



**Graduate School
of Social Work**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

MSW CONCENTRATION YEAR

Career Pathway Planning Guide

Advisor & Student Planning Resource

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each pathway provides recommended courses per required curriculum category, plus recommended electives (12 elective credits required). Use the Table of Contents to jump to any pathway or certificate.

Course selection is for guidance. Work with your academic advisor to build your individualized plan.

Courses with a warning note require special enrollment steps or prerequisites. Contact your advisor for details.

Note: All course selections are guided recommendations. Any unused required-category course may also count as an elective. Up to 10 credits may come from other DU graduate programs with advisor approval. Consult your academic advisor for a final degree audit.

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HEALTH, AGING & WELLNESS

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COMMUNITY & GLOBAL SERVICES

Community Services & Nonprofit Leadership Pathway	International Social Work Pathway	Ecology & Environmental Justice Pathway
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CERTIFICATES

School Social Work Certificate	Global Social Work Certificate	Latinx Social Work Certificate
Human-Animal-Environment Interactions Certificate	Mental Health for Ecological Resilience & Adaptation Certificate	

Aging Services Pathway

Prepares students for practice with older adults and their families across residential care, community-based services, hospital settings, hospice, and aging policy. Emphasizes biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and environmental aspects of late life.

What Social Workers Do: *Aging services social workers provide assessment, counseling, case management, and advocacy to older adults and their families. They navigate complex care systems, facilitate end-of-life planning, support caregivers, address elder abuse, and advocate for policies promoting dignity and quality of life in later years.*

Sample Job Titles: *Geriatric Social Worker, Hospice Social Worker, Aging Services Case Manager, Care Coordinator, Nursing Home Social Worker, Senior Services Director, Adult Protective Services Worker, Gerontological Social Worker*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness <i>Aging through a health equity lens: social determinants of health, wellness frameworks, and evolving care models for older adults.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Mental health, substance use, and late-life trauma—including late-onset substance use and dementia-related behavioral changes.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family-centered frameworks for caregiver support, family decision-making, and end-of-life care conversations.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Mental health assessment across the lifespan—with particular attention to late-life presentations, dementia, and depression.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based holistic assessment of elder wellness including physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed practice with older adults including late-life trauma, elder abuse, and historical trauma.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Leading aging services organizations, supervising care teams, and managing long-term care and community programs.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Design and development of community-based aging services, adult day programs, and senior resource centers.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Integrated care models for older adults: patient-centered medical homes, geriatric care teams, and care coordination.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4445 Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Aging <i>Core course for this pathway: biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and environmental aspects of late life; continuum of care services.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4723 Social Work Practice in Health <i>Hospital and care setting social work roles including discharge planning and care coordination for older adults.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan <i>Grief, bereavement, and loss in late life—including anticipatory grief, spousal loss, and end-of-life support.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions <i>Elder suicide risk assessment and safety planning—older adults are a high-risk group requiring specialized attention.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4650 Aging Policy <i>Core policy course: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, long-term care policy, and end-of-life services.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4645 Health Care Policy <i>ACA, Medicare, Medicaid, and the healthcare policy landscape shaping services for older adults.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4655 Mental Health and Health Care Policy <i>Behavioral health and physical health policy intersection affecting older adult care systems.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Evaluation tools for aging services programs, care management interventions, and community-based support services.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Person-centered design for aging services program development and evaluation.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4742 Disability Studies <i>Disability justice framework for working with older adults with physical, cognitive, and functional impairments.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural inequities in elder mental health care—guides advocacy for older adults facing marginalization.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4725 Mind-Body Connections and Social Work Practice</p>	<p><i>Mind-body approaches for older adults managing chronic illness, pain, and late-life health challenges.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy</p>	<p><i>Couples and relationship therapy applicable to older adult couples navigating late-life transitions and caregiving.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services</p>	<p><i>Family policies affecting older adults and their caregivers—family leave, long-term care, and eldercare systems.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4521 Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families</p>	<p><i>Military service members and veterans in aging—relevant for VA and veteran-serving aging programs.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4555 Spirituality and Social Work	<i>Spirituality and religion in late-life identity, meaning-making, and end-of-life care—essential for aging practice.</i>

Child Welfare Pathway

Prepares students for careers in public and private child welfare systems, including child protective services, foster care, adoption, and family preservation. Focuses on assessment, safety planning, permanency, and culturally responsive family engagement.

What Social Workers Do: *Child welfare social workers investigate reports of abuse and neglect, develop safety and case plans, support family preservation, facilitate foster care and adoption, and advocate for children's rights and well-being within complex systems of care.*

Sample Job Titles: *Child Protective Services Social Worker, Foster Care Social Worker, Adoption Social Worker, Family Preservation Specialist, Family Service Worker, Case Manager, Child Welfare Case Worker*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Developmental theories through a critical lens, exploring structural factors shaping children's lives—essential for child welfare assessment.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Foundational family systems theory for understanding family dynamics, role patterns, and family-centered intervention.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>How parental mental health, addiction, and trauma shape child development and family functioning in child welfare contexts.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Child and adolescent mental health assessment including developmental screening tools used in child welfare settings.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed frameworks for assessing children exposed to maltreatment, domestic violence, and family disruption.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based family assessment identifying protective factors and resilience critical to safety decision-making.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Skills for leading child welfare teams, supervising caseworkers, and managing family service organizations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Design of family support programs, family preservation initiatives, and community-based child welfare services.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4418 Child Welfare Practice: Assessment & Intervention <i>Core practice course covering the continuum of child welfare—safety planning, removal decisions, family reunification, and permanency.</i> Prereq: SOWK 4600 or instructor permission</p>
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Trauma's impact on child development; implements trauma-focused interventions including TF-CBT foundational elements.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth <i>Evidence-based intervention techniques for working therapeutically with children and adolescents across settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems <i>Clinical family therapy skills for complex situations including high-conflict, blended, and kinship family systems.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4600 Child Welfare History & Policies <i>U.S. child welfare policy history—prevention through adoption—and frameworks for advocating for policy change.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth <i>Federal and state programs: TANF, Head Start, CAPTA, and the legislative framework for child welfare services.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>IDEA, ICWA, mandated reporting laws, FERPA, and legal frameworks essential for child welfare practitioners.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Tools for evaluating child welfare interventions, family support programs, and placement outcomes.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Design and evaluation of evidence-based youth development programs that build resilience and protective factors.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems <i>Critically examines racial disproportionality in child welfare—essential for equity-focused practice with families of color.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist framework challenging structural inequities affecting families of color in the child welfare system.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing <i>Intergenerational trauma including the legacy of forced family separation and boarding schools—essential for ICWA practice.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children</p>	<p><i>Directive and non-directive play therapy for early and middle childhood mental health intervention.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services</p>	<p><i>Policies shaping family life including child care, family leave, housing, and economic support programs.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4710 Intimate Partner Violence</p>	<p><i>Assessment and intervention with domestic violence—directly relevant to safety assessment in child welfare cases.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4680 Native Peoples Practice: History and Policy</p>	<p><i>Federal policies affecting Native communities, ICWA practice, and culturally responsive social service delivery in tribal contexts.</i></p>

Children & Families Pathway

Prepares students for direct practice and systems-level work with children, youth, and families across child welfare, family therapy, early intervention, and youth development settings. Centers family strengths and child well-being.

What Social Workers Do: Social workers in this field provide social services to improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families. They assist parents, arrange adoptions, find foster homes for abused or abandoned children, and provide assessment, counseling, case management, and family advocacy.

Sample Job Titles: Adoption Social Worker, Child Protective Services Social Worker, Family Protection Specialist, Foster Care Social Worker, Family Service Worker, Case Manager, Youth Advocate, Family Resource Coordinator

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development Core developmental theory through a critical lens for child and family social work assessment and practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Family systems theory for understanding dynamics, role patterns, and family-centered intervention approaches.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma How parental mental health, addiction, and trauma shape child development and family functioning.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Child and adolescent mental health assessment including developmental screening and behavioral assessment tools. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma-informed frameworks for assessing children exposed to maltreatment, domestic violence, and family disruption.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Strengths-based family assessment identifying protective factors and resilience in children and families.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Skills for leading child welfare teams, supervising caseworkers, and managing family service organizations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Design of family support programs, parent education initiatives, and community-based child welfare services.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Community organizing for child welfare system reform, family advocacy, and community-based family support.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4418 Child Welfare Practice: Assessment & Intervention Core course covering the continuum of child welfare—safety planning, removal decisions, and family reunification. Prereq: SOWK 4600 or instructor permission</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth <i>Evidence-based intervention techniques for working therapeutically with children and adolescents across settings.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Trauma's impact on child development; TF-CBT foundational elements.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems <i>Clinical family therapy for complex situations—high-conflict, blended, and kinship family systems.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4600 Child Welfare History & Policies <i>U.S. child welfare policy history—prevention through adoption—and frameworks for policy advocacy.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth <i>Federal and state programs serving children including TANF, Head Start, and juvenile justice policy.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services <i>Policies shaping family life including child care, family leave, housing, and economic support programs.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Design and evaluation of evidence-based youth development programs that build resilience and protective factors.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Tools for evaluating child welfare interventions, family support programs, and youth development outcomes.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for capturing youth and family voices in program evaluation and advocacy.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems <i>Racial disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice—essential for equity-focused family practice.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist framework for child welfare challenging structural inequities affecting families of color.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing <i>Intergenerational trauma affecting families, including the legacy of forced family separation and boarding schools.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities <i>Supporting LGBTQIA+ youth and families in child welfare and family services settings.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality <i>Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children	<i>Directive and non-directive play therapy for early and middle childhood mental health intervention.</i>
SOWK 4720 Prevention & Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence	<i>Causal theories and prevention/treatment for adolescent delinquency and violence at multiple system levels.</i>
SOWK 4520 Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families	<i>Advanced family therapy through live supervision and reflecting teams.</i> Prereqs: SOWK 4320 & 4420
SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy	<i>Assessment and intervention with couples and co-parenting relationships—applicable in family court and family therapy.</i>

Children & Youth Pathway

Prepares students to work directly with children and adolescents across youth development, prevention, after-school, juvenile justice, and school-based settings. Emphasizes strengths-based, developmentally responsive practice.

