

## **Hunter School of Social Work THE MSW FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM**

The School of Social Work holds that social work education must integrate core social work values and knowledge with practical, on-site application. Professional, academic and field learning experiences must satisfy the highest standards of excellence. The curriculum is designed to instill a sense of respect for human integrity, a concern for social conditions and a commitment to service within a specific value system.

The first year curriculum is comprised of courses in: Practice, including a year long social work practice learning laboratory, and courses in specific social work practice methods; Social Welfare Policy and Services; Human Behavior and the Social Environment; Ways of Knowing and Communicating; and Field Practicum (except for incoming One Year Residency Program students).

***Social Work Practice Learning Lab (SSW 717 & 718) and Practice Methods*** are designed to assure that our students develop both foundation competency in all areas of social work practice as well as advanced competency in one method.

**NOTE:** All incoming students will be enrolled in SSW 717 & 718-*Social Work Practice Learning Laboratory 1 & 2* as their foundation practice learning experience in the first year. Students will enroll in their first *major method course* either: *SSW 721 Casework 1, SSW 731 Group Work 1, SSW 741 Community Organization 1 or SSW 781 Administration 1* in the Spring semester of their first year.

***Social Welfare Policy and Services (SSW 701 & SSW 702)*** This two-course sequence explores the history, meaning, intent and operations of the U.S. social welfare system. The courses identify key ideological frameworks that shape the current public debates over social welfare policy, analyze the structure of the social welfare system, and explore issues of poverty in the context of oppression, diversity and social justice.

**NOTE:** Two Year Program (**TYP**) students will enroll in *SSW 701 Social Welfare Policy and Services* in their first Fall semester, and *SSW 702* (the second policy course in the sequence) in the Spring. One Year Residency Program (**OYR**) students will enroll in *SSW 701* in the Summer and *SSW 702* in the Spring semester of their second year.

***Human Behavior and the Social Environment (SSW 711 & SSW 712 )*** This two course sequence addresses the person-in-situation matrix with a specific focus of attention on issues of diversity (culture, class, ethnicity, race, age, sexual orientation, spirituality, ability, and gender).

**NOTE: Incoming TYP** students enroll in *SSW 711 Human Behavior and the Social Environment 1*, the first course in the sequence in the Fall and *SSW 712 Human Behavior and the Social Environment 2* in the Spring.

**Incoming OYR** students enroll *SSW 711 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I*, the first course in the sequence in the. The *SSW 712 Human Behavior and the Social Environment 2* is taken in the Summer semester.

**Ways of Knowing and Communicating.** Courses in this grouping (**SSW 775**) build students' capacity to acquire, appraise, analyze and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, communicate both orally and in writing, gain self awareness concerning the influence of personal biases in the appraising of knowledge and to use research evidence to inform practice. This is achieved through the use of a common orienting framework, common assignments and grading standards used in the study of a substantive content area.

**NOTE: All incoming students** will select one course from a menu of courses. This Fall the menu includes courses focusing on Child Welfare, Practice in Authority Settings, Trauma, Domestic Violence, Criminal Justice, Aging, Health, or Mental Health.

**Field Practicum** This two-to-four-term sequence of on-site work in social service agencies is an integral component of all pathways to the MSW degree. Field practicum provides opportunities for students to perform social work tasks under the supervision of a field instructor and encourages the integration and application of concepts and principles learned in both the classroom and the practicum agency. Students must be in SSW 717 or a practice/methods course concurrent with field practicum.

**NOTE: Incoming TYP** students will register for SSW 761 Field Practicum 1 in the Fall and SSW 762 Field Practicum 2 in the first year. Incoming Two Year Program students will be in field practicum on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Incoming OYR** students will NOT register for Field Practicum until their Residency year (usually year 2).