

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 New Proposal; Graduate
 Proposal from Department of Social Work

Title: Modification of extended study plan in Master of Social Work Program

Content of Proposal

A. Proposal Summary and Catalog Copy

1. **Summary. This curriculum proposal aims to redistribute the clinical field placement hours from the fall and spring semesters of the third year of the extended plan to the summer semester prior to these two semesters. See Below:**

Current extended plan	Proposed Extended plan
<u>Summer</u> No field placement	<u>Summer</u> Field placement 2 days/wk 3 credits
<u>Fall</u> Field placement 3 days/wk 4 credits	<u>Fall</u> Field placement 2 days/wk 3 credits
<u>Spring</u> Field placement 3 days/wk 5 credits	<u>Spring</u> Field placement 2 days/wk 3 credits
<i>Total: 9 credits for field placement</i>	<i>Total: 9 credits for field placement</i>

The total number of credits will not be changed, only three credits will be redistributed to the summer semester. The coursework will remain the same, only the clinical field component will be organized slightly differently, by moving some of the hours to the summer session. Students will begin their field placements in the summer prior to their third year of the MSW program. This change will require the addition of a field placement course (SOWK 7445 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIa is the proposed nomenclature) in the summer semester. Because three credits will be shifted away from these students' fall and spring field requirements, revised courses with reduced credits will have to be created so that the students will earn the reduced number of credits (SOWK 7446 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIb in the fall and SOWK 7447 Extended Social Work Practicum IV in the spring). No brand new curriculum is added, only current curriculum is shifted to the summer session. Syllabi for the revised courses are attached.

2. Proposed Catalog Copy. SOWK 7445 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIa. (3)
 Prerequisite: Admission to the extended study program. SOWK 6442, Social Work Practicum II. Corequisite: none. Students work in an approved social service agency developing specialized skills that indicate an integration of theories, research, and policies in relation to their area of specialization within interpersonal practice.
(summer)

SOWK 7446 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIb. (3) Prerequisite: Admission to the extended study program. SOWK7445, Social Work Practicum IIIa. Corequisite: Enrollment in at least one advanced social work practice class (SOWK 7123, SOWK 7124 or SOWK 7125). Continuation of SOWK 7445. *(fall)*

SOWK 7447 Extended Social Work Practicum IV. (3) Prerequisite: Admission to the extended study program. SOWK7446, Social Work Practicum IIIb. Corequisite: Enrollment in at least one advanced social work practice class (SOWK 7123, SOWK 7124 or SOWK 7125).Continuation of SOWK 7445 and 7446. *(spring)*

No changes are required to the graduate catalogue MSW program description. See below from current catalogue:

“The course of full-time study over four semesters requires 60 hours of course work beyond the bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. A structured extended study program (part-time) (also 60 hours) is available that students can complete in three years. The Advanced Standing MSW Program consists of 42 hours of credit and spans over one full year or full-time study. The UNC Charlotte MSW degree is fully accredited by The Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting organization for social work education programs.”

B. Justification

1. The shift of field placement hours into the summer session will enable extended study students to be in the field less hours in the spring and fall semesters, thereby allowing them to be engaged in academics at a less-than full-time pace. This proposed change is aimed at promoting retention in the extended program and increasing the marketability of the extended student program to potential students who are already working in the human services arena with a desire for an advanced degree. Extended study student feedback about this proposed change was almost all positive and therefore this change is determined to be responsive to student feedback and supportive of our departmental interest in being student-centered. The Community Advisory Board for the Department of Social Work also has expressed strong support for the Extended study program to contain curriculum organized to allow a student to be successful at a less than full time pace.
2. As noted in the catalog copy above, the prerequisite for the new courses is to be accepted in the extended study program and to have completed the foundation year of field placement.
3. The course numbering and naming identified above is consistent with the nomenclature used in the advanced standing program and the full time program. The course numbers are sequenced in the same order as they are to be taken.
4. This proposal change will enable extended study students to be in their field placements a maximum of 16 hours per week. The current extended study plan

requires a time commitment of 24 hours in the fall and spring semesters of the last year.

C. Impact.

1. Graduate students who are admitted to the MSW extended study program will be affected by this change. Other MSW students in the full time and the advanced standing programs will not be affected. The classification of degree plan is determined when students are accepted to the MSW program.
2.
 - a. The new course (SOWK 7445 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIa) will be offered in the summer semester only. The other courses (SOWK 7446 and SOWK 7447) will be offered in the fall and spring respectively. They are technically new courses as they have new names, but will not require that any additional sections be offered because they are merely renaming sections of existing courses to reflect the decrease in credit hours assigned to them.
 - b. The addition of these courses will be offset in part by the decrease in sections offered of SOWK 7443 and SOWK 7444. The net gain in sections will be one summer semester course offering.
 - c. The anticipated enrollment in the courses will be equal to the number of students admitted to the extended study plan two years prior. These cohorts have recently ranged from 7 students to 13 students. It is anticipated, however, that this curriculum adjustment will make the extended study program more marketable and that there will be more interest in applying for admission into it.
 - d. The addition of these courses will eliminate a section of both SOWK 7443 and SOWK 7444.
 - e. This course has not been offered before, other than with a different number of credits assigned to it.
 - f. The graduate catalog copy would not change elsewhere because the extended study curriculum plan is currently not presented in the catalog. Only the full time program plan is presented. The social work website and internal departmental documents, however, would require an update.