What Social Workers Do: *Children and youth social workers provide direct services, programming, and advocacy for young people from early childhood through emerging adulthood. They assess needs, design prevention programs, facilitate groups, coordinate community resources, and advocate for youth rights and opportunities.*

Sample Job Titles: *Youth Program Director, Youth Advocate, Youth Development Specialist, After-School Program Coordinator, Prevention Specialist, Case Manager, Youth Outreach Worker, Juvenile Probation Officer*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Core course: examines developmental theories through a critical lens, exploring social, cultural, and structural factors shaping youth.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Examines how trauma, mental health, and substance use intersect in the lives of children and adolescents.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family systems frameworks for understanding how family dynamics shape youth development and behavior.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Child and adolescent mental health screening and diagnostic assessment tools used across youth-serving settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based wellness frameworks for identifying youth assets, protective factors, and developmental needs.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed assessment approaches for identifying and responding to adverse childhood experiences.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Design and implementation of evidence-based youth programs, after-school initiatives, and prevention campaigns.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community organizing strategies for youth advocacy, parent engagement, and systemic change in youth-serving systems.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Leadership and supervision skills for managing youth programs, coordinating volunteers, and building organizational capacity.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth <i>Core therapeutic elements and evidence-based techniques for working with children and adolescents across problem areas.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Trauma's impact on youth development; evidence-based trauma-focused interventions for youth-serving practitioners.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children Directive and non-directive play therapy techniques for mental health intervention with young children.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies CBT frameworks for individual and group interventions with youth experiencing anxiety, depression, and behavioral challenges.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth History and evolution of social policies and programs targeting high-risk youth, including juvenile justice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4600 Child Welfare History & Policies Child welfare policy and its connections to youth development, education, and juvenile justice systems.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Legal frameworks affecting youth including juvenile law, education rights, and mandated reporting obligations.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming Core course for this pathway: design and evaluate PYD programs that build developmental assets and promote youth thriving.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Evaluation frameworks for assessing youth program outcomes, fidelity, and impact.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems School-to-prison pipeline, racial disparities in juvenile justice and child welfare—essential for equity-focused youth practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities Competencies for creating affirming environments and providing culturally responsive support to LGBTQIA+ youth.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Structural inequities shaping mental health access and outcomes for marginalized youth populations.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4720 Prevention & Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence</p>	<p>Causal theories and prevention/treatment approaches for adolescent delinquency and violence across multiple system levels.</p>
<p>SOWK 4410 Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use</p>	<p>Causal factors and effective prevention/treatment approaches for adolescent substance use.</p>
<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions</p>	<p>Youth suicide risk assessment, safety planning, and intervention—essential for any youth-serving practitioner.</p>
<p>SOWK 4715 School Social Work Interventions</p>	<p>School-based roles and interventions—highly relevant for youth workers in educational or prevention settings.</p>
<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work</p>	<p>Anti-racist frameworks for centering equity in youth-serving programs and policy advocacy.</p>

Community Organizing Pathway

Equips students to mobilize communities, build coalitions, and drive systemic change from the ground up. Emphasizes power analysis, civic engagement, and social movement strategy.

What Social Workers Do: Community social workers use organizing skills to propose and change policies in pursuit of social and economic justice. They apply generalist social work perspectives to make changes at local, state, and federal levels—building power, running campaigns, and creating community-driven change.

Sample Job Titles: Community Outreach Coordinator, Coalition Specialist, Political Organizing Strategist, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Program Developer, Canvasser/Advocate, Community Outreach Manager

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice Key frameworks for community and organizational change including power analysis and collective action models.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma How trauma and structural inequalities intersect—essential context for community organizing work.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments Skills in assessing social, economic, and environmental impacts of community-level interventions.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Community wellness frameworks for identifying collective needs and designing population-level strategies.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Core course: relational organizing, base-building, power mapping, direct action, and campaign strategy.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Needs assessment, logic models, and program design for community-based organizations and coalitions.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Leadership for managing teams, building organizational capacity, and sustaining community organizations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4465 Human Security Human security frameworks addressing food, housing, health, and safety as organizing lenses.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice Restorative practices for community healing, conflict resolution, and building cohesion.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems Family systems thinking in community organizing contexts.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy Legislative advocacy, policy analysis, and strategic communication for community-driven change.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>Global movements and international frameworks expanding the organizer's strategic toolkit.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>Immigration law and policy for organizing in immigrant and mixed-status communities.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Communicating organizing outcomes and research findings to diverse audiences.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory action research and photovoice as community-led advocacy tools.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Evaluating community organizing campaigns and the programs developed through them.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>How race and racism operate in communities—essential for racially just organizing.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4641 An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition <i>Abolitionist theory as a framework for organizing toward transformative change.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4643 Digital Justice in Social Work <i>Digital equity and technology's role in community organizing and civic engagement.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Poverty, low-income neighborhoods, and local economic development—community-driven CED strategies.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<p><i>Policy-making and implementation; identifying needed change and communicating with policy actors.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4760 Resource Development & Fundraising</p>	<p><i>Fundraising, grant-proposal writing, and fiscal processes for community organizations.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Barriers to justice-oriented practice and anti-oppressive community-level strategies.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development</p>	<p><i>Design thinking for community-centered solutions and programs co-created with those they serve.</i></p>

Ecology & Environmental Justice Pathway

Prepares students to address environmental crises and protect the well-being of people, other species, and the planet. Focuses on structural inequalities driving environmental degradation and develops skills in policy advocacy, community organizing, and ecological social work practice.

What Social Workers Do: *Ecological social workers develop and advocate for policies promoting human and planetary health, work with NGOs and governments on environmental racism and food security, and support communities facing climate-driven crises.*

Sample Job Titles: *Environmental Justice Organizer, Environmental Health Specialist, Policy Analyst, Community Planner, Environmental Coordinator, Natural Resource Specialist, Project Manager, Environmental Consultant*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4360 Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human and Environmental Wellbeing <i>Core theory: social ecology perspective and resilience frameworks for human-ecological interdependence.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice <i>Systemic change theories applied to environmental and ecological justice organizing.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Trauma and mental health impacts of environmental degradation, disasters, and climate-driven displacement.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments <i>Core assessment for this pathway: analyzing consequences of development on human and ecological systems.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Holistic wellness assessment incorporating Indigenous and complementary health models for environmental justice communities.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4202 Creating a Regenerative Future <i>Regenerative design, permaculture, and futures thinking for socio-ecological transformation.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community organizing for environmental justice campaigns—coalition building and policy advocacy.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Program design for environmental health initiatives, community resilience projects, and ecological social work.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4203 Environmental Change Impacts and Resilience Strategies for Mental Health <i>Mental health implications of the climate crisis; resilience to climate grief, solastalgia, and eco-anxiety.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4206 Clinical Interventions for Building Resilience for Global Environmental Change <i>Advanced clinical skills for mental health diagnoses related to environmental change and ecological trauma.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy <i>Environmentally sound, nature-based experiential therapy as ecological social work practice.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4204 Policy Advocacy for Ecological Justice in the U.S. <i>Critical analysis of U.S. policies for human well-being and ecological justice; local and state advocacy skills.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy <i>Legislative advocacy for environmental justice, climate policy, and green infrastructure campaigns.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>Global environmental governance and international frameworks for ecological justice advocacy.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Evaluation for community resilience programs and environmental justice interventions.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for documenting environmental injustice and amplifying community voices.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Translating environmental justice research into public impact—media, infographics, and policy communication.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Environmental racism and how structural power shapes communities' exposure to environmental harm.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4355 Genocide: A Social Justice Issue <i>Intersection of genocide and environmental destruction—targeting of indigenous communities and ecosystems.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4795 Foundations for Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work</p>	<p><i>Cultural and social justice aspects of human-animal-environment interactions. First course in HAEI-SW Certificate.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4796 Human-Animal-Environment Interventions in Social Work Practice</p>	<p><i>Integrating animals in social work practice; clinical and community frameworks. Second HAEI-SW Certificate course.</i> Prereq: SOWK 4795</p>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Economic development grounding environmental justice work in place-based analysis.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development</p>	<p><i>Design thinking for community-centered environmental and ecological justice program development.</i></p>

Family & Community Services Pathway

Prepares students for roles bridging direct family services and community-based program delivery. Focuses on family-centered practice, community outreach, program coordination, and advocacy across social service and nonprofit settings.

What Social Workers Do: Family and community services social workers coordinate and deliver services to families and communities through case management, program coordination, outreach, and advocacy. They connect individuals and families to resources, facilitate community programs, and work to strengthen family and community well-being.

Sample Job Titles: Family Services Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator, Case Manager, Family Resource Specialist, Community Services Block Grant Worker, Outreach Social Worker, Program Coordinator, Family Support Specialist

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Foundational family systems theory for family-centered community service delivery and program design.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice <i>Community and organizational change theories for designing and implementing family and community programs.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>How trauma and mental health intersect with family and community functioning.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based family and community wellness assessment for identifying needs and building programs.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments <i>Community needs assessment and program impact measurement for family service agencies.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed assessment frameworks essential for family and community service practitioners.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Core course: program design, logic models, needs assessment, and program documentation for family services.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Supervision and leadership for family service teams and community program managers.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community engagement, parent advocacy, coalition building, and family-centered community organizing.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth <i>Evidence-based therapeutic elements for working with children and families in community settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice <i>Restorative practices for family conflict resolution, community building, and program design.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems <i>Advanced family systems skills for practitioners in complex family service contexts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Integrated care models for family and community services organizations offering health-social service linkages.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services <i>Policies shaping family life—child care, family leave, housing, economic supports, and social services.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth <i>Federal and state programs serving children and families including TANF, Head Start, and early intervention.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy <i>Advocacy skills for family and community services practitioners engaging in policy change.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Outcome measurement and evaluation for family services programs and community initiatives.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Evidence-based youth development programming applicable to family and community service agencies.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Family and community-centered design thinking for program development and evaluation.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems <i>Racial disproportionality in family services and child welfare—essential for equity-focused community practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing <i>Historical trauma affecting families—essential for culturally responsive family and community services.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities <i>Affirming family and community services for LGBTQIA+ individuals and families.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4760 Resource Development & Fundraising</p>	<p><i>Fundraising and grant-proposal writing—core skills for family and community services agency leadership.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4445 Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Aging</p>	<p><i>Assessment for older adults—applicable to family and community agencies serving aging populations.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children</p>	<p><i>Play therapy for young children—applicable in family resource centers and early childhood settings.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Economic development analysis grounding family services in structural economic justice frameworks.</i></p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work	<i>Anti-racist frameworks for equitable family and community service delivery.</i>

Family Systems Pathway

Prepares students for clinical and community practice grounded in family systems theory—including individual therapy, family therapy, couples counseling, and family-centered case management. Emphasizes relational assessment and systemic intervention across diverse family structures.

What Social Workers Do: Family systems social workers apply relational and systemic frameworks to assess and intervene with individuals, couples, families, and communities. They facilitate therapy, mediate conflict, support family transitions, and build on family strengths to improve functioning and well-being.

