



Angelo State University

Archer College of Health and Human Services

Department of Social Work

Masters of Social Work Program

ASU Station #11043

San Angelo, Texas 76909-1043

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Student Handbook

Table of Contents

I. Student Handbook Introduction

.....
4

Purpose of the Student Handbook
Statement of Accreditation
Statement of Equal Educational Opportunity
Student Responsibility

II. General University Information

.....
5

The City of San Angelo
About Angelo State University
The University Mission Statement

III. The Department of Social Work

.....
6

Departmental Description
Departmental Mission Statement
Departmental Goals
Degree Offerings

IV. The Social Work Program

.....
8

The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Degree
The Nature of Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice
The Nature of Social Work Education
The M.S.W. Program Mission Statement
The Values of the M.S.W. Program
The M.S.W. Program Goals
The Core Competencies of the M.S.W. Program
Admission Requirements to the M.S.W. Program
Admission Procedures
The M.S.W. Curriculum
Recommended Course Sequence for M.S.W. Majors
Academic and Professional Advising
The Provision of Credit for Life Experience, Work Experience, and Prior Field Education
Residency Requirements and Transfer Credit

Requirements for Graduation with a M.S.W. Degree

V. Social Work Course Descriptions (SWK)

.....
18

VII. Social Work Faculty and Staff

.....
22

- Resident Social Work Faculty
- Staff
- Field Education Supervisors

VIII. Academic Policies Specific to the Social Work Program

.....
23

- Academic Honesty
- Field Education Placements in M.S.W. Program
- Student Liability Insurance for Field Education
- Requirement to Follow the NASW Code of Ethics
- Academic and Professional Performance and Dismissal from the Program
- Prohibition of Independent Practice While a Student and Use of Titles
- Student Rights

IX. Student and Professional Organizations

.....
26

- The Student Social Work Association (SSWA)
- The Phi Alpha Honor Society
- Professional Social Work Organizations

Student Handbook Introduction

The *Student Handbook* (noted as the *Handbook*) is produced by the Department of Social Work for the Master of Social Work Program and updated every August. The *Handbook* is compiled by the M.S.W. Program Director with consultation with the social work faculty, representatives from the Community Advisory Group, and representatives from the Student Social Work Association. The policies, regulations, procedures, and fees in this *Handbook* are subject to change without prior notice, if necessary, to keep the program in compliance with the current *Angelo State University Graduate Catalog* (noted as the *University Graduate Catalog*) and accreditation requirements promulgated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Purpose of the Student Handbook

The *Handbook* serves to inform prospective and current students about the nature of the Social Work Program, the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree, and the social work minor offered at Angelo State University. The *Handbook* is organized into the following sections: Student Handbook Introduction; General University Information; The Department of Social Work; the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Degree; Social Work Courses; Social Work Faculty and Staff; Academic Policies Specific to the Social Work Program; and Student, Faculty, and Professional Organizations.

Angelo State University reserves the right to change curricula, rules, fees, admission requirements, and other requirements without notice. The provisions of this *Handbook* do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student, faculty member, or any other person and Angelo State University.

Statement of Accreditation

Angelo State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4500) to award degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral level.

The Master of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree is currently seeking Initial Candidacy status with the Council on Social Work Education.

Statement on Equal Educational Opportunity

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Angelo State University, on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for knowing the academic regulations in the *University Graduate Catalog*. Unfamiliarity with these regulations does not constitute a valid reason for failure to fulfill them. Eligibility to register at each registration period must be determined by the student. A student has the responsibility to register only in courses for which he or she is eligible. If a student registers in a course for which he or she is ineligible, the student may be administratively dropped without receiving any credit for work done.

General University Information

The City of San Angelo

San Angelo is the center of a community of approximately 100,000 located in West Central Texas between the Texas Hill Country to the southeast and the Rolling Plains to the northwest. San Angelo has a rich history, a vibrant arts community, and many opportunities for outdoor entertainment.

Major highways connecting to San Angelo include U.S. Highways 67, 87, and 277. San Angelo is located between U.S. Interstate Highways 10 and 20. Interstate 10 is 64 miles south of San Angelo and depending upon the route taken; it's approximately 80 miles to Interstate 20. For additional information about San Angelo and the Community, please visit the web site hosted by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce.

About Angelo State University

Founded. 1928

President. Dr. Brian J. May

Affiliation. Texas Tech University System

Location. San Angelo, the center of a West Texas community of approximately 100,000

Campus. 268 acres

Students. 8,708 (57.7 percent female and 42.3 percent male; 53.6 percent Caucasian, 29.9 percent Hispanic, 6.8 percent African-American, 1.3 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.4 percent American Indian, 2.6 percent international, and 5.3 percent unknown)

Programs. Nearly 100 majors spread among 41 undergraduate; 21 graduate, including one doctorate

Teaching Faculty. 422

Student-to-Faculty Ratio. 12:1

Semester Cost Estimate. In-state tuition and fees for 15 credit hours is \$3,544. Room and board with a maximum meal plan is \$3,962. Average book cost is \$600

Financial Aid. Nearly three out of four students receive some form of help

Student Organizations. More than 100

School Colors. Blue and Gold

Mascot. Rambouillet Ram, Dominic

Motto. “Fiat Lux,” which is Latin for “Let there be light”

Athletics. NCAA Division II, Lone Star Conference Member. ASU’s five men’s teams (Rams) include baseball, basketball, cross country, football and outdoor track and field. ASU’s seven women’s teams (Rambelles) include basketball, cross country, golf, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball and volleyball.

