

Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences

Master of Social Work

1 Background

As part of The University of Melbourne's Growing Esteem agenda, the School of Social Work will offer a qualifying Master of Social Work degree, replacing its Bachelor of Social Work from 2008. The degree will provide its graduates with foundational theory and practice skills and will prepare students for eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers and international accrediting bodies.

The new MSW is offered as part of The University of Melbourne's Growing Esteem agenda, involving the transition of all professional qualifying undergraduate to postgraduate degree programs. Thus, the Bachelor of Social Work will have its final intake in 2007 and, from 2008, the new MSW will provide pre-service, professional social work training. This articulation to a postgraduate degree is consistent with international standards for social work education.

Within current BSW cohorts, it is estimated that 75% of students are already graduates. Thus, the proposed MSW is more suited to the vast majority of our student body. In addition, many prospective students have not taken up the BSW pathway previously. Given that they already have undergraduate training in education, law, nursing and other professions, they have not wished to pursue another undergraduate degree. The proposed MSW will be attractive to these graduates seeking a career change.

2 Course/Program Objectives

The MSW aims to offer its students an outstanding postgraduate course of study, preparing students for professional practice in a diverse range of social work contexts. The course provides students with a nationally and internationally benchmarked course of study, in the theory and practice of social work. Graduates will be eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Graduates of the MSW degree will be expected to develop advanced generic skills in the areas of critical thinking, communication and research.

3 Entry Requirements

To be separately recommended by Academic Board.

4 Statement of how the course allows students to achieve the University of Melbourne Graduate Attributes and how it meets the statement of Expectations of a Professional Masters

Each new subject within the MSW has been developed in accordance with the University of Melbourne Graduate Attributes statement.

Through the theoretical and practical curricula of the new MSW degree, its graduates will be professional social workers who are academically excellent, knowledgeable across disciplines, leaders in communities, attuned to cultural diversity, and active global citizens.

5 Course/Program Structure

Some Masters level subjects from the current Masters program within the School are being transferred into the new degree. Their existing subject code is used below and in the

handbook entries. Other curricula required for accreditation as a social worker has been developed through the transformation and revision of BSW subjects.

The coursework only degree requires the completion of 175 points of coursework subjects and 50 points of fieldwork.

For students wishing to take the research option within the MSW, 196-XXX Social Work Thesis (25 points) is taken in addition to all the coursework. This requires a 250 point load overall, comprised of 50 points of fieldwork, 175 points of coursework subjects and 25 points of research.

(a) The course work program structure

Year 1, Semester 1 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Lifespan Risk and Resilience	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 1	12.5 points
196-XXX	Communication and Interviewing Skills	12.5 points
196-XXX	Direct Practice with Individuals	12.5 points

Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days

196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 1	25 points
---------	------------------------------	-----------

Year 1, Semester 2 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Assessing Risk and Vulnerability	12.5 points
196-508	Researching Social Work Practice	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working in Human Service Organisations	12.5 points
196-XXX	The Legal and Ethical Contexts of Practice	12.5 points

Year 2, Semester 1 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Social Work Practice with Families	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working with Groups	12.5 points
196 XXX	Working with Communities	12.5 points

Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days

196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 2	25 points
---------	------------------------------	-----------

Year 2, Semester 2 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-514	Human Service Program Planning & Evaluation	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 2	12.5 points

One concentration subject¹

		12.5 points
195-XXX	Child & Family Social Work	
196-519	Issues in Women's Mental Health	
196-525	Social Work Practice in the Health Field	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Psychiatric Disability	
196-521	Advanced Practice with Groups	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Mental Health	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with the Elderly	

¹ Not all of these electives will be available every year. Some may be on a two year cycle. Students may vary their course plans by negotiation with the Course Coordinator if they wish to undertake a specific concentration.