Sample Job Titles: Family Therapist, Family Systems Clinician, Couples Counselor, Family Case Manager, Family Support Specialist, Clinical Social Worker, Family Reunification Specialist

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Core course for this pathway: systems theory applied to family contexts—structural, strategic, Bowenian, and transgenerational approaches.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development Developmental theory for understanding how family dynamics shape child and adolescent functioning.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma How mental health, addiction, and trauma affect family systems—integrated treatment perspectives.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan DSM-5-TR diagnostic assessment across the lifespan—essential for clinical formulation in family systems practice. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma-informed assessment within family systems, including intergenerational and attachment-based frameworks.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Strengths-based family assessment identifying protective factors and family resilience.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Clinical supervision, team leadership, and agency management in family services and behavioral health organizations.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Integrated behavioral health models—increasingly common contexts for family-centered practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems Core practice course: multisystemic family therapy strategies, intake and assessment, goal setting, and intervention.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4520 Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families Advanced family therapy through live supervision and reflecting teams; opportunity to implement a full course of treatment. Prereqs: SOWK 4320 & 4420</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy Assessment and intervention with couples covering conflict management, intimacy, abuse, infidelity, and divorce.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies CBT including couples-focused and family cognitive behavioral approaches.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services Policies shaping family life—child care, family leave, housing, economic supports, and family court systems.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Legal frameworks affecting families: domestic relations, child protection, adoption, and confidentiality.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies Behavioral health policies governing family treatment settings, including parity and managed care.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Clinical outcome measurement and evaluation frameworks for family-based interventions.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming Evidence-based frameworks applicable to family-centered youth programming and prevention.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing Intergenerational and historical trauma affecting family systems—guides culturally grounded healing-centered practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities Affirming clinical practice with LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families across the lifespan.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work Anti-racist frameworks for family systems practice challenging structural inequities affecting families of color.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma</p>	<p>Trauma-focused interventions for children and families—including TF-CBT and trauma-informed family therapy.</p>
<p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy</p>	<p>Experiential and somatic approaches for work with children, youth, families, and couples.</p>
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p>Models of grief and bereavement; assessment and intervention with grieving individuals, families, and communities.</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4418 Child Welfare Practice: Assessment & Intervention	<i>Child welfare practice skills for practitioners working with families involved in the child welfare system.</i> Prereq: SOWK 4600
SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions	<i>Suicide risk assessment and safety planning—essential for family systems clinicians across settings.</i>
SOWK 4721 Anti-Oppressive Clinical Engagement Using Existential Approaches	<i>Meaning-making and existential approaches that enrich family systems clinical engagement.</i>

Forensic & Criminal Justice Pathway

Prepares students for practice at the intersection of social work and the criminal legal system—in courts, correctional facilities, victim services, reentry programs, diversion initiatives, and expert witness roles. Centers anti-carceral, justice-focused, and trauma-informed perspectives alongside forensic assessment competencies.

What Social Workers Do: *Forensic and criminal justice social workers diagnose and assess justice-involved individuals, make recommendations about mental status, serve as expert witnesses, facilitate reentry and diversion, provide counseling and case management, and advocate for systemic reform. They work alongside law enforcement, courts, corrections, community organizations, and interdisciplinary legal teams.*

Sample Job Titles: *Forensic Social Worker, Co-Responder, Probation Officer, Reentry Specialist, Correctional Counselor/Social Worker, Juvenile Probation Officer, Court Advocate, Restorative Justice Coordinator, Criminal Justice Reform Advocate, Forensic Specialist*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Essential theory for understanding co-occurring disorders and the underlying drivers of criminal justice involvement including trauma, addiction, and untreated mental illness.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Informs forensic work with youth including juvenile court practice, child abuse investigations, and custody matters.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice <i>Theoretical grounding for systemic reform efforts targeting the criminal legal system and its community impacts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family assessment in custody disputes, child protective proceedings, domestic violence advocacy, and the ripple effects of incarceration on family systems.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Core competency: diagnostic and risk assessments used in legal decision-making, courts, jails, and reentry settings.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma assessment approaches for victims, perpetrators, witnesses, and justice-involved individuals across incarceration and community supervision settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Expands the practitioner's toolkit beyond pathology to incorporate strengths-based holistic assessment with justice-involved populations.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community organizing driving criminal justice reform—decarceration campaigns, police accountability, and diversion advocacy.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Design skills for victim services, reentry programs, diversion initiatives, and community-based alternatives to incarceration.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Leading forensic and criminal justice teams in interdisciplinary legal, clinical, and community supervision environments.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4418 Child Welfare Practice: Assessment & Intervention <i>Child protection assessment and intervention—central to forensic practice in child abuse and neglect cases.</i> Prereq: SOWK 4600 or instructor permission</p>
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Trauma's impact on children in the legal system; guides therapeutic and advocacy interventions.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice <i>Restorative justice theory and practice as alternatives to punitive responses within the criminal legal system.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4430 Substance Use Interventions <i>Evidence-based substance use treatment relevant to the high rates of addiction among justice-involved populations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies <i>CBT approaches widely used in criminal justice and forensic settings to address criminogenic thinking, trauma, depression, and behavioral dysregulation.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions <i>Risk assessment and crisis intervention essential in jails, forensic hospitals, victim services, and reentry settings.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>Critical course: legal frameworks, courtroom roles, civil rights, due process, mandated reporting, confidentiality, juvenile law, and social worker testimony.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies <i>Policies governing forensic mental health settings, competency restoration, treatment courts, and community supervision.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy <i>Advocacy skills for decarceration, drug policy reform, and community alternatives to incarceration.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4786 Human Trafficking: Prevention, Intervention, and Support of Its Victims <i>Human trafficking as a forensic social work issue requiring specialized victim advocacy and legal navigation.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Frameworks for evaluating forensic programs, court-based interventions, reentry initiatives, and victim services.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Data communication strategies for influencing criminal justice policy reform through research and advocacy.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4641 An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition <i>Abolitionist theory and practice as a framework for understanding and challenging mass incarceration—strengthens the practitioner's advocacy orientation.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Racial disparities in the criminal justice system and their roots in structural racism—essential for justice-informed practice.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems <i>The school-to-prison pipeline and racial disparities in juvenile justice—guides prevention and advocacy efforts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing <i>Intergenerational trauma relevant to understanding forensic populations and guiding healing-centered practice.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4705 Forensic Orientation in Social Work: Assessment and Interventions with High-Risk Offenders</p>	<p><i>Core forensic elective: risk-and-containment framework applied to domestic violence abusers and adult/adolescent sexual offenders.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4710 Intimate Partner Violence</p>	<p><i>Assessment and intervention with domestic violence including community, systemic, and policy response dimensions.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4720 Prevention & Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence</p>	<p><i>Causal theories and evidence-based prevention and treatment for adolescent delinquency and violence at multiple system levels.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<p><i>Policy-making structure applied to criminal justice—developing reform proposals and communicating them to key policy actors.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Poverty and local economic development—grounds reentry and criminal justice reform work in economic justice analysis.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Examines barriers to justice-oriented practice and builds strategies for anti-oppressive forensic and criminal justice social work.</i></p>

Groups, Communities & Organizations Pathway

Prepares students for macro social work practice with a focus on group facilitation, community development, and organizational leadership. Develops competencies in facilitating groups, building community capacity, and leading organizations toward systemic change.

What Social Workers Do: Social workers in this area facilitate therapeutic and psychoeducational groups, develop community programs, lead organizations, conduct community needs assessments, and advocate for systemic change. They work across human services organizations, community development agencies, advocacy groups, and nonprofits.

Sample Job Titles: Group Facilitator, Community Organizer, Nonprofit Program Director, Community Development Specialist, Organizational Change Consultant, Coalition Coordinator, Community Health Worker Supervisor

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice Core theory: frameworks for community and organizational change, systems thinking, power analysis, and collective action.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma How trauma and mental health intersect with community and organizational contexts.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Family and systems thinking applied to group dynamics, organizational culture, and community relationships.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments Community needs assessment and social impact measurement across micro, mezzo, and macro levels.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Population and community wellness frameworks for identifying needs and designing interventions.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Needs assessment, logic models, program design, and stakeholder engagement for organizations and communities.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Core competency: organizational leadership, team management, supervision, and cross-cultural work.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Power mapping, campaign strategy, coalition building, and direct action for systemic change.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4465 Human Security Human security frameworks for organizations addressing food, housing, safety, and economic security.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice Restorative practices for group healing, organizational conflict resolution, and community cohesion.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Integrated care models applicable to organizations offering co-located health and social services.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4700 Solution Focused Brief Therapy <i>SFBT for group facilitation and brief organizational consultation contexts.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy <i>Legislative advocacy skills for organizational leaders and community-based advocates.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>Global civil society frameworks for organizations with international contexts or partnerships.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>Immigration policy relevant to organizations serving diverse community populations.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Evaluation frameworks for groups, community programs, and organizational initiatives.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Communicating organizational and community outcomes to diverse stakeholder audiences.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for amplifying community voices in program evaluation and organizational advocacy.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Design thinking for creating community-centered programs and evaluation tools.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist frameworks for organizational practice and community development leadership.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4641 An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition <i>Abolitionist theory as a lens for community and organizational advocacy toward transformative change.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4643 Digital Justice in Social Work <i>Digital equity and technology's role in organizational communication and community engagement.</i></p> <p>Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Advanced community practice on poverty and local economic development—community-driven CED strategies.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4760 Resource Development & Fundraising</p>	<p><i>Fundraising, grant-proposal writing, budgeting, and fiscal processes for organizations and coalitions.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<p><i>Policy-making analysis for organizational advocates identifying needed change and building policy strategy.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Barriers to justice-oriented practice in organizations and communities; anti-oppressive leadership strategies.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development</p>	<p><i>Design thinking for community-centered program development —co-creating solutions with those you serve.</i></p>

Health & Wellness Pathway

Prepares students for practice promoting health, well-being, and prevention across community, clinical, and organizational settings. Emphasizes holistic wellness frameworks, health equity, integrated behavioral health, and social determinants of health.

What Social Workers Do: Health and wellness social workers promote physical, mental, and social well-being through prevention, health education, wellness programming, community health advocacy, and integrated care. They work in community health centers, hospitals, public health agencies, nonprofits, and corporate wellness settings.