D. Resources Required to Support Proposal

1. Personnel
 - a. There will be a net increase of one summer section to be offered within the social work department. No other personnel would be required to support the offering since the coordinator of Field Education is already a 12-month appointment and the advanced standing cohort also has a summer field component. The department has an extensive list of trained part-time and full-time faculty who are able to teach this course.
2. The only physical space required would be a classroom for the field seminar meeting once per month. Ken Burrows, Director of Summer Programs has been consulted and he confirms that this need will not be an issue since CHHS has plenty of summer classroom space.
3. Equipment and Supplies - no increased need.

4. Computer – no increased need.
5. Audio-visual – no increased need.
6. Other resources – no other resources are necessary. The issue of insurance coverage for students in the field during the summer has been investigated and there would be no increase in fees.
7. The source of funding for the offering of the net of one section will have to be absorbed by the Department of Social Work, as an amount equal to the compensation required for one part-time faculty member for one section. The issue of travel reimbursement for site visits was addressed but it was determined that the increase in summer site visits will be offset by a decrease in visits in the fall and spring.

E. Consultation with Library and Other Departments

1. Library Consultation - there is no impact on library holdings or support needs.
2. Consultation with other departments or units - there is no impact on other academic units.
 - a. The Director of Summer Programs has been consulted and no impact was noted.
 - b. The availability of summer field placement sites has been assessed by the Coordinator of Field Education and it was determined that an adequate number exist to support this proposal and that many sites will likely prefer to have students over the course of summer, fall, and spring semesters.

F. Initiation and Consideration of the Proposal

1. Originating Unit – The idea for this curriculum change came from discussions between the MSW Coordinator and Field Coordinator in response to student complaints about the heavy field requirements in the last fall and spring semesters of the extended study program. The MSW committee unanimously voted to present this proposal to the Social Work Department committee. The faculty voted unanimously to formally prepare this long form course and curriculum proposal. It is to be approved by the department before routing to the curriculum review committee.
2. Other Considering Units – Thus far, support for the proposal has been unanimous.

G. Attachments

A copy of the current curriculum plan as compared to the proposed curriculum plan for the extended study program is attached. Revised syllabi are attached.

Appendix

Current Extended Study (Three Year) Curriculum	Proposed Extended (Three year) Curriculum
Year One	Year One
<u>Fall (6 credits)</u>	<u>Fall (6 credits)</u>
SOWK 6101 HBSE I (3 cr.)	SOWK 6101 HBSE I (3 cr.)
SOWK 6111 Social Welfare Policy I (3 cr.)	SOWK 6111 Social Welfare Policy I (3 cr.)
<u>Spring (6 credits)</u>	<u>Spring (6 credits)</u>
SOWK 6202 HBSE II (3 cr.)	SOWK 6202 HBSE II (3 cr.)
SOWK 6112 Social Welfare Policy II (3 cr.)	SOWK 6112 Social Welfare Policy II (3 cr.)
<u>Summer (3 credits)</u>	<u>Summer (3 credits)</u>
*Social Work-Related Elective (3 cr.)	*Social Work-Related Elective (3 cr.)
Year Two	Year Two
<u>Fall (9 credits)</u>	<u>Fall (9 credits)</u>
SOWK 6121 Social Work Practice I (3 cr.)	SOWK 6121 Social Work Practice I (3 cr.)
SOWK 6131 Social Work Research I (3 cr.)	SOWK 6131 Social Work Research I (3 cr.)
SOWK 6441 Practicum I (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)	SOWK 6441 Practicum I (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)
<u>Spring (9 credits)</u>	<u>Spring (9 credits)</u>
SOWK 6222 Social Work Practice II (3 cr.)	SOWK 6222 Social Work Practice II (3 cr.)
SOWK 6232 Social Work Research II (3 cr.)	SOWK 6232 Social Work Research II (3 cr.)
SOWK 6441 Practicum II (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)	SOWK 6441 Practicum II (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)
<u>Summer (6 credits)</u>	<u>Summer (9 credits)</u>
Field of Practice-Related Elective (3 cr.)	Field of Practice-Related Elective (3 cr.)
SOWK 7103 HBSE III (3 cr.)	SOWK 7103 HBSE III (3 cr.)
Year Three	SOWK 7445 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIa (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)
<u>Fall (10 credits)</u>	Year Three
SOWK 7123 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Individuals (3 cr.)	<u>Fall (9 credits)</u>
SOWK 7125 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Groups (3 cr.)	SOWK 7123 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Individuals (3 cr.)
SOWK 7443 Social Work Practicum III (4cr./24 hrs. per week in field)	SOWK 7125 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Groups (3 cr.)
	SOWK 7446 Extended Social Work Practicum IIIb (3cr./16 hrs. per week in field)
<u>Spring (11 credits)</u>	<u>Spring (9 credits)</u>
SOWK 7124 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Families (3 cr.)	SOWK 7124 Advanced Interpersonal Practice with Families (3 cr.)
SOWK 7651 Field of Practice Seminar (3 cr.)	SOWK 7651 Field of Practice Seminar (3 cr.)
SOWK 7444 Social Work Practicum IV (5 cr./24 hrs. per week in field)	
	SOWK 7447 Extended Social Work Practicum IV (3 cr./16 hrs. per week in field)

Total Credits = 60

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