The University Mission Statement

Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

Approved by the Board of Regents, Texas Tech University System, on March 6, 2009
Approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 30, 2009

The Department of Social Work

Departmental Description

Tom Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Social Work

The Department of Social Work offers courses and degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level, taught by highly-qualified faculty. The undergraduate and graduate degree programs prepare students for a broad spectrum of careers in the public and private sectors that benefit from an understanding of people, culture, and society.

The courses emphasize contemporary theories, research, and the useful application of knowledge to current problems experienced by people individually and collectively. The curriculum is delivered in varied formats, including face-to-face classes, online courses, and blended classes that utilize both face-to-face sessions and online instruction.

Students have opportunities to participate in honor societies, field education, service-learning activities, and cutting-edge research on interesting and challenging topics. The learning environment is friendly, supportive, and individualized to facilitate each student's progress toward fulfilling personal aspirations and goals. Specialized training is available in a bachelor generalist social work practice and master advanced social work practice.

Departmental Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Social Work is to provide a generalist social work education to a diverse student body based upon the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession; prepare social work students to work with diverse populations, including both rural and urban settings; become active members of the Angelo State University community and the community at large; and to advocate for vulnerable populations, including social, economic, and environmental justice

Departmental Goals

1. Provide high-quality undergraduate degree program and courses that meet the educational needs of the general student population and those with majors or minors in social work.
2. Provide high-quality graduate program that meet the educational needs of students who are seeking an advanced generalist social work education.
3. Promote and publicize the growth and accomplishments of faculty and advanced students in their fields of expertise.
4. Share the knowledge and expertise of students and faculty with others outside the university community.
5. Incorporate innovation, technology, and diverse instructional techniques into the curriculum.

Degree Offerings

Social Work: Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) in Social Work and Master of Social work (M.S.W.).

The Social Work Program

The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Degree

The purpose of the social work profession. Per the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, 2015), “[T]o promote human and community well-being. Guided by a person-in-environment framework, a global perspective, respect for human diversity, and knowledge based on scientific inquiry, the purpose of social work is actualized through its quest for social and economic justice, the prevention of conditions that limit human rights, the elimination of poverty, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons, locally and globally” (p. 5).

In Texas, social work practice is defined as “the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social,

psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities” (Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 505, 2005).

The M.S.W. degree description. The M.S.W. degree curriculum at Angelo State University is designed to prepare advanced generalist social work practitioners to work in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, child, adolescent, and family services; health/mental health; criminal justice/corrections; gerontology/aging; and in a variety of social service organizations in the community. An emphasis is placed on the ecological perspective, providing students with an understanding of the reciprocal relationship between the person and environment.

The Nature of Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice

As stated above, the M.S.W. curriculum at Angelo State University prepares advanced generalist social work practitioners and uses the ecological perspective as the theoretical foundation of generalist practice. Advanced generalist social work practice includes the provision of social work services with individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Regardless of the area (e.g., child and family welfare, corrections, health/mental health, aging, etc. . . .) or level of practice (i.e., micro, mezzo, or macro), social workers seek to promote social and economic justice and to improve functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social work practitioners support individual self-determination and respect the dignity and worth of all people regardless of their age, disability, color, race, ethnicity, family structure, gender, sexual orientation, culture, national origin, religious preference, socioeconomic status, etc. . . . Social work practitioners advocate for those who have experienced various social problems that cut across cultural groups such as poverty; crime and victimization; oppression; discrimination; mental illness; substance abuse; chronic physical illness; physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; and neglect. However, given the breadth of the social work profession, social work practitioners also work with those who may not have experienced such social problems. Regardless of population served, social workers recognize their legal and ethical responsibilities to clients and provide competent social work services. It is to this end that the M.S.W. program at Angelo State University strives to educate a future generation of social work practitioners.

The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (2011) defines the practice of Masters’ Social Work as “Applying social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or bio-psychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations and communities. Masters’ Social Work is advanced generalist practice and may include interviewing, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, case management, mediation, counseling, supportive counseling, direct practice, information and referral, problem solving, supervision, consultation, education, advocacy, community organization, and policy and program development, implementation, and administration” (p. 6).

