Electives and Fields of Practice

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ELECTIVES

Electives are offered in each semester in Iowa City and Des Moines. Completion of the full-time MSW program within five semesters requires that full time students attend the summer session full time (unless they have satisfied the elective requirements through graduate transfer credit). In Iowa City, a number of specialized practice courses are scheduled during the University of Iowa’s 6, 8 or 12 week sessions. Some are scheduled in the day, others in the evening and some are scheduled as modular classes to permit students who commute from off campus to attend. These modular courses may meet during the 4 week, 6 week or 8-week session or off cycle.

In Des Moines, usually three specialized practice courses are offered in the summer.

Sioux City and Quad Cities students are provided with a template of projected course offerings over the 3 years they are enrolled.

Students are expected to enroll in at least one course directly related to and preparatory for beginning Advanced Practicum. Courses should be selected as appropriate for the practicum assignment.

FIELDS OF PRACTICE

The following Fields of Practice options are presented to assist students with organizing clusters of courses that give focus to curriculum in certain fields. Students who have interest in one of these fields are encouraged to make use of the flexibility of the curriculum to choose practicum, electives, advanced research projects and thesis projects that will provide opportunity for increased knowledge of the field and skills in working within that field. Students are not required to select a specific field of practice. If interested, however in a Specialization in End of Life Care, State of Iowa School Social Work Endorsement, applying for AAMFT membership (Marriage and Family), Child Welfare, or Substance Abuse certification, students should carefully review these guidelines and discuss with their advisor. In addition, students may complete the requirements for an Aging Studies Certificate as indicated in the Gerontology Field of Practice description.

On the following pages recommended courses and practicum placements for ten fields of practice are provided.
I. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

One of the fields of practice in the curriculum is in the area of children and families. Students who elect a children and families emphasis develop a plan of study which includes core and required courses as well as electives chosen from the following courses:

**Children and Families**
- SSW:3796 Family Violence
- SSW:6220 Family Law
- SSW:6228 Theories of Personality and Psychopathology
- SSW:6237 SW Practice with Children, Youth & Families
- SSW:6238 Introduction to Play Therapy
- SSW:7250 Family Centered Theory and Practice I
- SSW:7251 Family Centered Theory and Practice II
- SSW:7252 Advanced Social Policy for Family Centered Practice
- SSW:5240 Trauma-Informed Family Practice (3 s.h.)

**Children and Families Related**
- SSW:6228 Theories of Personality and Psychopathology

Additional elective courses offered through other departments may be appropriate. Elective choices must be approved by faculty advisor as part of the planning process each semester.

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators or Faculty Advisors in each center.
II. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE AS FIELDS OF PRACTICE

The School of Social Work offers classroom courses and practicum experiences for students interested in working with troubled and delinquent youth. Courses in the School, and in other academic departments, provide training in understanding the causes of juvenile delinquency and other adolescent problem behaviors. Through coursework, students also gain awareness of current prevention and treatment modalities for intervening with high-risk or delinquent youth. Specific courses on juvenile justice policy and on the juvenile justice system are offered in the School of Social Work and other social science departments on a periodic basis.

Courses in the School of Social Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3729</td>
<td>Substance Use and Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:4155</td>
<td>Treatment of Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3796</td>
<td>Family Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:6220</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:6237</td>
<td>SW Practice with Children, Youth &amp; Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:4100</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5240</td>
<td>Trauma-Informed Family Practice (3 s.h.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses in Other Departments

Additional elective courses offered through other departments may be appropriate. Elective choices must be approved by faculty advisor as part of the planning process each semester.

