In August 1999, The University of Iowa’s School of Social Work again began providing MSW education in Sioux City. In this system, a class (or cohort) enters the program, taking courses they require on a part-time, sequenced basis for three years. Our fifth cohort began in May 2011. There are nearly 30 students in the class, which will graduate in May 2014. Most of our current students and alumni have families and full-time jobs. They are well-established in the Siouxland/Sioux Empire community, plan to stay and make the area their home, and serve the needs of their fellow citizens. For many, participating in The University’s part-time MSW program is the only way they could obtain their degrees.

- **When could I join the program?**
Prospective students, now is the time to get ready!!! Because we offer courses on a part-time sequenced basis, we can’t accept students after the program has started. We will accept applications for our 2014-2017 cohort after September 1, 2013. They are due February 1, 2014. The new cohort will begin classes in summer or fall of 2014. The one after that will begin in 2017. For more information on applying, or the kinds of preparations you might want to do, go to: [http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/apply/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/apply/)

- **Are there any classes I can take now?**
Yes. You can take courses for graduate credit that can be applied to the elective requirements in our program. Up to 12 credits can be taken with us before you are admitted to the program as long as you are being advised by School of Social Work faculty or staff. You can take electives on-site with us, and Guided Independent Study (GIS) and Online courses through the University of Iowa’s Division of Continuing Education see their website for more info ([http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/readytoenroll/index.asp](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/readytoenroll/index.asp)).

You can also take courses from area colleges and universities, including the University of South Dakota, Sioux Falls University, Briar Cliff University, Buena Vista, Northwestern, Dordt, and others, transfer them to the University of Iowa, and apply them toward your elective requirements. Just be sure the courses are for graduate credit, and that they will be less than ten years old by your graduation date. For example, students graduating in 2017 from our MSW program could transfer in up to ten credits (up to nine GIS credits) if they were earned in 2007 or later. The electives need to be relevant to your course of study, so a course in aging would be acceptable, but a course in Entomology (insect science) probably would not be. Please note that courses taken at other institutions would be at their tuition rates.

We are planning one on-site elective for Summer 2013. It is:

**042:228 (SSW 4228) Theories of Personality and Psychopathology - 2 credits**
Theories and their relevance to social work practice with diverse populations.
*Prerequisite:* Must have a BSW or BASW, or instructor’s permission.
*Instructor:* Yvonne Farley
*Dates & Times:* 9 am to 5 pm on Thursday, May 23, Friday, May 24, Thursday, June 7, and Friday, June 8.
*Location:* Rm TBA, Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA
*Tuition & Fees:* $1017.75

For more information on registering for electives, email julia-kleinschmit@uiowa.edu.

Sixty-hour students (those without a BSW) can also take Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Social Welfare Policy via GIS to finish those before entering the program. The website to enroll in Division of Continuing Education’s GIS classes is: [http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/readytoenroll/index.asp](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/readytoenroll/index.asp)

We recommend you take these courses with your new classmates starting in Summer 2014, but this is an option for you. If you want to pursue this, please contact julia-kleinschmit@uiowa.edu.
• **If I take electives, will that shorten the program when I join?**
No. Required courses are sequenced such that you cannot accelerate when you receive your MSW. For example, if you are accepted into the 2014 cohort and transfer in elective credits, you will not graduate any earlier than May 2017. However, what you can do is spread out the cost of graduate school, enhance your practice with new learning while waiting to do required courses, get a taste of what graduate school is like, ease your stress by reducing your course load during the three year program, and let us get to know you as a student, which can increase your chances of being accepted into the program.

• **Where are your classes held?**
Classes utilizing on-site instructors are taught on the Briar Cliff University campus, at 3303 Rebecca Street in Sioux City. Classes requiring the use of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) are held at Western Iowa Tech Community College at 4647 Stone Avenue in Sioux City. MSW students experience a blend of the two approaches, allowing for one-on-one contact with instructors and linkage to other University of Iowa School of Social Work program sites and professors, including those in Des Moines, Iowa City, and the Quad Cities. We also increasingly use Internet and World Wide Web resources and tools to enhance our teaching. More courses are “blended,” involving a mix of in-person and online sessions.

• **When are your classes held?**
Classes are usually held at night or on weekends. The schedule is created to be as accommodating as possible to students with work and/or family obligations.

• **I need CEUs to maintain my social work license. Do your classes count?**
Yes. Each academic credit is worth 15 CEUs.

• **How much do your courses cost?**
*For admitted students*, the approximate Academic Year 2013-2014 cost for each credit, plus computer fees is $480. Typically, students take six-eight credits per semester, for a total semester cost of $2880-3840. We estimate that the cost of the 2014-2017 program (accounting for some rise in tuition) for 48 hour students will be approximately $26,400, and for 60 hour students, $33,000, a similar or lower cost than comparable programs in the area. There is financial aid available via scholarships from the University of Iowa’s Division of Continuing Education and School of Social Work, and loans accessible through the Financial Aid office. For the past several years, Sioux City program students who applied for financial assistance from the School of Social Work were rewarded some level of scholarship or other support. In addition, an increasing number of agencies are offering employee tuition assistance and/or work flexibility so that they can more easily attend graduate school. Also, check out the National Health Services Corps (at [http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/](http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/)), a federal program that could cover all your loans (including undergraduate) up to $60,000 depending on where you practice, and the kind of social work you do.

• **I don’t have a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work (BSW). Can I get a Master’s degree in Social Work (MSW)?**
Yes. Many people enter the MSW program without a BSW. People with BSWs complete 48 credit hours to get their MSWs. People without BSWs complete a 60-hour program.

• **How can I get more information about the program?**
If you haven’t already, you can request to be placed on the prospective student list. We also hold monthly meetings for prospective students, during which we can address your specific questions and discuss planning you might want to do to get ready for the MSW program. Meetings are in Room G-7, Alverno Hall, on the Briar Cliff University campus in Sioux City, Iowa at 5:30 pm on these Wednesdays in 2013: March 6, April 3, May 1, June 12, July 10, and August 21. To be placed on the prospective student list or if you have further questions, contact Julia Kleinschmit, Clinical Associate Professor, at (402) 254-2122. Or, e-mail her at: julia-kleinschmit@uiowa.edu. Professor Kleinschmit works full-time for the School of Social Work and is based in Northeast Nebraska. She is also willing to meet with you and your friends/colleagues at your workplace or another location, given enough time to plan. Don’t be afraid to ask!