Sample Job Titles: Community Health Worker, Wellness Program Coordinator, Integrated Behavioral Health Specialist, Health Educator, Public Health Social Worker, Prevention Specialist, Community Health Navigator

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness Core theory: health equity frameworks, social determinants of health, integrative wellness models, and public health perspectives.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Physical and behavioral health co-occurrence and integrated treatment perspectives for health and wellness practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4360 Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human and Environmental Wellbeing Social-ecological frameworks for understanding environmental influences on community and population health.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Core assessment course: holistic wellness frameworks, health promotion assessment, and strengths-based wellness practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Mental health screening and assessment applicable to integrated primary care and wellness settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments Community-level health impact assessment tools for evaluating interventions and environmental health policies.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Design of wellness programs, community health initiatives, and prevention campaigns.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Community organizing for health equity, environmental health advocacy, and social determinants campaigns.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4723 Social Work Practice in Health Core health social work practice: psychosocial assessment, care coordination, patient advocacy, and community health frameworks applicable to wellness-focused settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Integrated behavioral health models, patient-centered medical homes, and community health center frameworks.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4725 Mind-Body Connections and Social Work Practice Core course for this pathway: mind-body techniques and evidence-based wellness interventions across populations.</p> <p>SOWK 4700 Solution Focused Brief Therapy Brief wellness-oriented intervention model for health behavior change and preventive care settings.</p> <p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy Nature-based and experiential therapy approaches for building resilience and wellness.</p> <p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice Restorative practices for community healing and wellness-oriented group interventions.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4645 Health Care Policy ACA, Medicare, Medicaid, and healthcare policy shaping access to wellness and preventive services.</p> <p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy Health equity policy advocacy skills for advancing wellness and prevention program funding and access.</p> <p>SOWK 4204 Policy Advocacy for Ecological Justice in the U.S. Environmental health policy advocacy addressing community exposure to environmental health hazards.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Evaluation tools for wellness programs, prevention initiatives, and community health interventions.</p> <p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development Person-centered design for wellness program development and evaluation in community settings.</p> <p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming PYD frameworks for health and wellness programs serving young people across community settings.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4742 Disability Studies Disability justice framework for creating accessible, inclusive wellness programs and health services.</p> <p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Structural inequities in health and mental health access—guides health equity advocacy and programming.</p> <p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</p> <p>SOWK 4362 EmBODYed Practice: Ethical Approaches to Somatic Therapies in Social Work Explores somatic and body-centered therapeutic approaches within an ethical social work framework—including trauma-informed applications for individuals and families across diverse populations.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4445 Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Aging	<i>Holistic assessment and wellness promotion for older adults across community and healthcare settings.</i>
SOWK 4795 Foundations for Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work	<i>Human-animal-environment interactions as wellness-promoting frameworks in health and community settings.</i>
SOWK 4203 Environmental Change Impacts and Resilience Strategies for Mental Health	<i>Climate grief, eco-anxiety, and ecological resilience building—emerging health and wellness practice area.</i>
SOWK 4430 Substance Use Interventions	<i>Harm reduction and wellness-oriented approaches to substance use—core health and wellness competency.</i>
SOWK 4555 Spirituality and Social Work	<i>Spirituality and religion as health and wellness variables in culturally responsive program development.</i>
SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan	<i>Loss and grief as health and wellness concerns across the lifespan—common in community health settings.</i>

Individuals & Families Pathway

Prepares students for direct practice with individuals and families across a wide range of community-based, outpatient, and social service settings. Develops core clinical skills, case management competencies, and advocacy abilities for generalist advanced practice.

What Social Workers Do: Social workers in this area provide direct services to individuals and families through assessment, counseling, case management, referrals, crisis intervention, and advocacy. They work across settings including community mental health, hospitals, nonprofits, and social service agencies.

Sample Job Titles: Clinical Social Worker, Case Manager, Social Worker, Counselor, Community Mental Health Worker, Family Services Coordinator, Direct Service Social Worker, Social Services Specialist

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Core theory: co-occurring mental health, addiction, and trauma from integrated treatment perspectives.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Family systems theory for understanding how relational dynamics affect individual functioning.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development Developmental theory for assessment and intervention across individuals' life course.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Comprehensive mental health assessment and DSM-5-TR diagnostic formulation for treatment planning. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma-informed assessment frameworks for working with diverse individual and family presentations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Holistic strengths-based wellness assessment for diverse individual and family populations.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Supervision and organizational leadership in community-based and direct service agencies.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Program design for services to individuals and families in community and agency settings.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies CBT skills including relapse prevention, coping skills training, and cognitive restructuring across populations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4700 Solution Focused Brief Therapy SFBT as a clinically validated brief intervention model for work with individuals and families.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions Suicide risk assessment, safety planning, and crisis intervention for direct service practitioners.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems Family therapy skills for complex family presentations in clinical and community settings.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>Legal and ethical obligations of social workers in direct practice—confidentiality, mandated reporting, liability.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies <i>Policies governing behavioral health treatment settings where direct service practitioners work.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>Immigration policy and services affecting individuals and families from diverse backgrounds.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Clinical outcome measurement and evaluation approaches for individual and family-based interventions.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Evidence-based frameworks for working with youth and young adults across individual and family contexts.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural inequities in mental health access—essential grounding for equitable direct service practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities <i>Affirming clinical practice competencies for working with LGBTQIA+ individuals and families.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4362 EmBODYed Practice: Ethical Approaches to Somatic Therapies in Social Work <i>Explores somatic and body-centered therapeutic approaches within an ethical social work framework—including trauma-informed applications for individuals and families across diverse populations.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4735 Interpersonal Approaches to Counseling</p>	<p><i>Interpersonal therapy and relational models foundational to clinical social work practice.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p><i>Grief and bereavement assessment and intervention across diverse loss experiences.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4721 Anti-Oppressive Clinical Engagement Using Existential Approaches</p>	<p><i>Meaning-making and existential clinical engagement bypassing diagnostic categorization pitfalls.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy</p>	<p><i>Experiential and somatic approaches including mindfulness and emotion-focused techniques.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy</p>	<p><i>Couples assessment and intervention applicable to practitioners working with individuals and families in community settings.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4430 Substance Use Interventions</p>	<p><i>Evidence-based substance use treatment approaches essential for direct service practitioners across settings.</i></p>

International Social Work Pathway

Prepares students for practice in global contexts—with international NGOs, in humanitarian settings, or domestically with refugee and immigrant communities. Emphasizes cross-cultural humility, human rights frameworks, and decolonial perspectives.

What Social Workers Do: *International social workers seek to improve the social and material well-being of people everywhere across geopolitical borders. They work in areas including child rights, foreign assistance, gender equity, health care, immigration and refugee rights, environmental justice, and human rights.*

Sample Job Titles: *Refugee Youth Advocate, Resettlement Manager, Protection Coordinator, Family Reunification Specialist, Gender Advisor, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Child Welfare Specialist, Research Associate, Policy Associate*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4750 Critical Perspectives on the Latinx Context <i>Historical, political, and cultural contexts shaping Latin American communities—foundational for international practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Displacement trauma, forced migration, and mental health needs in global populations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4360 Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human and Environmental Wellbeing <i>Environmental degradation and climate change as drivers of displacement—critical for humanitarian practice.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments <i>Global assessment of development projects and humanitarian interventions for social and environmental impacts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma assessment adapted for refugee, asylum-seeker, and conflict-affected populations.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4759 Global Cultural Perspectives: Ethical Considerations <i>Ethics for international social work including anti-colonial approaches and the 'white savior' critique.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4465 Human Security <i>Human security frameworks: food insecurity, displacement, conflict, and human rights internationally.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community-driven organizing models for international development and humanitarian response.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4642 Global Trauma <i>Collective and mass trauma from war, genocide, and forced displacement—global intervention frameworks.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems <i>Family systems approaches for refugee, immigrant, and transnational family contexts.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>International social policy, global governance, and social workers in global social change movements.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>U.S. immigration policy and international refugee law for practice with displaced populations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4753 Social Development in Latin America <i>Social development policy across Latin America with implications for international practice.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for amplifying marginalized voices in international and cross-cultural contexts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Communication skills for disseminating international social work research to global policy audiences.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4355 Genocide: A Social Justice Issue <i>Genocide from a social justice framework—essential for international practitioners in post-conflict settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing <i>Intergenerational effects of colonialism, genocide, and mass violence on communities worldwide.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4763 Social Work and Social Justice in South Africa <i>Post-apartheid social work and policy as a model for justice-oriented international practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4766 Women's & Children's Rights in India <i>Study abroad course examining women's and children's rights in the Indian context through a social work and human rights lens—includes field visits to NGOs and community organizations working on gender equity and child welfare. Bucket: Values.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4786 Human Trafficking: Prevention, Intervention, and Support of Its Victims</p>	<p><i>Human trafficking from a social work perspective across regional contexts.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Privilege and oppression in international and cross-cultural social work practice.</i></p>

Medical Social Work Pathway

Prepares students for practice in hospital, clinic, and community health settings. Develops skills in psychosocial assessment, discharge planning, patient advocacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, and health equity work.

What Social Workers Do: Medical social workers provide individuals, families, and groups with the psychosocial support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses. Services include advising family caregivers, patient education and counseling, referrals, care management, and interventions designed to promote health and address barriers to care access.

Sample Job Titles: Medical Social Worker, Hospice Social Worker, Oncology Social Worker, Dialysis Social Worker, Social Work Case Manager, Director of Social Work, Clinical Social Worker

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness Core theory: contemporary health models, social determinants of health, and the evolving healthcare landscape.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Co-occurring physical and behavioral health conditions frequently encountered in medical social work.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Family-centered frameworks for medical decision-making, caregiver support, and end-of-life care conversations.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Comprehensive psychosocial assessment for identifying mental health needs in medical patients. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Holistic wellness assessment for preventive care, chronic illness management, and health promotion.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma-informed approaches for working with medically ill patients with adverse experience histories.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Leading hospital social work departments and navigating complex healthcare systems.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Design of patient support programs, community health initiatives, and integrated care service models.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Core course: integrated behavioral health, patient-centered medical homes, and care coordination.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4723 Social Work Practice in Health Core practice course: hospital social work roles, discharge planning, case management, and patient advocacy.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4725 Mind-Body Connections and Social Work Practice <i>Mind-body approaches supporting patients managing chronic illness, pain, and health behavior change.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions <i>Suicide risk assessment and crisis intervention essential in emergency departments and inpatient settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4735 Interpersonal Approaches to Counseling <i>Therapeutic communication for supporting patients and families navigating illness, grief, and medical decisions.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4645 Health Care Policy <i>ACA, Medicare, Medicaid, and the evolving healthcare policy landscape shaping medical social work.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4655 Mental Health and Health Care Policy <i>Behavioral and physical health policy intersection shaping integrated care delivery.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>
	<p>SOWK 4650 Aging Policy <i>Geriatric care, long-term care, Medicare, and end-of-life services policy relevant to hospital social workers.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Tools for evaluating health social work interventions and integrated care models.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Patient-centered design thinking for developing and evaluating health social work programs.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural barriers to healthcare access—guides advocacy for equitable patient treatment.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4742 Disability Studies <i>Disability justice framework for working with patients with physical and developmental disabilities.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4445 Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Aging</p>	<p><i>Biological, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of late life—essential for hospital and hospice social workers.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p><i>Social work in grief and bereavement—critical for palliative care, oncology, and end-of-life practice.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4521 Advanced Skills for Working with Military Families</p>	<p><i>Military family issues and clinical interventions—relevant in VA hospitals and military health settings.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>
<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy</p>	<p><i>Legislative advocacy skills for health social workers in healthcare reform and patient rights advocacy.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4430 Substance Use Interventions</p>	<p><i>Evidence-based substance use treatment—essential for medical social workers addressing co-occurring conditions.</i></p>

Mental Health Pathway

Prepares students to assess and treat individuals with mental and emotional health challenges in community mental health centers, inpatient and outpatient clinics, hospitals, nonprofits, and private practice.