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
III. GERONTOLOGY (AGING) AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

The School of Social Work participates in the interdisciplinary Aging Studies Program, through the College of Liberal Arts. Graduate social work students who would like to specialize in working with older adults and/or older adult policy/practice/research issues have two aging studies/gerontology options:

**Option 1:** The “Certificate in Aging Studies” which requires 21 credit hours; including 6 required courses and other approved aging-related courses. [http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/agingstudies/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/agingstudies/)

**Option 2:** The School of Social Work’s “Aging Studies/Gerontology Field of Practice” requires 15 s.h. of courses whose numbers start with “153 (ASP).” All social work courses in aging are cross-listed with the Aging Studies Program. The requirements for the MSW-level School of Social Work’s “Aging Studies/Gerontology Field of Practice” are identical to those for undergraduate students who earn a minor in Aging Studies. (Please note that the UI does not offer minors for graduate students.)

For current information on the UI Aging Studies Program, please refer to: [https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/aging-studies-program](https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/aging-studies-program)

School of Social Work faculty member Mercedes Bern-Klug is the Director of the Aging Studies program and is available to advise students. Sara Sanders and May Guo are also available to advise students regarding the field of social work and gerontology. Many of the courses listed below are also listed in the End of Life Specialization – and can count toward both.

**Courses in the School of Social Work** (some are cross-listed in Aging Studies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5200</td>
<td>Grief Work with Individuals and Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3135/ASP:3135</td>
<td>Global Aging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3786/ASP:3786</td>
<td>Death, Dying: Issues Across the Life Span</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3501/ASP:3501</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing Homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5219/ASP:5219</td>
<td>Aging and the Family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:7292</td>
<td>Advanced Practicum in Family Centered Practice (partial credit, 6 s.h.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:7295</td>
<td>Advanced Practicum in Integrated Practice (partial credit--6 s.h.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Also, the following courses in Aging Studies that can be applied:

- ASP:4190 Aging Studies Internship
- ASP:3160 Biology of Aging
- ASP:3150 Psychology of Aging

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
IV. HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

Health and mental health represents the single largest field of social work practice. The health/mental health emphasis is required for field placement and is desirable for employment in Veteran's Administration installations. It may be considered desirable for employment in other health care settings. A course of study which includes this emphasis prepares practitioners for employment in a wide range of health care settings: hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, community health and mental health centers, substance abuse programs, adult day care, facilities/programs for developmentally disabled, hospice programs, health planning and health care administration. Students may choose either Integrated or Family Centered Practice as their concentration.

Students who elect a health care emphasis develop a plan of study which draws from the following courses:

**Health and Mental Health**
- SSW:3729 Substance Use and Abuse
- SSW:4155 Treatment of Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders
- SSW:5194 Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings
- SSW:6228 Theories of Personality and Psychopathology
- SSW:6236 Interventions with Individuals
- SSW:5240 Trauma-Informed Family Practice (3 s.h.)

**Related courses**
- SSW:3712 Human Sexuality, Diversity, Society
- SSW:3786 Death, Dying, Issues Across the Life Span
- SSW:4216 Group Leadership in Human Sexuality
- SSW:6224 Spirituality and Ethics in SW Practice
- SSW:6229 Working with Groups
- SSW:6232 Therapy with Couples
- SSW: 5200 Grief Work with Individuals and Families

**Courses in Other Departments**

Additional elective courses offered through other departments may be appropriate. Elective choices must be approved by faculty advisor as part of the planning process each semester.

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
V. Marriage and Family as a Field of Practice

Membership in AAMFT is open to social workers who have fulfilled certain course requirements in a graduate program. These courses are not automatically accepted by AAMFT; you will need to demonstrate that they fit under these headings, usually by sending the course outline. Any of these courses taken for undergraduate credit will not count towards AAMFT membership. A social worker may apply for membership at one of three levels: as a graduate student one can apply for student membership; after receiving an MSW one may apply for associate membership; after two years of post master’s supervised clinical work one may apply for clinical membership. If not all of the course work is taken as an MSW student, a social worker can take up to 8 courses as an associate member before applying for clinical membership. AAMFT address is: 1133 15th Street N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005-2710. Fax # 202-223-2329.

