

**WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**Sample Course Plan for MSW Program**

*Classes are held at WCU's Main Campus in Cullowhee and at WCU's Biltmore Park Instructional Site in south Asheville. Most classes are face-to-face with full time WCU Department of Social Work faculty; some classes are taught online, in a hybrid online/face-to-face format, or in both locations simultaneously using synchronous streaming technology. Adjunct faculty teach electives related to their field of full-time practice.*

**FULL-TIME MSW PROGRAM (complete in 2 years)**

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**1<sup>st</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 551: Social Policy
- SOCW 534: Human Behavior in the Social Environment (*waiver exam available*)
- SOCW 553: Practice I: Foundations of Social Work Practice
- SOCW 562: Practice II: Assessment and Psychopathology
- SOCW 504: Diversity, Difference, and Social Justice

**1<sup>st</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 535: Research (*waiver exam available*)
- SOCW 564: Organizational and Community Practice
- SOCW 586: Foundation Field Practicum & Integrated Seminar (*20-24 hours per week in a social service agency, weekly seminar class*)
- *SOCW Elective (a total of 3 social work electives must be taken during the MSW program)*

**SUMMER SEMESTER** optional – Select Electives Available

**2<sup>nd</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 627: Practice III: Clinical Interventions with Individuals
- SOCW 664: Leadership and Management
- SOCW 686: Adv Field Practicum & Integrative Seminar I (*24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester*)
- *SOCW Elective (if not taken during summer)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 662: Practice IV: Interventions with Families and Groups
- SOCW 673: Rural Community Advocacy
- SOCW 687: Advanced Field Practicum & Integrative Seminar II (*24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester*)
- *SOCW Elective (if not taken during summer)*

**PART-TIME MSW PROGRAM (complete in 4 years)**

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*Students can complete the MSW program as a part-time student by splitting the Foundation and Specialization years into two years each. Some students choose to complete the program in three years by completing one half of the curriculum (either Foundation or Specialization) as a full-time student and the other half (either Foundation or Specialization) as a part-time student. Switching from part-time to full-time status requires the written approval of the MSW Program Director.*

**1<sup>st</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 553: Practice I: Foundations of Social Work Practice
- SOCW 562: Practice II: Assessment and Psychopathology
- SOCW 504: Diversity, Difference, and Social Justice

**1<sup>st</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 535: Research
- SOCW 564: Organizational and Community Practice
- *SOCW Elective (a total of 3 social work electives must be taken during the MSW program; in the part-time program, they can be taken any semester after the first fall semester)*

**1<sup>st</sup> SUMMER SEMESTER** optional – Select Electives Available

**2<sup>nd</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 551: Social Policy
- SOCW 534: Human Behavior in the Social Environment

**2<sup>nd</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Foundation Curriculum)**

- SOCW 586: Foundation Field Practicum & Integrated Seminar (*20-24 hours per week in a social service agency, weekly seminar class*)

*This document is updated annually and subject to change. The most up to date version can be found at [msw.wcu.edu](http://msw.wcu.edu).*

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**Sample Course Plan for MSW Program**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUMMER SEMESTER** optional – Select Electives Available

**3<sup>rd</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 627: Practice III: Clinical Interventions with Individuals
- SOCW 664: Leadership and Management

**3<sup>rd</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 662: Practice IV: Interventions with Families and Groups
- SOCW 673: Rural Community Advocacy

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUMMER SEMESTER** optional – Select Electives Available

**4<sup>th</sup> FALL SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 686: Advanced Field Practicum I (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)

**4<sup>th</sup> SPRING SEMESTER (Specialization Curriculum)**

- SOCW 687: Advanced Field Practicum II (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)

**FULL-TIME ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM (complete in 10 months)**

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**SUMMER SEMESTER**

- SOCW 553: Advanced Standing Bridge Course (*online and face-to-face*)
- SOCW Elective (*two electives are required for Advanced Standing students; can be taken any semester*)

**FALL SEMESTER**

- SOCW 627: Practice III: Clinical Interventions with Individuals
- SOCW 664: Leadership and Management
- SOCW 686: Advanced Field Practicum I (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)

**SPRING SEMESTER**

- SOCW 662: Practice IV: Intervention with Families and Groups
- SOCW 673: Rural Community Advocacy
- SOCW 687: Advanced Field Practicum II (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)

**PART-TIME ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM (complete in 2 years)**

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**1<sup>st</sup> SUMMER SEMESTER**

- SOCW 553: Advanced Standing Bridge Course (*online and face-to-face*)
- SOCW Elective (*two electives are required for Advanced Standing students; can be taken any semester*)

**1<sup>st</sup> FALL SEMESTER**

- SOCW 627: Practice III: Clinical Interventions with Individuals
- SOCW 664: Management in Human Service Organizations

**1<sup>st</sup> SPRING SEMESTER**

- SOCW 662: Practice IV: Interventions with Families and Group
- SOCW 673: Rural Community Advocacy

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUMMER SEMESTER** optional – Select Electives Available

**2<sup>nd</sup> FALL SEMESTER**

- SOCW 686: Advanced Field Practicum I (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)

**2<sup>nd</sup> SPRING SEMESTER**

- SOCW 687: Advanced Field Practicum II (24 hours per week in a social work agency with a Field Seminar class that meets 5 times per semester)