Human Security

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4420: Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems

SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4204: Policy Advocacy for Eco Justice in the U.S.

SOWK 4635: Immigration Policies

SOWK 4765: Global Social Change

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs

SOWK 4903: Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology

SOWK 4904: Human Centered Design

### **Values**

SOWK 4240: Intergenerational Justice

SOWK 4480: Social Justice in Mental Health Practice

SOWK 4754: Historical Trauma & Healing

### **Electives**

SOWK 4375: Economic Theory & Social Work

SOWK 4727: Experiential Therapy in Nature

# Family Systems Practice Pathway

A pathway in Family Systems Practice prepares you for a career in family systems and family therapy. If you are interested in working from a family systems perspective with clients in a variety of direct-service, private-practice and family-policy settings then this is the pathway for you. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4315: Critical Theories of Child & Adolescent Development

SOWK 4320: Family Systems Theories

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan

SOWK 4501: Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan

SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4202: Creating a Regenerative Future

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4420: Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems

SOWK 4700: Solution Focused Brief Therapy

SOWK 4735: Interpersonal Counseling Approaches

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4630: Family Policies & Services

SOWK 4712: Social Work & the Law

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs

SOWK 4902: Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing and Research Dissemination

SOWK 4904: Introduction to Human Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development

### **Values**

SOWK 4240: Intergenerational Justice

SOWK 4480: Social Justice in Mental Health Practice

SOWK 4764: Historical Trauma & Healing

### **Electives**

SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use

SOWK 4520: Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families

SOWK 4521: Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families

SOWK 4741: Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan

SOWK 4710: Intimate Partner Violence

# Health & Wellness Pathway

This pathway will prepare you to be a practitioner in a variety of traditional and medical-based sites, integrated health clinics and wellness centers. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4325: Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness  
SOWK 4370: Community & Organizational Change

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4501: Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4340: Leadership & Supervision Skills  
SOWK 4535: Planning & Program Development

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4723: Social Work Practice in Health  
SOWK 4401: Integrated Health Care  
SOWK 4430: Substance Use Interventions  
SOWK 4725: Mind-Body Connections in Social Work Practice

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4645: Health Care Policy  
SOWK 4640: Mental Health & Substance Use Policies  
SOWK 4650: Aging Policy  
SOWK 4712: Social Work & Law

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs  
SOWK 4902: Research Dissemination for Public Impact

### **Values**

SOWK 4235: Disproportionality & Disparity  
SOWK 4390: Cultural & Linguistic Competencies in Integrated Behavioral Health  
SOWK 4480: Social Justice in Mental Health Practice  
SOWK 4742: Disability Studies  
SOWK 4555: Spirituality and Social Work  
SOWK 4362: EmBODYed Practice: Ethical Approaches to Fatness and the Body

### **Electives**

SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use  
SOWK 4523: Care Management Skills  
SOWK 4525: Administration & Management Practice Skills  
SOWK 4741: Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan

## Mental Health Pathway

This pathway supports work with individuals, families, groups, and communities facing trauma, mental health challenges, and complex life systems. Consider the [Mental Health for Ecological Resilience and Adaptation Certificate](#). This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

### *Course Considerations*

#### **Theory**

SOWK 4345: Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use, & Trauma  
SOWK 4325: Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Health & Wellness  
SOWK 4315: Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development  
SOWK 4320: Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practices

#### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4338: Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan  
SOWK 4752: Trauma Informed Assessment & Interventions

#### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4203: Environmental Change & Resilience for Mental Health  
SOWK 4465: Human Security

#### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4784: Suicide Assessment & Interventions  
SOWK 4430: Substance Use Interventions  
SOWK 4454: Child & Adolescent Trauma  
SOWK 4700: Solution Focused Brief Therapy  
SOWK 4730: Cognitive Behavioral Therapies  
SOWK 4723: Social Work Practice in Health

#### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4640: Mental Health & Substance Use Policies  
SOWK 4645: Health Care Policy  
SOWK 4712: Social Work & Law

#### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4425: Positive Youth Development Programming  
SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs  
SOWK 4902: Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing and Research Dissemination  
SOWK 4904: Introduction to Human Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development