COURSE OFFERINGS (may select from the following list):

A. Human Development (minimum of 3 courses; 9 s.h. required for AAMFT)
   1. Social Work Courses
      SSW:3712 Human Sexuality, Diversity, Society
      SSW:3840 Human Behavior in the Social Environment
      SSW:5219 Aging and the Family
      SSW:6228 Theories of Personality and Psychopathology

B. Marital and Family Studies (minimum of 3 courses; 9 s.h. required for AAMFT)
   1. Social Work Courses
      SSW:3796 Family Violence
      SSW:7250 Family Centered Theory and Practice I
      SSW:7251 Family Centered Theory and Practice II
      SSW:7252 Advanced Social Policy for Family Centered Practice

C. Marital and Family Centered Theory and Practice II (minimum of 3 courses; 9 s.h. required for AAMFT)
   1. Social Work Courses
      SSW:6229 Working with Groups
      SSW:6232 Therapy with Couples
      SSW:7251 Family Centered Theory and Practice II

D. Research Methodology (minimum of 1 course; 3 s.h. required for AAMFT)
   1. Social Work Courses
      SSW:6148 Social Work Practice I
      SSW:7270 Social Work Practice II

E. Professional Studies (minimum of 1 course; 3 s.h. required for AAMFT)
   1. Social Work Courses
      SSW:3847 Discrimination, Oppression, Diversity
      SSW:6220 Family Law
      SSW:7293 & Practicum Seminar (2 semesters)
      SSW:7294
2. Courses in Other Departments
Other departments are not recommended for this category since these courses should be in one's own profession.

F. Supervised Clinical Work (1 year/300 hours) Our required hours exceed AAMFT requirements

A practicum in social work where there is experience in individual, family, and group counseling. [See list below of potential sites.]

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
VII. SOCIAL WORK IN THE SCHOOLS AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

Social Workers must be licensed by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners to practice in schools. The Educational Examiners Board provides two options that license social workers to "serve as a school social worker to pupils from birth to twenty-one"

Option 1: School Social Work Endorsement
The individual applying for this endorsement must be nominated by the University to the Iowa Department of Education for the School Social Work Endorsement. The curriculum required for this endorsement is detailed below.

Option 2: Statement of Professional Recognition (SPR).
The special education director (or designee) of an area education agency or an administrator in a local school district can submit a letter to the Board of Education Examiners requesting that an SPR (statement of professional recognition) be issued.

The candidate for the Statement of Professional Recognition must have:

1. An official transcript reflecting the master's degree (or PhD) in social work
2. A license at the LMSW or LISW level from the Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners
3. Documentation of completion of the human relations component.

1. A temporary SPR (statement of professional recognition) can be issued for one school year for individuals that have not yet completed the human relations component or fulfilled the supervision requirement for a social work license. The individual must complete the human relations component by the end of the first year.
2. Temporary SPR: A temporary SPR will be issued for one school year. An approved human relations course must be completed before the start of the next school year. The applicant must provide evidence that the human relations component has been fulfilled within the required timeframe.

At first glance, it may appear that Option 2 is the least complicated route to school social work practice. However, this option has some disadvantages to the practitioner. The holder of an SPR can practice as a school social worker indefinitely. However, they cannot move on to leadership positions within education. To be eligible to take the courses needed for administrative endorsements an individual must hold an entry level license in education. In the past, school social workers had to return to school to complete a teaching license. The School Social Work Endorsement made school social workers equal members of the education community. The Endorsement serves as the entry level education license for school social workers, enabling them to move on to leadership positions in education.

The University of Iowa School of Social Work Requirements for State of Iowa Endorsement for School Social Work
The Curriculum detailed below which is offered by the School of Social Work in cooperation with the College of Education meets the Chapter 1 STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ORIGINAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER ENDORSEMENT – Endorsement 15.3 (15)

School of Social Work Courses
Students complete the 48 semester hour curriculum (if they have a BA in Social Work from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education) or the 60 semester hour curriculum. Either of two concentrations are acceptable.