196518 Critical Issues in Social Work

(b) The research degree structure

This degree structure is exactly the same as the coursework degree, until Year 2 Semester 2, when students undertaking the research pathway enrol in 196 XXX Social Work Thesis. Thus, the degree structure is as follows:

Year 1, Semester 1 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Lifespan Risk and Resilience	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 1	12.5 points
196-XXX -	Communication and Interviewing Skills	12.5 points
196-XXX	Direct Practice with Individuals	12.5 points

Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days

196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 1	25 points
---------	------------------------------	-----------

Year 1, Semester 2 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Assessing Risk and Vulnerability	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working in Human Service Organisations	12.5 points
196-XXX	The Legal and Ethical Contexts of Practice	12.5 points
196-508	Researching Social Work Practice	12.5 points

Year 2, Semester 1 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-XXX	Social Work Practice with Families	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working with Groups	12.5 points
196 XXX	Working with Communities	12.5 points

Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days

196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 2	25 points
---------	------------------------------	-----------

Year 2, Semester 2 (taught in an eight week semester)

196-514	Human Service Program Planning & Evaluation	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 2	12.5 points

One concentration subject¹

195-XXX	Child and Family Social Work	12.5 points
196-519	Issues in Women's Mental Health	
196-525	Social Work Practice in the Health Field	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Psychiatric Disability	
196-521	Advanced Practice with Groups	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Mental Health	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with the Elderly	
196518	Critical Issues in Social Work	

196-XXX	Social Work Thesis	25 points (CNT)
---------	--------------------	-----------------

Year 3, Semester 1

196-XXX	Social Work Thesis	25 points
---------	--------------------	-----------

(c) The part-time coursework degree

Year 1, Semester 1

196-XXX	Lifespan Risk and Resilience	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 1	12.5 points

196-XXX	Direct Practice with Individuals	12.5 points
Year 1, Semester 2		
196-XXX	Assessing Risk and Vulnerability	12.5 points
196-XXX	The Legal and Ethical Contexts of Practice	12.5 points
Year 2, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Communication and Interviewing Skills	12.5 points
Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days		
196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 1	25 points
Year 2, Semester 2		
196-XXX	Working in Human Service Organisations	12.5 points
Year 3, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with Families	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working with Groups	12.5 points
Year 3, Semester 2		
196-514	Human Service Program Planning & Evaluation	12.5 points
196508	Researching Social Work Practice	12.5 points
Year 4 Semester 1		
196 XXX	Working with Communities	12.5 points
Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days		
196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 2	25 points
Year 4 Semester 2		
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 2	12.5 points
One concentration subject ¹		
195-XXX	Child & Family Social Work	12.5 points
196-519	Issues in Women's Mental Health	
196-525	Social Work Practice in the Health Field	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Psychiatric Disability	
196-521	Advanced Practice with Groups	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Mental Health	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with the Elderly	
196518	Critical Issues in Social Work	

(d) The part-time research degree option

Year 1, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Lifespan Risk and Resilience	12.5 points
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 1	12.5 points
196-XXX	Direct Practice with Individuals	12.5 points
Year 1, Semester 2		
196-XXX	Assessing Risk and Vulnerability	12.5 points
196-XXX	The Legal and Ethical Contexts of Practice	12.5 points
Year 2, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Communication and Interviewing Skills	12.5 points

Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days		
196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 1	25 points
Year 2, Semester 2		
196-XXX	Working in Human Service Organisations	12.5 points
Year 3, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with Families	12.5 points
196-XXX	Working with Groups	12.5 points
Year 3, Semester 2		
196-514	Human Service Program Planning & Evaluation	12.5 points
196508	Researching Social Work Practice	12.5 points
Year 4 Semester 1		
196 XXX	Working with Communities	12.5 points
Mid-year: Block placement: 75 days		
196-XXX	Supervised Field Placement 2	25 points
Year 4 Semester 2		
One concentration subject ¹		12.5 points
195-XXX	Child & Family Social Work	
196-519	Issues in Women's Mental Health	
196-525	Social Work Practice in the Health Field	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Psychiatric Disability	
196-521	Advanced Practice with Groups	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice: Mental Health	
196-XXX	Social Work Practice with the Elderly	
196518	Critical Issues in Social Work	
196-XXX	Social Policy for Social Work Practice 2	
196-XXX	Social Work Thesis (continuing)	25 points
Year 5, Semester 1		
196-XXX	Social Work Thesis	25 points [CNT]

6 Availability of Course

The program will be available from 2008 on a full-time and part-time basis, and will be offered to CSP students, fee-paying international students and fee-paying Australian students.