What Social Workers Do: *Mental health social workers assess and treat individuals with mental and emotional problems. Activities include individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, client advocacy, prevention, and education. They can specialize in areas such as trauma, eating disorders, suicide, and work across diverse environments.*

Sample Job Titles: *Clinical Social Worker, Mental Health Therapist, Clinical Therapist, Psychotherapist, Clinician, Counselor, Case Manager, Social Worker*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Core theory: co-occurring nature of mental health challenges, addiction, and trauma from integrated treatment perspectives.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Systemic family therapy theories for clinical assessment and intervention.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Developmental foundations necessary for clinical assessment and treatment across the lifespan.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Comprehensive mental health assessment and DSM-5-TR diagnostic formulation for treatment planning.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma assessment and evidence-based trauma treatment skills essential for mental health practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based holistic frameworks complementing diagnostic assessment in clinical case conceptualization.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Clinical supervision roles, team leadership, and agency management in behavioral health settings.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Integrated behavioral health models and care coordination—increasingly common practice contexts.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies <i>Comprehensive CBT training including DBT-informed skills, relapse prevention, and exposure-based approaches.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4735 Interpersonal Approaches to Counseling <i>Interpersonal therapy and relational models foundational to clinical social work practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4700 Solution Focused Brief Therapy <i>SFBT—a clinically validated brief intervention model widely used in community mental health.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions Clinical suicide risk assessment, safety planning, and intervention—required competencies for mental health practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems Clinical family therapy skills using structural, strategic, and Bowenian approaches.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Legal and ethical obligations—confidentiality, scope of practice, mandated reporting, and liability.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies Policies governing behavioral health treatment settings where mental health social workers are employed.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4655 Mental Health and Health Care Policy Mental health parity, managed care policy, and financing systems shaping clinical practice. Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Clinical outcome measurement and practice-based evidence approaches for monitoring treatment effectiveness.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming Evidence-based frameworks applicable to clinical work with youth and young adult client populations.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Social justice challenges in mental health practice—essential for equitable clinical work.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities Affirmative clinical practice competencies for LGBTQIA+ clients across the lifespan.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4555 Spirituality and Social Work Spirituality and religion as clinical variables in culturally responsive assessment and treatment planning.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4362 EmBODYed Practice: Ethical Approaches to Somatic Therapies in Social Work Explores somatic and body-centered therapeutic approaches within an ethical social work framework—including trauma-informed applications for individuals and families across diverse populations.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4520 Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families</p>	<p>Advanced family therapy through live supervision and reflecting teams. Prereqs: SOWK 4320 & 4420</p>
<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy</p>	<p>Assessment and intervention with couples across conflict management, intimacy, abuse, and divorce.</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy	<i>Experiential and somatic approaches including mindfulness and emotion-focused techniques.</i>
SOWK 4721 Anti-Oppressive Clinical Engagement Using Existential Approaches	<i>Deepens clinical skills through meaning-making and anti-oppressive positionality.</i>
SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan	<i>Grief and bereavement models; clinical evaluation and intervention with grieving individuals and families.</i>
SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children	<i>Directive and non-directive play therapy for early and middle childhood mental health intervention.</i>

Pediatric Healthcare Pathway

Prepares students for medical social work roles in pediatric hospitals, children's health clinics, and community health settings serving children and families. Emphasizes psychosocial assessment, family-centered care, discharge planning, and advocacy within interdisciplinary pediatric teams.

What Social Workers Do: *Pediatric healthcare social workers support children and families navigating illness, hospitalization, chronic conditions, and healthcare systems. They provide psychosocial assessment, crisis intervention, discharge planning, community referrals, and advocacy to help families cope with acute and chronic medical conditions.*

Sample Job Titles: *Pediatric Medical Social Worker, Children's Hospital Social Worker, Child Life Social Work Specialist, NICU Social Worker, Oncology Social Worker (Pediatric), Care Coordinator, Pediatric Case Manager*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Core developmental theory essential for understanding children's responses to illness, hospitalization, and medical trauma.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness <i>Social determinants of child health, pediatric health equity frameworks, and family-centered care models.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family-centered care frameworks for supporting caregivers navigating pediatric illness and medical decision-making.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Child and adolescent mental health and psychosocial assessment in pediatric health settings.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed approaches for children experiencing medical trauma, painful procedures, and chronic illness.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based family wellness assessment and health promotion for families with medically complex children.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Leading pediatric social work teams and navigating interdisciplinary healthcare environments.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Design of family support programs, community health initiatives, and pediatric integrated care services.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Core course: integrated behavioral health in pediatric primary care, children's hospitals, and specialty clinics.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4723 Social Work Practice in Health <i>Core practice course: hospital social work roles, discharge planning, patient advocacy in health settings.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth Evidence-based therapeutic elements for work with children and adolescents across medical and clinical settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma Medical trauma and its impact on child development; trauma-informed care in pediatric settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children Play therapy approaches for supporting young children coping with hospitalization and illness.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4645 Health Care Policy ACA, CHIP, Medicaid, and pediatric health policies shaping services to children in healthcare settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth Federal and state programs for children including Medicaid, CHIP, and early intervention services.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Legal frameworks affecting pediatric practice: HIPAA, mandated reporting, and minor consent laws.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Evaluation tools for pediatric health social work interventions and family support programs.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development Family-centered design thinking for developing and evaluating pediatric healthcare social work programs.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems Racial and socioeconomic disparities in pediatric health outcomes—essential for health equity advocacy.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Structural barriers to pediatric mental health and healthcare access for marginalized families.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4742 Disability Studies Disability justice framework for working with children with physical, developmental, and complex medical needs.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p>Grief and bereavement for children and families—critical for pediatric palliative care and oncology social workers.</p>
<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions</p>	<p>Youth suicide risk assessment and crisis intervention—essential for adolescent medicine and inpatient pediatric settings.</p>
<p>SOWK 4630 Family Policies and Services</p>	<p>Family leave, child care, and economic support policies affecting families caring for medically complex children.</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy	<i>Nature-based and experiential therapeutic approaches for children coping with illness and hospitalization.</i>
SOWK 4680 Native Peoples Practice: History and Policy	<i>Culturally responsive pediatric care in Native communities; Indian Health Service and tribal health context.</i>

Pediatric Mental Health Pathway

Prepares students to provide specialized mental health assessment and treatment to children, adolescents, and their families in clinical settings. Emphasizes developmentally responsive, trauma-informed, and evidence-based intervention across childhood and adolescence.

What Social Workers Do: *Pediatric mental health social workers provide clinical assessment and evidence-based treatment to children and adolescents experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, behavioral disorders, and developmental challenges. They work in outpatient clinics, schools, hospitals, residential programs, and community mental health centers.*

Sample Job Titles: *Child/Adolescent Clinical Social Worker, Pediatric Mental Health Therapist, School-Based Mental Health Clinician, Child Trauma Specialist, Behavioral Health Clinician, Child and Family Therapist*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development <i>Core theory course: critical developmental frameworks essential for pediatric clinical assessment and treatment.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma <i>Co-occurring mental health, trauma, and adversity in children and adolescents from integrated treatment perspectives.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family systems frameworks for understanding how family dynamics shape pediatric mental health presentations.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan <i>Child and adolescent mental health assessment including developmental screening and DSM-5-TR diagnostic tools.</i> Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions <i>Trauma-informed assessment frameworks—essential for identifying ACEs and trauma in pediatric populations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Strengths-based assessment identifying protective factors, family resilience, and youth assets.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Clinical supervision and leadership in pediatric mental health agencies, schools, and residential programs.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Integrated behavioral health in pediatric primary care and school-based mental health settings.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth <i>Core evidence-based intervention elements for children and adolescents across anxiety, depression, and behavioral concerns.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Evidence-based trauma treatment for children and adolescents including TF-CBT foundational elements.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children <i>Directive and non-directive play therapy for early and middle childhood mental health intervention.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies <i>CBT frameworks for child and adolescent anxiety, depression, OCD, and behavioral challenges.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, mandated reporting, and legal frameworks for pediatric mental health practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth <i>Mental health policy for children and youth including Medicaid, CHIP, and school-based service funding.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies <i>Behavioral health policies governing pediatric clinical settings including parity and managed care.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Clinical outcome measurement and evidence-based practice evaluation for pediatric mental health interventions.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>PYD frameworks complementing clinical work with youth—prevention and promotion alongside treatment.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems <i>Racial disparities in pediatric mental health access and treatment—essential for equity-focused clinical practice.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities <i>Affirming clinical practice with LGBTQIA+ youth—a population with significantly elevated mental health needs.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural barriers to pediatric mental health access for marginalized youth and families.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality <i>Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions</p>	<p><i>Youth suicide risk assessment, safety planning, and intervention—essential for pediatric mental health clinicians.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4520 Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families</p>	<p><i>Advanced family therapy skills applicable to pediatric mental health family systems work.</i> Prereqs: SOWK 4320 & 4420</p>
<p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy</p>	<p><i>Nature-based and experiential therapy approaches for children and youth.</i></p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4410 Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use	<i>Substance use prevention and treatment for adolescents—common co-occurring presentation in pediatric mental health.</i>
SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan	<i>Childhood grief and bereavement assessment and intervention—frequent presenting concern in pediatric settings.</i>

Policy Advocacy Pathway

Prepares students to advance social change through policy analysis, legislative advocacy, coalition building, and research dissemination. Equips graduates to work in government, advocacy organizations, think tanks, and as community-embedded policy practitioners.

What Social Workers Do: Policy social workers use social work skills to propose and change policies to achieve social and economic justice. They apply generalist social work perspectives to make changes in laws, rules, budgets, and policies at local, state, and federal levels.