The Nature of Social Work Education

Social work education is based in the liberal arts and consists of a structured and integrated curriculum and applied experiences that are designed to train practitioners to competently apply social work values, theories, and methods to the various social problems encountered by individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Indeed, social work education is academically and personally challenging, but rewarding. The Social Work Program at Angelo State University is designed to support the mission of Angelo State University, and reflect the mission and charter of the social work profession by conforming to the standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

The M.S.W. Program Mission Statement (EP 1.0.1, EP B2.2*)

As a social work program located in West Texas, the mission of Angelo State University's master's program in social work is to provide a quality education based on the knowledge, skills, and values of the social work profession while preparing students to work with diverse populations, including and emphasis on the emerging Hispanic population, the military population, and the older adult population in both rural and urban settings characteristic of this region. The master's program will provide professional development opportunities for students who desire to promote the social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning and well-being of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities at the master's level of practice.

* Reflects the Council on Social Work Education's [CSWE] Educational Policy [EP]

The Values of the M.S.W. Program (EP 1.1)

The Social Work Program at Angelo State University supports the core values of the social work profession, reflecting the six value elements of the National Association of Social Workers' *Code of Ethics* and two additional value elements from the CSWE that include: 1) service; 2) social justice; 3) the dignity and worth of the person; 4) the importance of human relationships; 5) integrity; 6) competence; 7) human rights; and 8) scientific inquiry. These values provide the foundation for the mission and goals of the Social Work Program and our social work curriculum (CSWE, 2008).

The M.S.W. Program Goals (EP 1.0, EP M2.1)

The master's program in social work provides a rigorous curriculum and uses sound teaching practices to promote: 1) the knowledge, values, and skills used in social work that can be applied across settings and diverse populations; 2) critical thinking skills; and 3) ethical and competent social work practice consistent with the mission and objectives of the social work profession. To this end, the goals of the master's program in social work include the following:

1. To prepare generalist and specialized social work practitioners to behaviorally demonstrate the values of the social work profession through their practice, including service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, competence, human rights, and scientific inquiry (EP 1.0; EP M2.1);
2. To further refine students' essential critical thinking skills commensurate with advanced practitioners at the master's level in the contemporary social service environment (EP M2.1);
3. To prepare master's level practitioners in advanced practice in social work or related disciplines (EP M2.1);
4. To establish a foundation for continued graduate work at the doctoral level in social work or related disciplines (EP M2.1); and
5. To maintain a reciprocal relationship with social work practitioners, groups, and organizations in the community (EP 1.0).

The Core Competencies of the M.S.W. Program

The core competencies (as taken directly from the Council on Social Work Education's 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards) of the MSW Program at Angelo State University, Department of Social Work include:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior. Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their

professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession's history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice. Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice. Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice. Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice. Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic,

organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of

the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness

Admission Requirements to the B.S.W. Program

Traditional Track Students

The traditional track is designed for individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree in a field other than social work or who have earned a bachelor's degree in social work more than five years prior to applying for admission to the master's program at Angelo State University. The traditional track introduces students to core theoretical concepts for non-BSW students and refreshes those concepts to BSW students who may need reinforcement since being in the classroom. Criteria for inclusion into the traditional track include the following.

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
- A minimum of 2.50 or higher (on a 4.0 scale or such equivalency) GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework (for persons holding a non-BSW undergraduate degree)
- A completed application to the Angelo State University Graduate School
- A completed application to the master's program in social work at Angelo State University
- Three (3) letters of reference from workplace supervisors or professors, past or current
- Three (3) student evaluation forms completed by the individuals who write letters of reference
- A professional narrative statement essay

Advanced Standing Track Students

The advanced standing track is designed for individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree in social work within the last five years. Because these students are still familiar with the core academic and theoretical concepts taught in social work foundation courses, they are not required to complete the foundational year of the master's program in social work at Angelo State University. Criteria for admission to the advanced standing track include the following.

- A bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited college or university
- A minimum of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale or such equivalency) GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework
- A completed application to the Angelo State University Graduate School
- A completed application to the master's program in social work at Angelo State University

Admission status. There are two types of admission for the M.S.W. degree program including regular admission and provisional admission.

Regular admission. Regular admission into the M.S.W. degree program is offered to students that fully meet all admission criteria. To maintain regular admission status, students must maintain all current admission criteria, have no ethical or conduct infractions, and receive satisfactory reviews from their field instructors.

Provisional admission. Provisional admission into the M.S.W. degree program is offered to students who have not met all admission criteria and who express intent to complete the deficiency within one semester. Provisional admission is only awarded for one semester; at the end of the semester in which provisional admission was awarded. The student will be evaluated for regular admission and if requirements are not satisfied, the student will be dismissed from the M.S.W. program.

Probationary status. Probationary status in the M.S.W. degree program is offered to students who hold regular or provisional admission status in the program, and their overall grade point average (GPA) drops below a 3.00. Probationary status is only awarded for one semester; at the end of the semester in which probationary admission was awarded, the student will be evaluated for regular admission or will return to a “pre-social work” admission status.