#### **Values**

SOWK 4480: Social Justice in Mental Health Practice  
SOWK 4742: Disability Studies  
SOWK 4764: Historical Trauma & Healing

#### **Electives**

SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use  
SOWK 4521: Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families  
SOWK 4705: Forensic Orientation in Social Work Practice  
SOWK 4741: Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan

# Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice Pathway

If you want to build the capacity of communities, organizations, and policy makers to advance human rights, social justice and the well-being of all people, then Organizational Leadership & Policy Practice (OLPP) may be the right pathway for your MSW degree. Consider adding on the [Latinx Social Work Certificate](#) to this pathway. Consider adding on the [Global Social Work Certificate](#) to this pathway. This course list is a recommendation and not a requirement. Any course that we offer in the required category will fulfill degree requirements. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

## *Course Considerations*

### **Theory**

SOWK 4370: Community and Organization Change Theory

### **Assessment Skills**

SOWK 4565: Social & Environmental Impact Assessments

### **Engage & Intervene: Organizations & Communities**

SOWK 4340: Leadership & Supervision Skills

SOWK 4436: Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice

SOWK 4465: Human Security

SOWK 4535: Planning & Program Development

### **Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families, & Groups**

SOWK 4420: Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems

### **Policy Advocacy**

SOWK 4635: Immigration Policies

SOWK 4660: Social Policy Advocacy

SOWK 4712: Social Work & the Law

SOWK 4765: Global Social Change

SOWK 4204: Policy Advocacy for Ecological Justice in the U.S.

### **Evaluation & Research**

SOWK 4425: Positive Youth Development Programming

SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice & Programs

SOWK 4902: Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing and Research Dissemination

SOWK 4903: Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology

### **Values**

SOWK 4232: Critical Race Theory

SOWK 4235: Disproportionality & Disparity

SOWK 4762: Bosnia in Transition

SOWK 4786: Human Trafficking

### **Electives**

SOWK 4375: Economic Theory & Social Work

SOWK 4530: Poverty & Community Economic Development

SOWK 4749: Culturally Responsive Practice with Latinx Communities

# Off the Beaten Path... build your own pathway!

Often students have a very specific population, cause, or focus of practice that they feel called to pursue. Consult the [GSSW Career Snapshot page](#) or the contact the GSSW Career Services Advisor for more ideas.

## Areas of Practice:

- International Social Work
- Substance Use and Addiction
- Pediatric Health Care
- Community Organizing
- Corporate Social Work
- Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Sports Social Work
- Social Work & the Courts
- Hospice Care
- Emergency Assistance
- Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Violence
- Spirituality & Social Work
- Human Trafficking
- Housing & Food Insecurity/Justice
- Abolition

## Populations:

- LGBTQIA2S+
- Military & Veterans
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Latinx Communities (see Latinx certificate)
- Incarcerated Individuals

## Types of Social Work:

- Administration/ Management
- Advocacy & Community Organizing
- Aging
- Child Welfare
- Disability
- Healthcare
- International
- Mental Health & Clinical
- Mental Health & Substance Use
- Occupational & Employee Assistance
- Policy Planning
- Politics
- Public Welfare
- Research
- School Social Work

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

### **Quick Navigation**

Use the links below to navigate to your specific academic plan located in the Appendix of the packet:

- Advanced Standing Academic Plans:
  - [July \(Summer\) Program Start – Full Time 4-Quarter](#)
  - [September \(Fall\) Program Start – Full Time 4-Quarter](#)
  - [September \(Fall\) Program Start – Part Time 10-Quarter](#)
  
- Master of Social Work Academic Plans:
  - [September \(Fall\) Program Start – Full Time 6-Quarter](#)
  - [September \(Fall\) Program Start – Part Time 14-Quarter](#)
  - [January \(Winter\) Program Start – Full Time 7-Quarter](#)

## **Section 4: GSSW Certificate & Stipend Overviews**

GSSW students can further customize their learning by adding a certificate or stipend to their degree plan. The below information can be used in conjunction with information posted on the [MSW Student Resource Portal](#) 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 to be considered for a stipend/certificate. We recommend you meet with an academic advisor for additional guidance.