Sample Job Titles: Policy Analyst, Coalition Specialist, Public Affairs Coordinator, Political Organizing Strategist, Program Developer, Community Outreach Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Quality Outcome Program Coordinator

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice Theories of institutional and systemic change, power, and advocacy strategy essential for policy practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness Health equity frameworks driving contemporary social policy debates at state and federal levels.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4360 Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human and Environmental Wellbeing Theoretical frameworks for environmental and climate justice policy advocacy.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments Core policy tool: methods for assessing social impacts of proposed policies and programs.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Population health frameworks for policy analysis addressing wellness disparities.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Community power-building and base organizing as policy change strategies from the ground up.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Advocacy organization leadership—coalition management, team building, and stakeholder engagement.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4759 Global Cultural Perspectives: Ethical Considerations International policy frameworks and the ethics of cross-cultural policy advocacy.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice Healing-centered practices informing community engagement in policy development processes.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Health policy from the practice level—grounding advocacy in service delivery realities.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy Core course: legislative advocacy, policy analysis, and strategic communication for change.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change Global policy frameworks and international social movements as context for domestic advocacy.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>Policy analysis skills applied to immigration law—transferable across issue areas.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies <i>Mental health and addiction policy as a case study in federal-state complexity and reform.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4650 Aging Policy <i>Federal entitlement programs and advocacy illustrated through the lens of aging policy.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Research-to-policy translation for communicating evidence to legislators, media, and the public.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for elevating community voice in policy advocacy campaigns.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Policy evaluation tools for assessing effectiveness and informing evidence-based recommendations.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Design thinking for policy development centered on lived experience.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist policy analysis lens essential for equity-centered advocacy.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4641 An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition <i>Critical framework for criminal justice and drug policy reform advocacy.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4643 Digital Justice in Social Work <i>Technology policy, digital equity, and digital tools in modern advocacy.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<i>Policy-making structure; students analyze a social problem, select a change strategy, and communicate findings.</i>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<i>Policy responses to poverty and economic development—grounds advocacy in economic justice.</i>
<p>SOWK 4760 Resource Development & Fundraising</p>	<i>Grant-proposal writing and resource development for advocacy organizations and policy-focused nonprofits.</i>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<i>Structural analysis of privilege and oppression applied to advocacy and social movement strategy.</i>
<p>SOWK 4764 Historical Trauma and Healing</p>	<i>Historical trauma as context for policy advocacy with marginalized communities.</i>
<p>SOWK 4753 Social Development in Latin America</p>	<i>Social development policy across Latin America—transferable skills in international and domestic analysis.</i>

Private Practice Pathway

Prepares students for independent or group private practice as licensed clinical social workers. Develops the clinical, legal, ethical, and business competencies required to build and sustain a successful private practice.

What Social Workers Do: Private practice social workers provide psychotherapy, assessment, and consulting services to individuals, couples, families, and groups in independent office-based settings. They manage their own caseloads, billing, documentation, and professional development while pursuing and maintaining clinical licensure.

Sample Job Titles: Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in Private Practice, Independent Clinical Social Worker, Private Practice Psychotherapist, Group Practice Clinician, Consulting Social Worker, Telehealth Therapist

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Integrated treatment perspectives essential for independent assessment and treatment planning across complex presentations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Structural, strategic, and Bowenian theories for individual, couple, and family therapy in private practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development Developmental theory for clinical assessment and treatment across the full lifespan of private practice clients.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Comprehensive DSM-5-TR diagnostic assessment and clinical formulation—the core competency for licensure. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma assessment and evidence-based treatment—high demand specialty in private practice settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Holistic wellness frameworks complementing diagnostic assessment for diverse private practice clients.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Clinical supervision competencies—required for LCSW supervisors supporting pre-licensed associates in group practice.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice Integrated care models relevant to private practitioners consulting or co-locating with medical providers.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies Comprehensive CBT training—the most evidence-supported and insurer-reimbursed modality in private practice.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions Suicide risk assessment and safety planning—critical competency for independent private practice clinicians.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4726 Experiential Therapy <i>Experiential and somatic approaches—differentiated specialty offerings in private practice settings.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems <i>Advanced family therapy for complex presentations in private practice.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>Critical for private practice: scope of practice, confidentiality, mandated reporting, liability, and licensing law.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4655 Mental Health and Health Care Policy <i>Insurance parity, managed care, and billing systems—essential for building a private practice.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p> <p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies <i>Behavioral health policy context for private practice including parity and reimbursement structures.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Clinical outcome measurement and practice-based evidence for demonstrating effectiveness to clients and referral sources.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Evidence-based frameworks for practitioners offering services to youth and families in private practice.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural inequities in mental health access—grounds private practitioners in the ethics of equity-focused care.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities <i>Affirming clinical competencies for LGBTQIA+ clients—a frequently underserved private practice population.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4555 Spirituality and Social Work <i>Spirituality as a clinical variable—important for private practitioners serving religiously diverse clients.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4790 Human Sexuality <i>Examines human sexuality across the lifespan through a social work lens, including sexual health, identity, intimacy, and therapeutic considerations—essential for culturally responsive, affirming clinical and direct practice.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4362 EmBODYed Practice: Ethical Approaches to Somatic Therapies in Social Work <i>Explores somatic and body-centered therapeutic approaches within an ethical social work framework—including trauma-informed applications for individuals and families across diverse populations.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>MBA Elective Graduate Course in Business Management (DU Daniels College of Business)</p>	<p><i>Students considering private practice are strongly encouraged to take a graduate-level course in business management, billing and coding, or entrepreneurship through DU's Daniels College of Business. Topics such as financial management, practice administration, insurance billing, and small business operations provide essential skills for building and sustaining an independent practice. Contact your academic advisor to explore approved cross-registration options.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4520 Advanced Clinical SW Practice with Families</p>	<p><i>Advanced family therapy through live supervision and reflecting teams—builds private practice specialty.</i> Prereqs: SOWK 4320 & 4420</p>
<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy</p>	<p><i>Couples therapy skills—one of the highest-demand services in private practice settings.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4721 Anti-Oppressive Clinical Engagement Using Existential Approaches</p>	<p><i>Existential clinical approaches for differentiated private practice service offerings.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4725 Mind-Body Connections and Social Work Practice</p>	<p><i>Mind-body techniques as additional specialty offerings for private practice clients.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p><i>Grief and bereavement specialty—a common presenting concern in private practice settings.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4735 Interpersonal Approaches to Counseling</p>	<p><i>Interpersonal therapy—evidence-based modality with strong applicability to private practice populations.</i></p>

Research Pathway

Prepares students for roles in social science research, evaluation, and knowledge development across academic, government, nonprofit, and public health settings. Develops skills in research design, data collection, program evaluation, and public communication of findings.

What Social Workers Do: Social workers in research positions assist in laboratory, survey, and program evaluation research. They prepare findings for publication, assist in data management and quality control, and support the development of evidence-based practice and policy.

Sample Job Titles: Research Assistant, Research Associate, Research Specialist, Survey Analyst, Clinical Research Assistant, Social Research Assistant, Graduate Research Assistant, Program Evaluator

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice Theoretical grounding in social change—situating research questions within broader systemic contexts.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness Health and wellness frameworks applied to health equity, social determinants, and population health research.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Foundational theory for research in mental health, trauma, and co-occurring disorders.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments Comprehensive assessment methodology for community-level research and social impact measurement.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Assessment frameworks grounding research in holistic and community wellness approaches.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Program design and logic model development—foundational for intervention research and evaluation.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Project and team management for research coordination and supervision of research staff.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice Participatory and restorative frameworks applicable to community-based participatory research.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth Evidence-based interventions and their research foundations—applicable to implementation science.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy Policy analysis and advocacy skills situating research within actionable policy change frameworks.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies Policy contexts shaping mental health research agendas and funding priorities.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>International frameworks for social work research with comparative and cross-national dimensions.</i></p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Core evaluation methods: mixed-methods strategies for assessing practice and program effectiveness.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Translating research for non-academic audiences—essential for researchers seeking real-world impact.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory action research and photovoice—community-based research centering marginalized voices.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Design thinking applied to program evaluation—user-centered solutions grounded in research evidence.</i></p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist research frameworks for conducting research with historically marginalized communities.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Social justice as a lens for research—examining systemic bias and equity in research design.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4643 Digital Justice in Social Work <i>Digital equity and technology's role in data collection, dissemination, and community-engaged research.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming</p>	<p><i>Program design and evaluation for youth-focused research—applicable to implementation science.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Economic development and poverty research—community economic justice literature and analysis.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<p><i>Policy analysis methodology—essential for translating research into policy recommendations.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Privilege and oppression in research—builds critical reflexivity for ethical research design.</i></p>

School Social Work Pathway

Prepares students to work within K–12 school systems as advocates, counselors, and bridge-builders between students, families, educators, and community resources. Supports pursuit of the GSSW School Social Work Certificate and Colorado School Social Work Certification.

What Social Workers Do: School social workers provide vital services through assessment, counseling, conflict mediation, resiliency building, attendance monitoring, community referral and liaison work, child abuse reporting, dropout prevention, youth suicide prevention and intervention, crisis intervention, and child and family advocacy.

Sample Job Titles: School Social Worker, Youth Advocate, Family Resource Coordinator, Family Service Worker, Case Worker, Youth Services Specialist, Student Support Specialist

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4315 Critical Theories of Child and Adolescent Development Examines developmental theories critically, exploring the social, cultural, and structural factors shaping child and adolescent development.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice Introduces systems theory applied to family contexts—therapeutic settings, parenting, and transgenerational processes.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Analyzes the overlapping nature of mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and trauma with implications for school-based practice.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Builds DSM-5-TR diagnostic and risk assessment skills across the lifespan, essential for school-based mental health screening. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Provides trauma-informed frameworks for identifying trauma exposure in students within educational environments.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Builds leadership for navigating school systems, supervising interns, and collaborating with multidisciplinary educational teams.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Teaches evidence-based program design for attendance, behavioral health, and family engagement initiatives in schools.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Explores community organizing strategies applicable to parent engagement, school advocacy, and systemic educational change.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4715 School Social Work Interventions Core course examining roles, legal frameworks, and evidence-based interventions used by school social workers in K–12. Required for CO School Social Work Certification</p>
	<p>SOWK 4412 Practice Elements in Interventions with Children and Youth Core therapeutic elements for working with children and adolescents across anxiety, depression, and behavioral concerns.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma Examines trauma's impact on learning and development; equips students with trauma-responsive school-based skills.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies CBT frameworks for individual and group interventions with students experiencing anxiety, depression, and behavioral challenges.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Reviews IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, mandated reporting, and legal frameworks governing school social work. Required for CO Certification; prereq for SOWK 4718</p>
	<p>SOWK 4610 Policies and Programs for Children and Youth Federal and state policies governing services to children including juvenile justice, mental health, and education legislation.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4600 Child Welfare History & Policies Traces child welfare policy history and its intersections with public education and school social work practice.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Tools for assessing effectiveness of school-based programs and individual interventions using mixed-methods approaches.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming Evidence-based frameworks for designing youth programs that foster resilience, connection, and thriving.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4235 Disproportionality and Disparities Across Systems Examines the school-to-prison pipeline and racial disproportionality in education and child welfare systems.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Analyzes structural inequities shaping mental health access and outcomes for marginalized youth in school settings.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4545 Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA Communities Prepares students to create affirming school environments and support LGBTQIA+ youth and families.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4718 School SW Assessment & Realities</p>	<p>Advanced skills in school ecosystem assessment; field trips to interact with school social workers in diverse settings. Third course in the School Social Work Certificate sequence. Certificate students only; prereqs: SOWK 4712 & 4715</p>
<p>SOWK 4720 Prevention & Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence</p>	<p>Causal theories and effective prevention and treatment for adolescent delinquency and violence at individual, family, school, and community levels.</p>
<p>SOWK 4500 Foundations of Play Therapy with Young Children</p>	<p>Integrative framework for understanding and intervening in children's mental health problems through directive and non-directive play therapy.</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4410 Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use	<i>Causal factors and effective prevention and treatment for adolescent substance use at individual, family, school, and community levels.</i>
SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions	<i>Competencies in suicide risk assessment, safety planning, and counseling—essential in any school or youth-serving setting.</i>

Community Services & Nonprofit Leadership Pathway

Prepares students for leadership and direct service roles within nonprofit and social service organizations. Develops competencies in program development, resource mobilization, organizational management, and equity-centered evaluation.