Admission Procedures

Immediately upon meeting criteria for admission into the B.S.W. program, students should send all required information to the Social Work Program Office (see address above) in the Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work. For consideration for the fall semester, all materials are due by the last day of the summer semester. The material will be evaluated by the Social Work Program Director and a letter indicating the admission decision within two weeks of receipt of the material. All students who are admitted will be required to attend a fall orientation meeting. Students who are denied admission into the program may appeal the decision by written letter to the Social Work Program Director. The Social Work Program Director’s decision is final.

The M.S.W. Curriculum

There are a total of 63 semester hours required for the M.S.W. degree, if a student is in the Traditional Track. However, if a student qualifies for Advanced Standing Track status the number of semester hours needed to obtain his/her M.S.W degree is only 33.

While the M.S.W. degree program at Angelo State University focuses on advanced generalist social work practice, with the careful selection of advanced elective courses through the academic advising process, and with the proper field education placement, students can effectively build skill sets in the following areas that reflect faculty expertise:

- children, adolescents, and families;
- military;

- gerontology/aging;
- health/mental health; and
- social/community development.

These skill sets increase student expertise in specific substantive areas of practice, may help them obtain employment in these areas of practice, and/or prepare them for more concentrated graduate study. It is recommended that students discuss such options with their assigned academic advisor. See the current *University Graduate Catalog* for the MSW degree plan.

Traditional Track – Year One

Fall Semester

SWK 6301 – Social Work Practice I: Individuals and Families

SWK 6311 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment I

SWK 6321 – Social Work History and Social Welfare Policy

SWK 6303 – Social Work Practice II: Communities and Organizations

Spring Semester

SWK 6305 – Social Work Practice III: Groups

SWK 6313 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment II

SWK 6323 – Social Work Policy Practice and Advocacy

SWK 6383 – Advanced Practice with Children and Families

Summer Semester

SWK 6335 – Social Work Research for Practice

SWK 6385 – Advanced Practice in Mental Health

SWK 6337 – Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum I (200 hours)

Traditional Track – Year Two

Fall Semester

SWK 6361 – Social Work Advanced Practice I: Multidimensional Assessment

SWK 6363 – Diversity and Multicultural Practice

SWK 6365 – Social Work Administration and Management

SWK 6339 – Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum II (200 hours)

Spring Semester

SWK 6367 – Advanced Research: Program and Practice Evaluation

SWK 6373 – Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum I (250 hours)

SWK 6369 – Social Work Advanced Practice II: Interventions

Summer

SWK 6374 – Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum II (250 hours)

SWK 6370 – Advanced Policy Analysis and Advocacy

SWK 6375 – Advanced Integrative Seminar

Advanced Standing Track

Fall Semester

SWK 6385 – Advanced Practice in Mental Health

SWK 6361 – Social Work Advanced Practice I: Multidimensional Assessment

SWK 6363 – Diversity and Multicultural Practice

SWK 6365 – Social Work Administration and Management

Spring Semester

SWK 6383 – Advanced Practice with Children and Families

SWK 6367 – Advanced Research: Program and Practice Evaluation

SWK 6373 – Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum I (250 hours)

SWK 6369 – Social Work Advanced Practice II: Interventions

Summer Semester

SWK 6374 – Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum II (250 hours)

SWK 6370 – Advanced Policy Analysis and Advocacy

SWK 6375 – Advanced Integrative Seminar

Academic and Professional Advising

All MSW students will be advised by MSW faculty prior to the start of each semester of school. If a student takes issue with a decision or comments made by a social work faculty member during the academic and professional advising process, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the MSW Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and Social Work Program Director will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Department Chair. In most cases, the decision of the Department Chair is final unless told otherwise by the Department Chair. In cases where the Department Chair's decision is not final, students follow university policy concerning the appeal process for grievances.

The Provision of Credit for Life Experience, Work Experience, and Prior Field Education

Angelo State University does not award credit for non-academic experiences nor allow the use of experiential training toward a degree. Angelo State University supports this statement as it is taken from the *University Graduate Catalog*; in summary, ASU does not give credit for life experience; work experience; or for field education, practicum experiences, or field experiences taken from other colleges or universities.

Residency Requirements and Transfer Credit

Need to address and clarify this before finalizing.

Requirements for Graduation with a M.S.W. Degree

All requirements must be met for the M.S.W. degree pursuant to the *University Graduate Catalog*. Applications for graduation must be filed in the Dean's Office (Archer College of Health and Human Services) during the appropriate time; consult the *University Graduate Catalog* and ask the social work program's secretary for detailed instructions.