Certificate and stipend programs are often directly tied to field internship. Consult your field advisor regarding eligible sites related to your area(s) of interest and the requirements of your selected certificate or stipend.

### **Certificate Options**

1. Human-Animal-Environment-Interactions in Social Work (HAEI-SW) Certificate
2. School Social Work Certificate
3. Latinx Social Work Certificate
4. Global Social Work Certificate
5. Mental Health for Eco Resiliency and Adaptation Certificate

### **Scholarship Options**

1. Colorado Child Welfare Scholarship

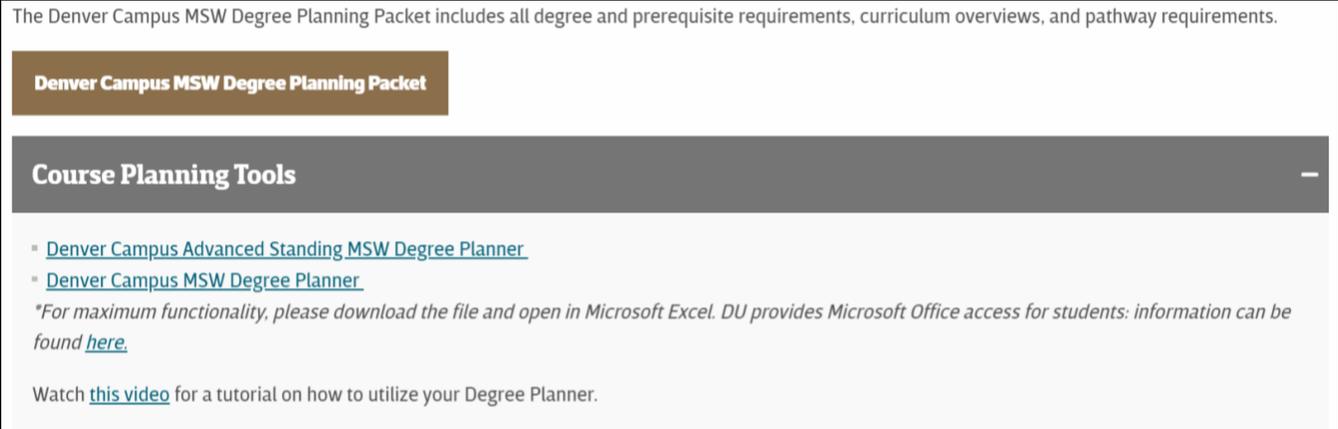
## Section 5: Putting it All Together - Tracking Your Degree Progress

Track your progress towards degree completion as soon as you begin the program. Students are expected to complete foundation or advanced standing requirements as pre-requisite to the Advanced Concentration curriculum.

The best way to track your degree progress and to find a comprehensive list of course options within each required competency category is to use the GSSW Denver Campus Degree Planner and Degree Audit. The Degree Audit can be found on your student profile at [my.du.edu](https://my.du.edu) > Student Resources > Degree Audit. The Degree Planner can be accessed on the [MSW Student Resource Portal](#) by navigating the following steps:

- 1) Academic Planning and advising page
- 2) Select Denver Campus
- 3) Select [Fall 2025 and After](#)
- 4) Expand the Course Planning Tools drop down (*see image below*).

The Denver Campus MSW Degree Planning Packet includes all degree and prerequisite requirements, curriculum overviews, and pathway requirements.



Denver Campus MSW Degree Planning Packet

### Course Planning Tools

- [Denver Campus Advanced Standing MSW Degree Planner](#)
- [Denver Campus MSW Degree Planner](#)

*\*For maximum functionality, please download the file and open in Microsoft Excel. DU provides Microsoft Office access for students: information can be found [here](#).*

Watch [this video](#) for a tutorial on how to utilize your Degree Planner.

