



## MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM

The Master of Social Work (MSW) at St. Ambrose University is a flexible-format, 60 credit program. Students can learn online or in-person. BSW graduates can earn a MSW in as little as a year through SAU's Advanced Standing program.

Please [consult the online course catalog](#) for detailed course descriptions.

### OVERVIEW

Generalist Foundation courses emphasize empowerment, cultural competence, and social justice. You will learn how to assess, plan and intervene; affect change in groups, organizations, and communities; practice with diverse groups in diverse communities; collaborate with clients and focus on strengths; and create solution-focused dialogue.

During your second year, you'll study change strategies including case management, mediation, solution-focused approaches, use of community resources, psychotherapy and play therapy, systems approaches, organizational and community change strategies, and advocacy and networking.

You choose your electives. You can learn more about social policies affecting the elderly, couple and family therapy, child welfare, mental health services and case management, social work in schools, and more.

All students complete field placements, and our Director of Field Education works closely with you to find an organization that fits your interests and goals. Students in the two-year, full-time program work 12 hours per week in the field and 15 hours a week in their second year. Students in the Advanced Standing Program work one year in full-time residence. Part-time students work 15 hours per week during their second and third years of study.

We prepare you for the Master of Social Work licensure exam by including the exam review in our curriculum, and exam pass rates are strong.

If you want to expand your skills further, we offer a three-year MSW-MBA program.

### DEGREE OPTIONS

Use these links to navigate directly to each of our three degree options: [Advanced Standing Program \(12 months\)](#) | [Full-time Program \(21 months\)](#) | [Part-time, Online Program \(~3 years\)](#)

## Advanced Standing Program (12 months)

This accelerated format is only available to students who have earned a BSW from a CSWE-accredited institution.

### YEAR ONE

<b>Summer Session</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 690 Diversity and Social Policy	3
MSW 720 Social Work Program Evaluation	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Fall I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Fall II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 530 Empowerment Practice I	3	MSW 603 Field Seminar III SW Ethics	1
MSW Elective	3	MSW Elective	3
MSW 603 Field Seminar III: SW Ethics	1	MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2
MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2		
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Spring I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Spring II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 540 Empowerment Practice II	3	MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision-Making	1
MSW Elective	3	MSW 594 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2
MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision Making	1	MSW Elective	3
MSW 594 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2		
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

## Full-time Program (21 months)

### YEAR ONE

Fall I	Credit	Fall II	Credit
MSW 510 Generalist Practice I	3	MSW 710 Social Work Research Design	3
MSW 610 Human Behavior Theories	3	MSW 810 Social Welfare Policy	3
MSW 591 Field Instruction I and Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5	MSW 591 Field Instruction I and Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>7.5</b>

Spring I	Credit	Spring II	Credit
MSW 520 Generalist Practice II	3	MSW 720 SW Program Evaluation	3
MSW 620 Diversity and Social Systems	3	MSW 820 Social Policy Analysis	3
MSW 592 Field Instruction II & Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5	MSW 592 Field Instruction II & Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>7.5</b>

### YEAR TWO

Fall I	Credit	Fall II	Credit
MSW 530 Empowerment Practice I	3	MSW 603 Field Seminar III: SW Ethics	1
MSW 603 Field Seminar III: SW Ethics	1	MSW Elective	3
MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2	MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2
MSW Elective	3		
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Spring I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Spring II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 540 Empowerment Practice II, 3 credits	3	MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision-Making, 1 credit	3
MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision Making, 1 credit		MSW Elective, 3 credits	
MSW 594 Field Instruction, 2 credits – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week		MSW 594 Field Instruction, 2 credits – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	
MSW Elective, 3 credits			
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>3</b>

### **Part-time, Online Program (~3 years)**

When progressing through the part-time program, students take courses online. Practicum placement requirements take place concurrently with the required social work theory and practice courses in the second and third year and can likely be taken in your area.

Students must fulfill all degree requirements within four years from date of initial enrollment.

#### **YEAR ONE**

<b>Fall I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Fall II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 510 Generalist Practice I	3	MSW 610 Human Behavior Theories	3

<b>Spring I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Spring II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 520 Generalist Practice II	3	MSW 620 Diversity and Social Systems	3

## YEAR TWO

<b>Summer Session</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW Elective	3
MSW Elective	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Fall I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Fall II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 710 Social Work Research Design	3	MSW 810 Social Welfare Policy	3
MSW 591 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5	MSW 591 Field Instruction I – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>4.5</b>

<b>Spring I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Spring II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 720 SW Program Evaluation	3	MSW 820 Social Policy Analysis, 3 credits	3
MSW 592 Field Instruction II & Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5	MSW 592 Field Instruction II & Seminar – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 12 clock hours per week	1.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>4.5</b>

## YEAR THREE

<b>Summer Session</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW Elective	3
MSW Elective	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Fall I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Fall II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 603 Field Seminar III: SW Ethics	1	MSW 603 Field Seminar III: SW Ethics	1
MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2	MSW 593 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2
MSW 530 Empowerment Practice I	3	MSW Elective (if needed)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>3-6</b>

<b>Spring I</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Spring II</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision-Making	1	MSW 604 Field Seminar IV: Ethical Decision-Making	1
MSW 594 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2	MSW 594 Field Instruction – 2 days per week in Field Practicum, 16 clock hours per week	2
MSW 540 Empowerment Practice II	3	MSW Elective (if needed)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>3-6</b>