Master of Social Work Course Descriptions (SWK)

SWK 6301 – Social Work Practice I with Individuals and Families

Social Work Practice I with Individuals and Families. Three semester hours. This foundation course provides a generalist practice overview of social work values, skills, and knowledge from an empowerment and strengths perspective. This course focuses on solution focused, cognitive behavioral and task-centered approaches and provides an introduction to assessment of individuals in family and environmental contexts. **Pre-requisite(s): Students must have been admitted into the MSW program.**

SWK 6303 – Social Work Practice II with Communities and Organizations

Social Work Practice II with Communities and Organizations. Three semester hours. This foundation course provides a generalist practice overview of social work values, skills, and knowledge from an empowerment and strengths perspective. This course focuses on macro community practice and involves integration of theory, skills and techniques in order to intervene with groups, organizations, communities and advance social, economic and environmental justice. **Pre-requisite(s): Students must have been admitted into the MSW program.**

SWK 6305 – Social Work Practice III with Groups

Social Work Practice III with Groups. Three semester hours. This foundation course focuses on developing knowledge, skills and competency in facilitating groups in a variety of practice settings. Students will learn theoretical approaches, each stage of the group process, including group dynamics and the impact of member characteristics. **Pre-requisite(s): SWK 6301 and SWK 6305.**

SWK 6311 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment I

Human Behavior in the Social Environment I. Three semester hours. This foundation course examines the dynamics of human behavior in society, families and groups, from a wide range of perspectives including biological, psychological, systems and social/environmental. The course also addresses issues of diversity including ethnocentrism, racism, and physical/intellectual ability with an emphasis on strengths, focuses on developmental theories and practical knowledge covering populations from birth to young adulthood. **Pre-requisite(s): Students must have been admitted into the MSW program.**

SWK 6313 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment II

Human Behavior in the Social Environment II. Three semester hours. This foundation course analyzes bio-psycho-social developmental theories and practical knowledge of human development from young adulthood to end of life. Course content concentrates on diversity issues impacting individuals, families, groups and society, including race, gender, sexual orientation, class, culture, age and others, and the oppression of minorities and populations at risk. **Pre-requisite(s): SOWK 6313.**

SWK 6321 – Social Work History and Social Welfare Policy

Social Work History and Social Welfare Policy. Three semester hours. This foundation course examines the historical and current development of the social work profession and US social welfare delivery system. Course content is designed to emphasize the effect of social policies on client systems at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Students will conduct critical analysis of social problems, current policies, and service responses with an emphasis on the mutual relationships among policy, practice and research and the investigation of the impact of social policy upon diverse and vulnerable groups. **Pre-requisite(s): Students must have been admitted into the MSW program.**

SWK 6323 – Social Work Policy Practice and Advocacy

Social Work Policy Practice and Advocacy. Three semester hours. This course introduces foundational knowledge and skills in policy practice, including the policy making process and intervention techniques aimed at impacting and changing social welfare and public policies. Course content includes analysis of contemporary social issues, public policy, social welfare programs, and strategies for empowering diverse groups **Pre-requisite(s): SWK 6301.**

SWK 6335 – Social Work Research for Practice

Social Work Research for Practice. Three semester hours. This course covers foundational concepts, principles, and methods of scientific inquiry, focusing on quantitative and qualitative designs and analysis and use of existing research in practice and policy. Students will learn to apply qualitative and quantitative research methods to the problems of social work practice and explore cultural and ethical considerations and the role of research in advocating for under-served and special populations. **Pre-requisite(s): Students must have been admitted into the MSW program.**

SWK 6337 – Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum I (200 hours)

Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum I. Three semester hours. The seminar facilitates integration of foundation field practicum and classroom learning through processing and discussion of field issues and situations. Students gain knowledge of and apply models of critical reflective practice, effective use of supervision, and ethical decision

making. The course includes a supervised social work field practicum in a community agency or program related to current course work and requires a minimum of 200 clock hours at the agency. Application to field practicum required. Practice experience and demonstration of foundation social work skills in an applied setting. **Pre-requisite(s): Acceptance into practicum and satisfactory completion of SWK 6301, SWK 6311, SWK 6303, SWK 6321, and SWK 6335. Concurrent enrollment in SWK 6305, SWK 6313 and SWK 6323**

SWK 6339 – Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum II (200 hours)

Social Work Foundation Field Seminar and Practicum II. Three semester hours. The seminar facilitates integration of foundation field practicum and classroom learning through processing and discussion of field issues and situations. Students gain knowledge of and apply models of critical reflective practice, effective use of supervision, and ethical decision making. The course includes a supervised social work field practicum in a community agency or program related to current course work and requires a minimum of 200 clock hours at the agency. Application to field practicum required. Practice experience and demonstration of foundation social work skills in an applied setting. **Pre-requisite(s): SWK 6303, SWK 6313, SWK 6323, and SWK 6337.**

SWK 6361 – Social Work Advanced Practice I – Multidimensional Assessment

Social Work Advanced Practice I – Multidimensional Assessment. Three semester hours. This advanced practice course focuses on biopsychosocial perspectives about mental health and disorders across the lifespan. Course content introduces the major diagnostic classification systems with a primary focus on the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Students will utilize multiple assessments tools in order to effectively lead and intervene with clients at every system level. The course content is designed to build assessment skills and the diagnostic process utilizing the DSM with an emphasis on facilitating a holistic multidimensional assessment inclusive of strengths, and an analysis of diagnostic systems in relation to social work values and ethics. **Pre-requisite(s): Formal admission to the program, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 6363 – Diversity and Multicultural Practice