The Department of Education Endorsement in School Social Work requires 20 semester hours coursework which demonstrates skills, knowledge and competencies in the following areas: Social Work: assessment, intervention and related studies; Included in the 48 or 60 semester hours are the following required courses:

SSW:6233: School Social Work 2 s.h.

Education: General education, Special Education, Practicum Experience, approved human relations component and Preparation contributing to education of handicapped and gifted and talented.

College of Education Courses
1. **General Education - choose at least one of the following:** 2-3 s.h.
   - EPLS:5130 Sociology of Education
   - *EPLS:6201 Foundations of School Administration
   - *EPLS:7291 Administration of Educational Programs & Personnel
   - *EPLS:6298 Legal Aspects of School Personnel
   - EPLS:3000 Foundations of Education
   - PSQF:4106 Child Development
   - PSQF:4133 The Adolescent & Young Adult

2. **Special Education - choose at least one of the following:** 3 s.h.
   - PSQF:134 Parent-Teacher Communication
   - EDTL:4921 Transition & Related Issues
   - EDTL:4137 Intro to Educating Gifted Students
   - EDTL:4940 Characteristics of Disabilities
   - EDTL:4950 Behavioral and Social Interventions
   - *EPLS:6236 Administration of Students with Special Needs
   - *PSQF:6263 Consultation Theory and Practice
   - PSQF:7347 Home/School/Community Systems Interventions

3. **Preparation contributing to education of handicapped and gifted and talented:**
   - EDTL:4900 Foundation of Special Education 3 s.h.

   The following class is no longer offered, but if taken previously, it will fulfill the requirement instead of EDTL:4900 (Foundation of Special Education): 7U:130 Exceptional Persons 3 s.h.

**Human Relations Component**
This requirement is satisfied by completing the entire MSW as approved by a waiver request granted by the State. Contact UI School of Social Work Program Administrator, Kate Kemp, for more information: kate-kemp@uiowa.edu 319-335-1254.

**Practicum Sites**
It is required that practicum sites be at any of the Area Education Agencies in the State of Iowa, and other school districts by arrangement. Practicum must occur in school setting. Supervision of student must be under an experienced School Social Work practitioner/Licensed Social Worker to include experiences in assessment; direct services to children and families; consultation; staffing, community liaison and documentation; which leads to development of professional identity and disciplined use of self.

Application information for initial application for Iowa School Social Work Endorsement is available at: http://www.boee.iowa.gov/licensure/apply.html

If you are interested in School Social Work endorsement in other States, you must contact that State directly. Iowa’s requirements may or may not fulfill other state’s requirements.

*Courses contribute to the Professional Service Administrator Endorsement. See Kate Kemp, UI School of Social Work Program Administrator for more information: kate-kemp@uiowa.edu, 319-335-1254.

Highlighted courses are available through Guided Independent Study or on the Web
VIII. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

Substance Abuse as a field of practice is relatively new in Social Work. It derives from the recognition that treatment of substance abuse requires special skills and knowledge. Coursework in this area of practice, selected from a combination of required and elective social work courses, electives from other departments, and a specialized practicum or field experience, will prepare the graduate or undergraduate student to work in a variety of areas including counseling, corrections, prevention and residential services. Iowa does have a certificate for substance abuse counselors. Contact Iowa Board of Substance Abuse Certification, 3820 Merle Hay Road Suite 303, Des Moines, IA 50310, Phone: (515) 334-9024 Fax: (515) 334-9025 e-mail: mail@ibsac.org http://www.ibsac.org/ for more information.

Recommended electives

SSW:3729 Substance Use and Abuse
SSW:4155 Treatment of Substance Use and Co-Occuring Disorders
SSW:6234 SW Practice and the Use of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
SSW:6228 Theories of Personality and Psychopathology

Courses in Other Departments

Additional elective courses offered through other departments may be appropriate. Elective choices must be approved by faculty advisor as part of the planning process each semester.