### The Four Pillars of your MSW Degree:

- 1) Academic Course Work
- 2) Field Internship (Applied Practice)
- 3) Mentoring, Supervision, and Guidance
- 4) Adult Learner Mindset and Responsibility

### Important Notes:

- Foundation course work and field internship must be complete prior to beginning concentration field internship. Please email [field@du.edu](mailto:field@du.edu) with questions regarding field internships.
- Concentration field may not be taken in advance of concentration course work. No more than 9 credits of concentration course work can be outstanding upon completion of concentration internships.
- Independent studies, directed studies, international field internships, or any course work that deviates from the standard GSSW program, must be approved *prior* to engaging in alternative learning.
- It is critical to pay attention to the academic calendar for information regarding registration, add/drop, refunds, and various dates that may impact your financial aid and tuition.
- Interested in working with faculty regarding on-going research project - <https://socialwork.du.edu/research-faculty/active-research-projects>

**Advising:** Current and Active Denver Campus students are not assigned an academic advisor as the advising program is voluntary. All Denver Campus students have access to Faculty Academic Advising by placing a request. You are encouraged to connect with our Faculty Academic Advising Team for any needs related to degree planning or questions related to your academic experience at GSSW.

**Advising Process:**

1. Student completes “[Contact an Advisor](#)” survey which goes to [denvercampusadvising@du.edu](mailto:denvercampusadvising@du.edu) for processing.
2. Student may receive an email with needed information or will be sent to a Faculty Advisor to set up an appointment.
3. Advisors can help support any of the following needs:
  - a. Waiver or substitution form signature
  - b. Independent or Directed Study approval
  - c. Want to reduce or increase credit load or take a leave of absence
  - d. Guidance on course selection for specific career interests/professional development mentoring
  - e. Struggling with external responsibilities, health or mental health challenges impacting your work
  - f. Guidance on additional support or resources

## Appendix: Academic Plans

### Advanced Standing Curriculum Plan Options

Students completing one of these plans must have been previously awarded a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

#### **July (Summer) Program Start – Full Time 4-Quarter Advanced Standing Curriculum Plan**

*Summer (Q1) Schedule – Advanced Standing Pre-Requisites*

- SOWK 4299: Advanced Standing Seminar (3 credits)
- SOWK 4302: Advanced Standing: Advanced Evidence for Practice (3 credits)
- SOWK 4303: Advanced Standing: Engaging Anti-Oppressive Social Work (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 9**

*Fall (Q2) Schedule– 4 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 16**

*Winter (Q3) Schedule – 3 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 16**

*Spring (Q4) Schedule – 3 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**

**= 54 total program credits**

#### **September (Fall) Program Start – Full Time 4-Quarter Advanced Standing Curriculum Plan**



*Fall (Q1) Schedule – Advanced Standing Pre-Requisites + field*

- SOWK 4299: Advanced Standing Seminar (3 credit)
- SOWK 4302: Advanced Standing: Advanced Evidence for Practice (3 credits)
- SOWK 4303: Advanced Standing: Engaging Anti-Oppressive Social Work (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**

*Winter (Q2) Schedule – 4 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 16**

*Spring (Q3) Schedule – 3 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 16**

*Summer (Q4) Schedule – 4 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 9**

**= 54 total program credits**

**September (Fall) Program Start – Part Time 10-Quarter Advanced Standing Curriculum Plan**

*Fall (Q1) Schedule – Advanced Standing Pre-Requisites*

- SOWK 4299: Advanced Standing Seminar (3 credit)
- SOWK 4303: Advanced Standing: Engaging Anti-Oppressive Social Work (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Winter (Q2) Schedule – Advanced Standing Pre-Requisite + 1 class*

- 4302: Advanced Standing: Advanced Evidence for Practice (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Spring (Q3) Schedule – 2 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Summer (Q4) Schedule – 2 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Fall (Q5) Schedule – 2 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Winter (Q6) Schedule – 2 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**

*Spring (Q7) Schedule – 2 classes*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)

**Total Anticipated Credits: 6**



<i>Summer (Q8) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>

<i>Fall (Q9) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>

<i>Winter (Q10) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>

**= 54 total program credits**

## Master of Social Work Curriculum Plan Options

Students completing one of these plans do not have a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