Diversity and Multicultural Practice. Three semester hours. This advanced practice course provides an analysis of human diversity in the context of social work practice. Course content addresses related theoretical frameworks and the negative impact of power, privilege, oppression, and stigma upon diverse individuals and groups. Students are expected to develop the knowledge and skills to work effectively with diverse populations and protect human and civil rights, as well as, enhance self-awareness to increase sensitive practice. **Pre-requisite(s): Formal admission to the program, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 6365 Social Work Administration and Management

Social Work Administration and Management. Three semester hours. This advanced practice course provides students with theories and skills needed for administration of direct service staff and management skills across a variety of human service settings with an emphasis on managing competing and limited resources. Course content addresses relevant theories and models of supervision and administration. Key skills are identified which will enable students to effectively manage and create resources, develop and impact organizational policies, and serve as effective administrators and supervisors. **Pre-requisite(s): Formal admission to the program, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 6367 Advanced Research – Program and Practice Evaluation

Advanced Research – Program and Practice Evaluation. Three semester hours. The scientific method in social work research is presented. The methods of empirical research for knowledge building, the role of research in theory construction, research designs and data analysis, and methods of practice and program evaluation are introduced. Students will apply quantitative and qualitative methods and analysis in order to gain knowledge and skills about practice and program accountability and effectiveness. Course content will focus upon evaluation of social work practice and programs including single system design, needs assessments, and process and outcome evaluation. Students will also be exposed to the use of the logic model in program design and evaluation. **Pre-requisite(s): Formal admission to the program, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 6373 Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum I (250 hours)

Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum I. Three semester hours. The course facilitates experiential opportunities allowing for the integration of advanced field practicum and classroom learning through processing and discussion of field issues and situations. Course content includes assignments based upon advanced field social work topics, attendance to a weekly field seminar class, supervised social work field practicum in an agency setting, and includes practice in a community agency or program related to current course work. Students are expected to demonstrate advanced social work skills in an applied setting. Students are required to complete a minimum of 250 clock hours in the agency and must receive a grade of “B” or better. **Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into practicum, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 6399 Master’s Thesis* (In Lieu of Advanced Research – Program and Practice Evaluation)

Master's Thesis. Three semester hours. This course is Open to students who chose the thesis option. Independent, applied research that addresses a significant issue in social work supervised by a member of the social work graduate faculty. **Prerequisite(s): Permission of the Department.**

SWK 6369 – Social Work Advanced Practice II – Interventions

Social Work Advanced Practice II – Interventions. Three semester hours. This advanced practice course builds on prior course work and presents theories and key practice models of evidence informed social work interventions with diverse individuals and families. Course content focuses on engagement at each stage of the intervention process and will provide experiential learning through participation in case simulations, role plays, and other exercises. **Pre-requisite(s): SWK 5206.**

SWK 6370 Advanced Policy Analysis and Advocacy

Advanced Policy Analysis and Advocacy. Three semester hours. This advanced course builds upon policy practice skills and knowledge and macro community practice techniques. Course content presents frameworks for policy research and analysis. Students will conduct advanced analysis and critique of social welfare policies that affect families and diverse and oppressed populations. Students will develop advocacy and intervention techniques aimed at positively impacting social welfare and public policies. Students will also develop written and verbal persuasion skills. **Pre-requisite(s): SWK 6361.**

SWK 6374 Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum II (250 hours)

Social Work Advanced Field Seminar and Practicum I. Three semester hours. The course facilitates experiential opportunities allowing for the integration of advanced field practicum and classroom learning through processing and discussion of field issues and situations. Course content includes assignments based upon advanced field social work topics, attendance to a weekly field seminar class, supervised social work field practicum in an agency setting, and includes practice in a community agency or program related to current course work. Students are expected to demonstrate advanced social work skills in an applied setting. Students are required to complete a minimum of 250 clock hours in the agency and must receive a grade of “B” or better. **Prerequisite(s): Acceptance into practicum, completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, and be in good standing in the MSW program.**

SWK 56375 Advanced Integrative Seminar

Advanced Integrative Seminar. Three semester hours. The advanced seminar course in which students integrate concepts from across the curriculum and demonstrate cumulative knowledge gained from all areas of the program in one focused assignment, within the context of

the student's chosen concentration. Required of all non-thesis students in their final semester of coursework. **Pre-requisite(s): SOWK 6373.**

SWK 6385 Advanced Practice in Mental Health

Advanced Practice in Mental Health. Three semester hours. This course focuses on assessment and intervention with those experiencing acute and chronic mental health issues and disabilities. Course content addresses the delivery of services to various populations (children, adolescents, and adults), service delivery systems (community, mental health, managed care), and a wide variety of problems. Additional topics include well-being, ethics, case management, treatment planning, DSM, and substance abuse.