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
IX. END-OF-LIFE CARE AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

The School of Social Work has developed an innovative program to train social workers for practice in end-of-life services with initial funding from the Project on Death in America. The coursework prepares students for practice in hospice programs and in hospital social work in pediatric and adult oncology, palliative care units, and other social work settings focused on the needs of individuals at the end of life, their families and bereaved individuals. It is based on the family-centered and community-based principles which permeate the entire curriculum in the MSW Program. End-of-life services are based on the values of the hospice movement which include patient-directed treatment, services focused on the family as well as the patient, a focus on pain control and palliative care, a continuum of services available in the home and in inpatient settings, and integrated services provided by an interdisciplinary team and focused on medical, social, and spiritual needs.

**Required Courses for Field of Practice:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3786</td>
<td>Death, Dying; Issues Across the Life Cycle</td>
<td>3 s.h.-4 s.h.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3191</td>
<td>Independent Study – Integrative Project</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3191</td>
<td>Independent Study associated with completing Hospice Volunteer Training (may be completed without academic credit; + See below re possible waiver)</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:7292-7293 or SSW:7295-7296</td>
<td>Advanced Practicum in hospice, palliative care, bereavement, or other setting related to end-of-life care; can provide services to patients and families at any stage of the life cycle.</td>
<td>10-12 s.h.</td>
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</table>

**Approved Electives in School of Social Work**

Students select a minimum of 6 hours from the following list of approved electives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3135</td>
<td>Global Aging</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5194</td>
<td>SW Practice in Health Care Settings</td>
<td>2 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3501</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing Homes</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5219</td>
<td>Aging and the Family</td>
<td>2-3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:6224</td>
<td>Spirituality and Ethics in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>2-3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:3786</td>
<td>Death, Dying; Issues Across the Life Cycle</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW:5200</td>
<td>Grief Work with Individuals and Families</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students choose courses from the list of electives in consultation from their academic advisor and the Coordinator of the End-of-Life Care Field of Practice. The required courses and electives may be open to other students with permission of the instructor. Students accepted into the end-of-life care field of practice have priority for required courses.
Note that MSW students normally take 12 -14 semester hours of electives. The majority of these electives will be used to complete the Field of Practice in End-of-Life Care,

+ Students who have already completed hospice volunteer training or have considerable hospice experience may discuss waiving the hospice volunteer training with permission of the Coordinator of the End-of-Life Care Field of Practice.

**Electives Offered In Other Departments** (may be substituted for approved electives with approval of Coordinator of End-of-Life Care Field of Practice)

Sequence of Coursework for Field of Practice in End-of-Life Care  
(based on full-time student schedule for students without the BA in Social Work)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester Year 1</td>
<td>Death, Dying Across the Life Span</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Spring Semester Year 1 | Foundation Practicum  
Hospice Volunteer Training as Independent Study (may be waived by Coordinator of the End-of-Life Care Field of Practice) |
| Summer Semester        | Two or three electives approved for End-of-Life Care                    |
| Fall Semester Year 2   | Advanced Practicum in End-of-Life Care  
Possible additional elective approved for End-of-Life Care |
| Spring Semester Year 2 | Advanced Practicum in End-of-Life Care (continued from fall semester)  
Integrative Project/Individual Study |

**An Advanced Practicum in End-of –Life Care, Palliative Care, or Bereavement Services will be approved by the Director of Field with input from the student and the Coordinator of the End-of-Life Care Field of Practice.**
X. CHILD WELFARE AS A FIELD OF PRACTICE

Child welfare as a field of practice is designed for students interested in working in public and/or private child welfare agencies or organizations in direct service, supervisory, or administrative capacities. Students who elect a child welfare field of practice develop a plan of study which includes a child welfare course, core courses either in the family centered or integrated concentrations, two out of the four electives described below, and practicum placements in child welfare agencies.