What Social Workers Do: *Social workers in this field plan, direct, and coordinate the activities of social service programs or community outreach organizations. They oversee budgets and policies, supervise social workers and counselors, and work to improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan.*

Sample Job Titles: *Social Services Director, Community Services Director, Child Welfare Services Director, Clinical Services Director, Adoption Services Manager, Transitional Care Director, Children's Service Supervisor, Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator*

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4370 Community and Organizational Change: Theory for Practice <i>Organizational change theories, community development frameworks, and systems thinking for nonprofit leadership.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness <i>Health equity frameworks and social determinants relevant to community nonprofit service delivery.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice <i>Family-centered approaches applied to nonprofit programming serving families across the life course.</i></p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments <i>Community needs assessment and social impact measurement—demonstrating program outcomes to funders.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan <i>Wellness models guiding programs promoting health in underserved communities.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development <i>Logic models, needs assessments, program design, and grant-ready documentation.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills <i>Organizational leadership, staff supervision, and team management for nonprofit directors.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice <i>Community engagement, coalition building, and participatory approaches in equity-centered nonprofit work.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4465 Human Security <i>Frameworks for nonprofits addressing housing, food, health, and economic security.</i></p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4245 Restorative Approaches in Social Work Practice <i>Restorative practices for nonprofit conflict resolution and restorative program design.</i></p>
	<p>SOWK 4401 Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice <i>Integrated care models for nonprofits offering co-located behavioral and physical health services.</i></p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy <i>Legislative advocacy for nonprofit leaders at local, state, and federal levels.</i></p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>Global civil society contexts for organizations with international programming.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>Immigration policy relevant to nonprofits serving immigrant and refugee communities.</i></p>
<p>Evaluation & Research</p>	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs <i>Outcome measurement, program evaluation design, and demonstrating nonprofit impact to funders.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4904 Introduction to Human-Centered Design for Evaluation & Program Development <i>Design thinking for co-creating client-centered programs and evaluation tools.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4902 Public Impact for Policy, Community Organizing, and Research Dissemination <i>Communication skills for sharing data with funders, policymakers, and community stakeholders.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4903 Photovoice as Intervention and Research Methodology <i>Participatory research for amplifying client voices in nonprofit program evaluation and community advocacy.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming <i>Evidence-based youth development programming for nonprofits serving children and adolescents.</i></p>
<p>Values</p>	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work <i>Anti-racist frameworks for culturally responsive program design and equitable service delivery.</i></p> <p>SOWK 4643 Digital Justice in Social Work <i>Digital equity and technology's role in nonprofit communication and community engagement.</i> Visiting Student Option; approval not guaranteed</p> <p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health <i>Structural barriers to mental health access—guides advocacy in nonprofit behavioral health.</i></p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>MBA Elective Graduate Course in Nonprofit Management or Business Administration (DU Daniels College of Business)</p>	<p><i>Students pursuing leadership in nonprofit and community service organizations are encouraged to take a graduate-level course in nonprofit management, organizational leadership, or business administration through DU's Daniels College of Business. Topics such as financial management, fundraising strategy, human resources, and organizational development are directly applicable to community services leadership roles. Contact your academic advisor to explore approved cross-registration options.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4760 Resource Development & Fundraising</p>	<p><i>Core nonprofit elective: fundraising, grant-proposal writing, budgeting, and fiscal processes.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4530 Poverty & Community Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Poverty and local economic development—CED strategies in low-income neighborhoods.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis</p>	<p><i>Policy-making analysis for nonprofit advocacy—identifying change and communicating solutions.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4732 Disrupting Privilege through Anti-Oppressive Practice</p>	<p><i>Anti-oppressive strategies for nonprofit leadership and organizational culture change.</i></p>
<p>SOWK 4445 Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Aging</p>	<p><i>Assessment and intervention for older adults—foundational for agencies serving aging populations.</i></p>

Substance Use & Addiction Pathway

Prepares students to assess and treat individuals, families, and communities impacted by substance use disorders. Covers harm reduction, motivational approaches, evidence-based treatment, and advocacy for equitable addiction policy.

What Social Workers Do: Social workers in this field assess and treat individuals with substance use and co-occurring disorders through individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, client advocacy, prevention, and education. They work across community mental health, treatment centers, hospitals, and recovery settings.

Sample Job Titles: Substance Abuse Counselor, Clinical Social Worker, Clinical Therapist, Case Manager, Mental Health Therapist, Clinician, Social Worker

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
Theory	<p>SOWK 4345 Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Core theory: co-occurring nature of addiction, trauma, and mental health from integrated treatment perspectives.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4325 Evolving Perspectives and Trends in Health and Wellness Emerging models of addiction as a health condition including biopsychosocial models and recovery-oriented systems of care.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4320 Family Systems Theories for Social Work Practice How substance use disorders affect family dynamics; guides family-centered treatment and recovery approaches.</p>
Assessment	<p>SOWK 4338 Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan Co-occurring disorder assessment including standardized screening tools used in substance use treatment settings. Important for clinical licensure</p>
	<p>SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions Trauma-informed assessment essential for understanding addiction's roots in adverse childhood experiences.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4501 Wellness Assessment & Promotion Across the Lifespan Holistic wellness frameworks for assessing recovery capital and protective factors supporting sustained recovery.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities	<p>SOWK 4535 Planning and Program Development Design and implementation of substance use prevention and treatment programs in community-based organizations.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4340 Leadership and Supervision Skills Leading substance use treatment teams, supervising counselors, and managing recovery-oriented programs.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4435 Grassroots Organizing for Social Justice Community organizing for harm reduction policy, drug decriminalization, and equitable access to treatment.</p>
Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups	<p>SOWK 4430 Substance Use Interventions Core course: motivational interviewing, harm reduction, and current/emerging substance use treatment approaches.</p>

REQUIREMENT CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR THIS PATHWAY
	<p>SOWK 4730 Cognitive Behavioral Therapies CBT approaches including relapse prevention, coping skills training, and cognitive restructuring.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4700 Solution Focused Brief Therapy SFBT as an effective brief intervention model for substance use treatment and recovery coaching.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4420 Advanced Assessment and Intervention with Family Systems Family therapy approaches for restoring relationships damaged by addiction and supporting family recovery.</p>
Policy & Advocacy	<p>SOWK 4640 Mental Health and Substance Use Policies Federal and state addiction policy, insurance parity laws, and the policy landscape for treatment access.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4660 Social Policy Advocacy Advocacy skills for drug policy reform, harm reduction legislation, and improved treatment access.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law Legal frameworks for substance use including drug courts, mandatory treatment, and patient privacy protections.</p>
Evaluation & Research	<p>SOWK 4900 Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs Tools for evaluating substance use treatment programs and harm reduction initiatives.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4425 Positive Youth Development Programming Prevention frameworks reducing youth substance use by building protective factors and assets.</p>
Values	<p>SOWK 4480 Social Justice in Mental Health Structural inequities in addiction treatment access and criminalization affecting marginalized communities.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4641 An Introduction to Prison-Industrial Complex Abolition Critical perspective on the war on drugs and its role in mass incarceration.</p>
	<p>SOWK 4232 Critical Race Theory Praxis and Social Work Racial disparities in addiction treatment and criminalization of substance use across communities of color.</p>

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES — 12 CREDITS REQUIRED — CHOOSE FROM OPTIONS BELOW, OR ANY REQUIRED-CATEGORY COURSE NOT ALREADY USED

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
<p>SOWK 4410 Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Use</p>	<p>Core elective: causal factors and prevention/treatment for adolescent substance use at multiple system levels.</p>
<p>SOWK 4505 Relationship Therapy</p>	<p>Couples assessment and intervention covering domestic abuse and relationship dynamics common in addiction treatment.</p>
<p>SOWK 4741 Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan</p>	<p>Grief experienced by clients and families in addiction recovery; culturally responsive bereavement approaches.</p>
<p>SOWK 4721 Anti-Oppressive Clinical Engagement Using Existential Approaches</p>	<p>Existential approaches complementing motivational interviewing and harm reduction frameworks.</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE	DESCRIPTION
SOWK 4784 Suicide Assessment and Interventions	<i>Suicide risk assessment and safety planning—essential given elevated risk in substance use populations.</i>
SOWK 4670 Policy Development & Analysis	<i>Policy analysis applied to drug policy reform—decriminalization, harm reduction, and treatment access.</i>

School Social Work Certificate

12 credits (3 required courses + school-based field internship in Colorado)

The School Social Work Certificate explores all aspects of school social work—crisis intervention, school-based assessments, legal frameworks—and prepares students to work in Colorado schools from preschool through high school. Students must be enrolled in an approved school placement supervised by a school social worker.

Application: Email gsswschoolsocialwork@du.edu to declare intent, then complete the School Social Work Certificate Application. Deadline: June 1 (MSW students) / September 1 (Advanced Standing students).

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Required	<p>SOWK 4712 Social Work & the Law <i>Legal principles and procedures relevant to school social work—IDEA, Section 504, mandated reporting, FERPA, and juvenile law. This course is a prerequisite for SOWK 4718.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>
Required	<p>SOWK 4715 School Social Work Interventions <i>Examines the varied roles of school social workers, special education law and process, collaborative teamwork with school and community professionals, and preventive programs for at-risk youth. Required for Colorado School Social Work Certification.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups</p>
Required — Certificate Students Only	<p>SOWK 4718 School SW Assessment & Realities <i>Advanced skills in assessment within the school ecosystem, including field trips to interact with practicing school social workers. Open only to School Social Work Certificate students; manually registered by GSSW Registrar.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Elective</p>

Field Placement: All students must complete a concentration-year field internship in a school setting in the State of Colorado, supervised by a school social worker. School internship credits apply toward both the MSW degree and this certificate.

Global Social Work Certificate

12 credits — 4 steps: 1 required course + 1 Step 2 course + 1 Step 3 course + Global field placement

Social work practice increasingly takes place within a global context shaped by colonial legacies, environmental change, evolving human rights frameworks, and Global North/South inequities. Social workers today must be prepared to understand how global forces influence local communities and how local practice connects to international systems and policies.

The Global Social Work Certificate prepares students to engage ethically and effectively with global social issues both domestically and internationally. Grounded in social work values and professional ethics, the certificate emphasizes cultural humility, human rights, and collaborative approaches to community engagement. The program emphasizes community-engaged and participatory approaches that elevate indigenous knowledge and community-driven solutions to social problems.