SWK 6383 Advanced Practice with Children and Families

Advanced Practice with Children and Families. Three semester hours. This course focuses on the characteristics, strengths, and needs of children and their families. Students will develop assessment and intervention skills needed to work effectively with a variety of issues related to children, parents, and family. Course content includes techniques such as child therapy, play therapy, behavioral contracting, cognitive behavioral interventions, and crisis intervention.

SWK 6381 Special Topics

Special Topics. Three semester hours. Topics vary and may include the following: Rural Social Work with the Elderly, Spirituality and Social Work, Social Work Practice with the Military and their Families, Death, Dying, and Bereavement, Addictions: Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Child Maltreatment: Assessment and Intervention,

Social Work Faculty and Staff

Resident Social Work Faculty

Chris Shar, Ph.D., LCSW

Master of Social Work Program Director
Associate Professor

Sam Gallander, M.S.W., LCSW

Master of Social Work Field Education Director
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Anne M. Scaggs, M.S.W., LCSW, ABD

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Abilene Behavioral Health Katy Bruce, LMSW

ADACCV Chelsea Ashton, MA History
Courtney Bingham, LBSW

American Red Cross Josh McDonald, MA History

APS Stu Stalder

Area Agency on Aging Toni Gutierrez, Masters in Counseling

ASU Disability Office Dallas Swafford, M.ED

Baptist Memorials Rachael Nash, LBSW

Boys Ranch Mike Children, BS in Kinesiology

Child Advocacy Center Monica Escobedo, BA Psychology

Concho Valley Community Iyla Blue
Action Agency

CPS Anthony Rastetter, LMSW

CPS Kelly Walker, BA Psych

CPS Trista Johnson, BS Education

CPS Sylvia Morin, BA Business

Crisis Intervention Unit Rita Guthrie, MS Counseling

Disability Connection Anita Thomas

ECI Crystal Berry, BS Education

GoodWill Connection of West TX Brennan Favor, LMSW

Guardianship Alliance Lettitia McPherson, BA Psych

High Sky Children's Ranch Courtney Flores, BA Psych

Hospice of San Angelo Ervilene Smith, LCSW

Juvenile Probation	Greg Graham, LPC
La Esperanza Clinic	Carina Sturgeon
Meals for the Elderly	Lori Rodriguez, BSW
MHMR-IDD	Gana Huff, BA Psych
MHMR—MH	Sammy Sablan, MS in Counseling
MHMR—MH Crisis Unit	Brittany Shroeder, MS in Psych
ASU Multicultural Center	Lorina Klingerman, MA
Family Shelter	Valerie Tillery
Rape Crisis Center	Heather Hodge, LCSW
River Crest Hospital	Barbara Davis, LCSW Sam Gallander, LMSW
Rust Street Ministries	Bryan Elliot, LMFT, LPC
Sage Crest Alzheimers Unit	Sheila Knox, LMSW
Salvation Army	Major Tim Grider
San Angelo Odyssey Hospice	Christina Jimenez, LMSW
Senior Care Center	Jared Johnsnon, LBSW
Shannon Behavioral Health	Roger Collins, LPC
Shannon Clinic	Yolanda Rodriquez, LMSW
Shannon Dialysis Center	Dana Jackson-Lange, LMSW
Shannon Hospital	Karen Jansa, LCSW
Shleicher Country Nursing Home	Meloni Webb, LBSW
State Support Living Center	Vizion Jackson, LCSW
West TX Guidance & Counseling	Dusty McCoy, LPC
West TX Rehab Center	Barby Nobles, LBSW
Workforce Solutions	Linda Diaz

Academic Policies Specific to the Social Work Program

Academic Honesty

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students will be expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their experiences in the classroom. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action. Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty have been adopted by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents and are published under the Section on Student Services and Activities in the University's Student Handbook. In summary, the Social Work Program's policy concerning academic honesty is consistent with Angelo State University's policy concerning academic honesty found in the *University Graduate Catalog*.

Field Education Placements in Social Work

The social work field education experience is administered by the Social Work Program's Field Education Director. According to the CSWE, field education, is the signature pedagogy of the social work profession. The CSWE EPAS states,

“Signature pedagogy represents the central form of instruction and learning in which a profession socializes its students to perform the role of practitioner. Professionals have pedagogical norms with which they connect and integrate theory and practice.⁴ In social work, the signature pedagogy is field education. The intent of field education is to connect the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting. It is a basic precept of social work education that the two interrelated components of curriculum—classroom and field—are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of program competencies” (CSWE, 2015, p. 8).

⁴ Shulman, L. S. (2005, Summer). Signature pedagogies in the professions. *Daedalus*, 52-59.

