



The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Certificate in School-Based Social Work Practice

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work offers MSSW students the opportunity to graduate with a certificate in School-Based Social Work Practice. This certificate program prepares both Clinical and APP students to be school-based social work practitioners. School-based social workers are an integral link between school, home, and community in helping students achieve academic success. They work directly with school administrations as well as with students and families, providing leadership in forming school discipline policies, mental health interventions, crisis management, and support services. As part of an interdisciplinary team to help students succeed, social workers also facilitate community involvement in the schools while advocating for student success.

Certificate Requirements

The School-Based Social Work Practice certificate program is composed of one anchor course, Social Work Practice in Schools, elective and selective coursework, 20 hours of professional development and an approved field placement. All coursework counted toward earning a certificate must be taken at the graduate level at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work or through approved out-of-department classes. The student is responsible for documenting that all requirements for the certificate have been successfully completed.

Approved Field Placement

Certificate students will participate in one official field placement in an approved school setting. The placement is a key educational component, providing students with hands-on learning and an opportunity to apply and integrate classroom-based knowledge. This placement may occur in the student's first or final field experience.

Additional Proposed Coursework for Certificate

Students in the Clinical concentration will select three of their five choices from the suggested course options on page two. Students in the APP concentration will select three of their four choices from the suggested course options on page two. Other courses may be approved as offered, through consultation with the Certificate Coordinator and the Assistant Dean for Master's Programs.

Professional Development

Students will engage in a minimum of 20 hours of professional development during the course of their graduate program, either through conference attendance, training participation and/or research project participation that relates to School-Based Social Work Practice. Professional development hours must be approved by the certificate coordinator prior to the certificate being awarded and may not count toward fulfillment of requirements of another course or program at the School.

Process

Students will complete an application for the certificate program. The application can be found here (PDF file): <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/mssw/certificate-program-application.pdf>

Certificate Coordinator

For more information, please contact Prof. Mary Beer at mary.beer@austin.utexas.edu.

Social Work Coursework *

- Anchor course: Social Work Practice in Schools
- APP Selectives: Program Evaluation, Grant Development
- Clinical Selectives: Treatment of Children & Adolescents, Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, Crisis Intervention, Attachment, Theory and Methods of Family Intervention, Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Populations, Neurobiology in Social Work Practice, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Electives: Parent Interventions, Methods of Play Intervention, Social Work Practice with Abused & Neglected Children & Their Families, Loss and Grief, Mindfulness and Social Work Practice, Juvenile Justice, Communication Skills in Interdisciplinary Settings, Restorative Justice, Social Construction of Disability, Spanish for Social Workers, Making Systems Work for People with Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities and Self-Advocacy

Possible out-of-department or cross-listed coursework options *

- LBJ School of Public Affairs: Leadership as a Catalyst for Community Change, Upward Mobility, Inequality & Public Policy, Poverty and Education Policy (ED cross-listed), Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, Principles and Practices of Effective Leadership
- Educational Administration: Race/Leadership/School to Prison Pipeline, Class, Gender, & Race in Schools
- Educational Psychology: Crisis Intervention in Schools, Social/Emotional Assessment of Children & Adolescents, Family Systems Interventions with Children & Adolescents, Fundamentals of Behavioral Theory & Intervention, Research Design & Methods for Psychology & Education
- Psychology: Advanced Developmental Science of Adolescence

** These are not exhaustive lists. Additional courses may be presented to the Certificate Coordinator for approval. Additionally, not all courses may be offered in all semesters and seats are not guaranteed.*