### **September (Fall) Program Start – Full Time 6-Quarter Curriculum Plan (Summer off)**

*Fall (Q1) Schedule – 4 classes + field*

- SOWK 4132: Power, Privilege, and Oppression (3 credits)
- SOWK 4020: Integrated Practice for Social Justice (4 credits)
- SOWK 4001: Clinical Social Work Skills (3 credits)
- SOWK 4000: Professional Development Seminar (1 credit)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 14**

*Winter (Q2) Schedule – 3 classes + field*

- SOWK 4007: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice (4 credits)
- SOWK 4120: Social Policy, Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice (3 credits)
- SOWK 4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**

*Spring (Q3) Schedule – 2 foundation classes + 2 concentration classes + field*

- SOWK 4201: Evidence for Practice (3 credits)
- SOWK 4003: Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 15**

**Summer Off** - A decision to continue over the summer would require notification & would alter the dispersal of the merit aid package. Students should contact GSSW Admissions and Financial Aid with questions if taking Summer courses.

*Fall (Q4) Schedule – 3 classes+ field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**



*Winter (Q5) Schedule – 3 classes+ field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**

*Spring (Q6) Schedule – 3 classes+ field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 13**

**= 81 total program credits**

**September (Fall) Program Start – Part Time 14-Quarter Curriculum Plan**

<p><i>Fall (Q1) Schedule – 3 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4132: Power, Privilege, and Oppression (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4020: Integrated Practice for Social Justice (4 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4000: Professional Development Seminar (1 credit)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 8</b></p>
<p><i>Winter (Q2) Schedule – 2 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4001: Clinical Social Work Skills (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4006: Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b></p>
<p><i>Spring (Q3) Schedule – 2 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4007: Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice (4 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4003: Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 7</b></p>
<p><i>Summer (Q4) Schedule – 2 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4201: Evidence for Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4120: Social Policy, Analysis, Advocacy, and Practice (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b></p>
<p><i>Fall (Q5) Schedule – 1 class + field</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b></p>
<p><i>Winter (Q6) Schedule – 1 class + field</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b></p>
<p><i>Spring (Q7) Schedule – 1 class + field</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (3 credits) = 13.5 field hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b></p>



<i>Summer (Q8) Schedule – 2 classes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b>
<i>Fall (Q9) Schedule – 2 classes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b>
<i>Winter (Q10) Schedule – 2 classes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b>
<i>Spring (Q11) Schedule – 2 classes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li><li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 6</b>
<i>Summer (Q12) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>
<i>Fall (Q13) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>
<i>Winter (Q14) Schedule – field</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (4 credits) = 16.5 field hours per week</li></ul>
<b>Total Anticipated Credits: 4</b>

**= 81 total program credits**

**January (Winter) Program Start – Full Time 7-Quarter Curriculum Plan**

<p><i>Winter (Q1) Schedule – 5 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4132: Power, Privilege, and Oppression (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4020: Integrated Practice for Social Justice (4 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4000: Professional Development Seminar (1 credit)</li> <li>• SOWK 4001: Clinical Social Work Skills (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4006: Human Behavior &amp; the Social Environment (3)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 14</b></p>
<p><i>Spring (Q2) Schedule – 3 classes + field</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4120: Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy, &amp; Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4007: Community/Macro Social Work Theory &amp; Practice (4 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4003: Clinical Social Work Theory &amp; Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (4 credits) = 20 field hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 14</b></p>
<p><i>Summer (Q3) Schedule – 1 foundation class + 1 concentration class + field</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOWK 4201: Evidence for Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Internship (5 credits) = 20 field hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 11</b></p>
<p><i>Fall (Q4) Schedule – 4 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 12</b></p>
<p><i>Winter (Q5) Schedule – 3 classes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> <li>• Concentration Course (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Anticipated Credits: 9</b></p>



*Spring (Q6) Schedule – 2 classes + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (6 credits) = 25 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 12**

*Summer (Q7) Schedule – 1 class + field*

- Concentration Course (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970: Concentration Field Internship (6 credits) = 25 field hours per week

**Total Anticipated Credits: 9**

**= 81 total program credits**