Only social work majors may enroll in a social work field education course. Student placements in particular field setting are negotiated between the social work student and the Social Work Field Education Director. Please see the Social Work Field Education Manual for details about social work field education, or you may discuss the social work field education sequence with the Social Work Field Education Director.

Student Liability Insurance for Field Education

Students must obtain and maintain malpractice insurance prior to beginning their first field education placement, and proof of malpractice must be filed with the Master of Social Work Program's Field Education Office (HHS, 323Z) while enrolled and/or participating in an

field education course. Proof of malpractice constitutes a copy of the “Certificate of Insurance” that accompanies the policy.

Requirement to Follow the NASW Code of Ethics

Students who have been admitted into the M.S.W. degree program are required to follow the *NASW Code of Ethics*. Substantiated violations of the *NASW Code of Ethics* may result in dismissal from the M.S.W. degree program.

Academic and Professional Performance and Dismissal from the Program

There may be times when a student’s academic or professional performance merit termination from the program; for example, violations the *NASW Code of Ethics* or when Field Education Supervisors may have serious concerns about the professional performance of students, or their health or mental health status. If this occurs, a student’s case will be sent to committee consisting of the core social work faculty. The student’s case may be substantiated, not substantiated, or declared that there is not enough information to determine. If the case is substantiated, the student may be dismissed from the program, required to attend professional performance advising with a member of the core social work faculty, or they may be referred to an appropriate service agency; for example, the campus mental health clinic for evaluation if needed.

Concerning academic performance, a student is required to make at least a “C” in all required social work courses. Courses with an earned grade of a “D” or less must be retaken. All social work students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. If a student falls below this minimum GPA levels, they are placed on academic probation in the program and given one semester to raise their GPA to or above the minimum requirements. Failure to accomplish this results in the student being removed from the program and placed in a pre-social work status. Students may reapply to the social work program if they are placed in pre-social work status once they have met the requirements of the program.

Concerning professional performance advising, students are required to maintain professional standards consistent with social work professionals in training. This means that they should follow the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, Angelo State University Honor Code, and the Code of Conduct promulgated by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. While it is perfectly acceptable for social work student to experience health and mental health concerns like all other people, such concerns must not impair their professional performance. If a student’s health or mental health condition affects their professional performance in their field education, they may be referred to an appropriate agency or evaluation or other services. The student will need clearance from their health care provider to return to their field education placement.

Prohibition of Independent Practice While a Student and Use of Titles

Social work students of any kind are prohibited from engaging in any form of private or independent practice. They are further prohibited from receiving or taking direct payment for

services. Additionally, social work students may refer to themselves as a “Social Work Student,” or if they are in field education placement, a “Social Work Field Education Student;” they may not and are prohibited from calling themselves a “Social Worker” or any derivation of the term social worker that would imply to the public that they hold a social work degree or are licensed in social work.

Student Rights

Students have a right to study and work in a non-discriminatory environment. The Angelo State University Social Work Program affirms and respects diversity and difference among students, faculty, field instructors, staff, and others involved in the program. Further, students have a right to appeal certain decisions and file grievances, including but not limited to admission decisions, academic and professional advising comments and recommendations, and so forth. If a student takes issue with a decision made by a social work faculty member, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the MSW Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and MSW Program Director will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with university policy through the proper channels (see the university undergraduate catalog). In most cases, the decision of the MSW Program Director; however, students are advised to follow Angelo State University’s appeal and grievance policy found in the university graduate catalog.

Student and Professional Organizations

The Student Social Work Association (SSWA)

The Student Social Work Association is an official ASU student lead organization in which all Angelo State University students are welcome to join on a voluntary basis. There will be one social work faculty member that will serve as the SSWA’s faculty sponsor and liaison with the SSWA’s elected president. The SSWA holds meetings to discuss community activities and to generate recommendations for the MSW Program Director concerning the Social Work Program the SSWA is the primary mechanism for students to organize and have a voice in the Social Work Program. Student recommendations are taken seriously and are a part of the student voice in the Social Work Program. The dues are \$40.00 per year (due every April 15th) as voted upon and approved by the SSWA membership. All student members of the SSWA and the faculty in the Department are welcome to attend all meetings and sponsored events held by the association. All events (except monthly meetings) must be approved by the faculty advisor working with the association.

The Phi Alpha Honor Society

Angelo State University is in the process of filing for a local Phi Alpha charter. According to the Phi Alpha website, the purpose of Phi Alpha is “to provide a closer bond

among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work". The criteria to become an undergraduate student member of Phi Alpha include:

- declared social work as a major;
- achieved sophomore status;
- completed 8 semester hours of required social work courses;
- achieved an overall grade point average of 3.0 and 4.0 scale; and
- achieved a 3.25 grade point average in required social work courses.

Students who meet the above stated criteria are encouraged to apply for membership as soon as ASU has established its local charter.

Professional Social Work Organizations

The following are some of the major social work or social work related organizations in the United States that social work students and professional social workers commonly hold membership:

- Council on Social Work Education
- National Association of Social Workers