In addition to the requirements described here, students interested in specializing in child welfare are encouraged to seek additional opportunities to strengthen their knowledge in child welfare, including individual study classes with child welfare faculty, preparing a Masters Thesis in a topic related to child welfare, and conducting a research project (in their foundation research sequence) related to child welfare.

Required Advanced Courses
SSW: 3797 Child Welfare Policy and Practice and/or
SSW: 6237 SW Practice with Children, Youth & Families
AND
SSW: 7250 Family Centered Theory and Practice I
SSW: 7251 Family Centered Theory and Practice II
SSW: 7252 Advanced Social Policy for Family Centered Practice
SSW: 7292 Advanced Practicum in Family Centered Practice
SSW: 7293 Advanced Practicum Seminar – Family Centered Practice
OR
SSW: 7260 Integrated Theory and Practice I
SSW: 7261 Integrated Theory and Practice II
SSW: 7262 Advanced Social Policy for Integrated Practice
SSW: 7295 Advanced Practicum in Integrated Practice
SSW: 7297 Advanced Practicum Seminar in Integrated Practice

Electives - must select at least two the four below
SSW: 3729 Substance Use and Abuse
SSW: 3796 Family Violence
SSW: 3799 Selected Aspects of Social Work and Social Welfare (Violence and Trauma)
SSW: 6220 Family Law
SSW: 5240 Trauma-Informed Family Practice (3 s.h.)

Courses in Other Departments

Additional elective courses offered through other departments may be appropriate. Elective choices must be approved by faculty advisor as part of the planning process each semester.

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.
XI. TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

The School of Social Work offers this field of practice because of the prominent attention to trauma in social work education found in the many studies that document the widespread prevalence of trauma exposure and its lasting impact across the life course on all the populations served by social workers.

The imperative for graduate social work education to prepare students for competent trauma-informed practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities stems from social workers’ prominence as members of the largest mental health profession treating trauma survivors. Standards for competent practice in response to trauma are an ethical obligation of the profession, as the likelihood of encountering trauma survivors in every practice setting is very high. Economic inequalities in our society contribute to the pervasive impact of trauma across populations and stages of life, and social workers encounter individuals and families in all service settings.

The intersection of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion and national origin add to the inherently complex impact of trauma exposure. These contextual factors contribute to the disproportionate exposure to greater socioeconomic inequalities experienced by the individuals and families that social workers encounter in all the service settings in which they work. The combined impact of disproportionate exposure to current trauma and experiences of historical trauma, marginalization, racism and oppression shape the perceptions of the children and families, cultural groups and the broader systems they live in to trauma exposure and intervention efforts. This particularly affects help-seeking and access to effective services.

**Required Courses (take all three)**
- SSW:3799 Selected Aspects of Social Work and Social Welfare- Violence and Trauma (2 s.h.)
- SSW:5240 Trauma-Informed Family Practice (3 s.h.)
- SSW:6236 Interventions with Individuals (2 s.h.)

**Recommended Courses (take two of the following)**
- SSW:3796 Family Violence (2-3 s.h.)
- SSW:6224 Spirituality and Ethics in Social Work Practice (2 s.h.)
- SSW: 3729 Substance Use and Abuse (3 s.h.)
- SSW:6238 Introduction to Play Therapy (2 s.h.)
- Independent Study for Certified Sexual Assault Counselor
- Independent Study for Volunteer Training at Family Violence Center

Information about possible practicum opportunities are available from the Practicum Administrators in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City or Quad Cities.

**Practice with Communities and Organizations**

Students in the Integrated concentration who would like more in-depth content on organizational practice are encouraged to take the following courses as part of their plan to complete the MSW, unless they have already taken them as undergraduate students. Family Centered practice students may also be interested if they hope to move into planning or administrative roles in their careers.
### Suggested electives in School of Social Work

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XII Practice with Communities and Organizations

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