Through interdisciplinary coursework and applied learning, students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand global inequalities, analyze international policy systems, and contribute to justice-oriented practice across cultures and contexts.

Through this certificate, students will:

- Analyze global social problems using human rights, development, and social justice frameworks.
- Examine how global systems—including migration, economic structures, environmental change, and conflict—shape the wellbeing of communities.
- Apply culturally responsive and ethically grounded approaches to working across cultures and national contexts.
- Critically examine power, privilege, and positionality in global engagement.
- Identify ethical roles for social workers in international collaboration and transnational practice.
- Develop strategies for advocacy, policy change, and community-based interventions addressing global social challenges.

Application: Contact Dr. Colleen Fisher (Colleen.Fisher@du.edu) to schedule a Certificate Advising Session and complete the declaration form. Process begins in Quarter 2 for MSW students; Quarter 1 for Advanced-Standing students.

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Step 1 — Required	<p>SOWK 4759 Global Cultural Perspectives: Ethical Considerations <i>Foundational required course. Values and ethics of social work practice in global contexts of power, privilege, and oppression. Examines ethical dilemmas in global settings and develops culturally responsive practice skills. Bucket: Engage & Intervene w/Orgs & Communities.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities</p>
Step 2 — Choose One	
Step 2 Option	<p>SOWK 4765 Global Social Change <i>International social policy, global governance, and the role of social workers in global social change movements. Bucket: Policy & Advocacy Skills.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>
Step 2 Option	<p>SOWK 4465 Human Security <i>Human security frameworks addressing global vulnerabilities—food insecurity, displacement, conflict, poverty, and rights-based approaches to community wellbeing. Bucket: Engage & Intervene w/Orgs & Communities.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities</p>
Step 2 Option	<p>SOWK 4642 Global Trauma <i>Collective trauma from war, genocide, and forced displacement with global intervention frameworks for healing and recovery. Bucket: Values.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Values</p>

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
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Step 2 Option	<p>SOWK 4990 Global Social Justice & Human Rights <i>Examination of global social justice and human rights frameworks as foundations for international social work practice and advocacy. Bucket: Values. Offered TBD — check with advisor for availability.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Values</p>
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Step 3 — Choose One

Step 3 — Specialized Issue	<p>SOWK 4355 Genocide: A Social Justice Issue <i>Genocide under international law; propaganda, nationalism, and the role of global institutions in prevention and response. Specialized Issue Course. Bucket: Values.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Values</p>
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Step 3 — Specialized Issue	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>U.S. immigration law and international refugee policy; strategies for practice with displaced populations. Specialized Issue Course. Bucket: Policy & Advocacy Skills.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>
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Step 3 — Specialized Issue	<p>SOWK 4786 Human Trafficking: Prevention, Intervention, and Support of Its Victims <i>Human trafficking from a global social work perspective—prevention, intervention, and victim advocacy across regional contexts. Specialized Issue Course. Bucket: Values.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Values</p>
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Step 3 — Study Abroad	<p>SOWK 4763 Social Work & Social Justice in South Africa <i>Short-term study abroad course. Post-apartheid social work practice and community development examined through a social justice lens, with visits to NGOs, universities, and community sites. Bucket: Values.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Values</p>
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Step 3 — Study Abroad	<p>SOWK 4766 Women's & Children's Rights in India <i>Short-term study abroad course examining women's and children's rights in the Indian context. Bucket: Values. Offered Fall/Interim — check with advisor for availability.</i></p> <p style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Degree Requirement: Values</p>
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Field Placement: Step 4 — Global Field Placement: Complete your concentration field experience in a placement designated as 'Global.' To qualify, the placement must meet TWO criteria: (1) The student's primary responsibilities must either (A) involve consistent, direct interaction with a global population (e.g., newcomers, asylum-seekers) AND consistent engagement around a primarily global issue — OR (B) take place outside the U.S. (international placement); AND (2) the student's direct field supervisor must regularly engage with global populations and global issues in the course of their daily work. Global placements can be found in ELC (formerly Tevera) by filtering search results using the 'global' tag. Placement approval is made jointly by the Office of Field Education and the certificate coordinator.

Latinx Social Work Certificate

12 credits (3 required courses + 1 optional course + approved field internship)

The Latinx Social Work Certificate prepares students to provide culturally responsive practice with individuals and families of Latin American origin. Students develop acumen in social work practice grounded in the culture, politics, histories, and legacies of domestic and international Latin American communities. Non-Spanish speakers are eligible for all certificate courses; all students create language learning plans.

Application: Complete the Latinx Social Work Certificate Application and schedule a meeting with the certificate coordinator. Submit a copy of your current resume/CV. Contact certificate coordinator for details.

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Required — Take First	<p>SOWK 4750 Critical Perspectives on the Latinx Context <i>Framework for culturally responsive social work with Latinx communities: social justice, privilege and oppression, human and civil rights, globalization, immigration, poverty, and Latinx cultural movements. Must be completed before SOWK 4749.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Theory</p>
Required	<p>SOWK 4749 Culturally Responsive Practice with Latinx <i>Mental health needs of Latinx populations in the U.S. with intervention and theoretical approaches for cross-cultural practice with Latinx communities. Prereq: SOWK 4750.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups</p>
Required	<p>SOWK 4753 Social Development in Latin America <i>Social, political, economic, and cultural realities of Latin America; skills for effective change efforts. Students may substitute an equivalent course with coordinator approval.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>
Optional — If Other Courses Unavailable	
Optional	<p>SOWK 4635 Immigration Policies and Services <i>U.S. immigration law and international refugee policy; strategies for practice with displaced and immigrant populations. May be taken as an optional substitute if SOWK 4749 or SOWK 4753 is unavailable.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>

Field Placement: Students must discuss the field internship plan with both the certificate coordinator and their field advisor. The placement must fulfill requirements of both the concentration year and the certificate.

Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work Certificate

9 credits (3 required courses taken in sequence + field internship connection requirement)

The HAEI-SW Certificate prepares students to recognize the importance and impact of human-animal-environment interactions in culturally responsive social work. Settings including mental health agencies, schools, and shelters are emphasized. The certificate centers social justice and intersecting systems of oppression directed toward humans, animals, and the environment.

Application: Meet general certificate admission requirements; complete the HAEI-SW Certificate declaration once enrolled. Attend extracurricular HAEI activities. Students have access to a dedicated Canvas page with additional learning opportunities.

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Required — Course 1	<p>SOWK 4795 Foundations for Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work <i>Foundational course with broad survey of the field and value exploration. Introduction to cultural and social justice aspects of HAEI. Formation of personal HAEI-SW vision and ethical framework. This is Course 1 in the sequence and must be taken first.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Elective</p>
Required — Course 2	<p>SOWK 4796 Human-Animal-Environment Interventions in Social Work Practice <i>Skill development for integrating animals in social work practice. Exploration of clinical and community practice frameworks across the lifespan. This is Course 2 and requires SOWK 4795 or instructor permission.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Elective</p>
Required — Course 3	<p>SOWK 4797 Professional Integration of Human-Animal-Environment Interactions in Social Work <i>Culmination course with a focus on applying knowledge and demonstrating competence through service or program design. Includes professional development and job preparation unique to HAEIs in social work. Requires completion of SOWK 4795 and SOWK 4796.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Elective</p>

Optional Enrichment Courses (1 credit each):

Optional	<p>SOWK 4990 Canine Interactions in Social Work Practice — Pro-Active Handling and Training <i>1-credit optional enrichment course; check with coordinator for availability.</i></p>
Optional	<p>SOWK 4990 Social Work in Nature — Green Care and Nature Therapeutics <i>1-credit optional enrichment course; check with coordinator for availability.</i></p>
Optional	<p>SOWK 4990 Green Chimneys and HAI Research <i>1-credit optional enrichment course; check with coordinator for availability.</i></p>

Field Placement: There is NO requirement for a specialized field internship placement to complete the certificate. However, students must integrate HAEI-SW concepts into their concentration-year field placement. Animals in therapy or as therapy animals-in-training are not required.

Mental Health for Ecological Resilience and Adaptation Certificate

12 credits (3 required courses + choice of 1 additional course OR 3 field internship credits)

The MHERA Certificate prepares social service professionals to confront environmental crises, build psycho-social resilience in the face of global environmental change, create a regenerative world, and cultivate a compassionate human presence on Earth. Graduates are ready to help humans build resilience in themselves, their communities, and the world, while bolstering adaptation to intersecting global crises.

Application: Contact Dr. Sarah Bexell (sarah.bexell@du.edu) for an initial advising session. Complete the MHERA Certificate declaration once enrolled. Attend extracurricular MHERA activities quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring).

CERTIFICATE CATEGORY	COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Required	<p>SOWK 4202 Creating a Regenerative Future <i>Regenerative design, permaculture, and futures thinking for socio-ecological transformation. Explores how to move beyond sustainability toward regenerative futures that are life-renewing for people and planet.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities</p>
Required	<p>SOWK 4203 Environmental Change Impacts and Resilience Strategies for Mental Health <i>Mental health implications of the climate crisis and ecological injustice. Builds resilience to climate grief, solastalgia, eco-anxiety, and climate trauma using a strengths-based perspective.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Orgs & Communities</p>
Required	<p>SOWK 4206 Clinical Interventions for Building Resilience for Global Environmental Change <i>Advanced clinical skills for treating mental health diagnoses related to environmental change—PTSD, ecological grief, climate anxiety, and nervous system dysregulation.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups</p>
CHOOSE ONE (3 CREDITS)	
Option	<p>SOWK 4204 Policy Advocacy for Ecological Justice in the U.S. <i>Critical analysis of U.S. policies for ecological justice; advocacy skill development at local and state levels.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Policy & Advocacy</p>
Option	<p>SOWK 4360 Social-Ecological Resilience: Connecting Human and Environmental Wellbeing <i>Social ecology perspective emphasizing integrated human-ecological systems theory.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Theory</p>
Option	<p>SOWK 4454 Child and Adolescent Trauma <i>Trauma-focused work with children and adolescents—applicable to climate-impacted youth populations.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Engage & Intervene: Individuals, Families & Groups</p>
Option	<p>SOWK 4565 Social and Environmental Impact Assessments <i>Assessment of development project impacts on human and ecological systems.</i></p> <p>Degree Requirement: Assessment</p>

**CERTIFICATE
CATEGORY**

COURSE — TITLE — DESCRIPTION — DEGREE REQUIREMENT

Option

SOWK 4752 Trauma Informed Assessment and Interventions

Trauma-informed assessment and intervention frameworks—applicable to climate and disaster contexts.

Degree Requirement: Assessment

Field Placement: Students may choose a qualifying elective course OR apply 3 field internship credits toward this certificate. Field placements do not need to be specifically ecology-focused but should allow integration of MHERA concepts.