



Core Course Descriptions

Generalist Year

SOWK 501 Introduction to Generalist Practice

This is the introductory course to the advanced generalist social work profession for students entering the Generalist Program. The course provides an overview of the history and development of the profession, the values and ethics of the profession, the generalist knowledge and competencies necessary for practitioners, and practice with all sizes of systems and populations.

SOWK 511 Generalist Human Behavior and the Social Environment

This is the introductory course to the advanced generalist social work profession for students entering the Generalist Program. The course provides an overview of the history and development of the profession, the values and ethics of the profession, the generalist knowledge and competencies necessary for practitioners, and practice with all sizes of systems and populations.

SOWK 521 Generalist Policy

This is the generalist policy course required of all students. The course outlines the social policies that have been enacted in the United States and the resulting impact of their implementation with special attention to rural areas.

SOWK 570 Generalist Research

This course is required for all students in the Generalist Program (1st year) and emphasizes the development of the quantitative and qualitative research knowledge necessary for evidence-based practice to inform research. Students are introduced to the concepts and skills underlying a systemic approach to social work research, including but not limited to the role of concepts and theory, hypothesis formulation, operationalization, research design, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, computer skills, and research report writing.

SOWK 560A Generalist Practicum

Generalist Field Practicum (560A – 3 cr., 560B – 3 cr.): The generalist Practicum experience provides an opportunity to apply the skills, knowledge, cognitive/affective processes, and values of generalist social work practice in a social service setting with diverse clients. The Generalist Practicum requires that students complete 400 hours of practicum time in an agency setting. SOWK 560 is completed across two semesters, one 15-week semester (fall or spring) and one 5-week semester (summer I or summer II). Students complete 20 hours of practicum time per week

across both of those semesters to complete the required 400 hours. SOWK 501 and SOWK 511 must be taken before the student starts SOWK 560. SOWK 531 must be taken before or concurrent with the student's first semester of SOWK 560 (560A).

SOWK 560B Generalist Practicum

Generalist Field Practicum (560A – 3 cr., 560B – 3 cr.): The generalist Practicum experience provides an opportunity to apply the skills, knowledge, cognitive/affective processes, and values of generalist social work practice in a social service setting with diverse clients. The Generalist Practicum requires that students complete 400 hours of practicum time in an agency setting. SOWK 560 is completed across two semesters, one 15-week semester (fall or spring) and one 5-week semester (summer I or summer II). Students complete 20 hours of practicum time per week across both of those semesters to complete the required 400 hours. SOWK 560A must be taken before SOWK 560B.

Advanced Year

SOWK 613 Advanced Human Behavior and the Social Environment

This course is an advanced Human Behavior and the Social Environment (HBSE). The course provides an advanced rural focus on human behavior in the social environment with specific focus on the issues that occur in rural settings and the human context. The course examines (but is not limited to) issues of social justice/injustice such as poverty, human rights, gender, sexual orientation, race, social class, environmental injustice and ageism. These issues are addressed across all levels of practice through the lens of the strengths perspective and systems approach while examining personal and professional values. Students will develop critical thinking, knowledge and skills for competent rural social work practice.

SOWK 622 Advanced Policy in Rural Practice

This is the second policy course and is required for students who are in the Advanced Generalist Program as well as those progressing from the Generalist Program. The student will select a social topic or population relevant to rural areas and explore how to assist those working with the topic or population through written and policy involvement assignments. The knowledge builds from the paper written in SOWK 521-Generalist Policy and from applied policy analysis research.

SOWK 633 Advanced Rural Practice with Individuals, Families, & Groups

This course is designed to prepare social work students for advanced practice with individuals, families, and groups in rural settings. The rural social worker often does not have the luxury of being able to refer clients and must be able to intervene across multiple populations utilizing various intervention modalities. This course focuses on best practices and intervention methods appropriate to the unique strengths and limitations within rural settings and with rural populations.

SOWK 634 Advanced Rural Practice with Communities & Organizations

This advanced practice course prepares master level social work students for advanced practice in rural settings with communities and organizations. This course includes practice with a wide variety of populations. The rural social worker often does not have the luxury of being able to refer clients and must be able to intervene across multiple populations utilizing various intervention modalities. This course focuses on working with communities and organizations using best practices and intervention methods appropriate to changing contexts and populations.

SOWK 660A Advanced Practicum

The Advanced Practicum advances the skills, knowledge, cognitive/affective processes, and values of social work as applied to rural practice. In the Advanced Practicum students complete a minimum of 500 practicum hours. Each student will complete the advanced practicum across three semesters and will complete 16 or 21 hours per week to obtain the minimum 500 hours, depending on the student's progression through the program. SOWK 613 must be taken before students start SOWK 660A. SOWK 633 must be taken either before or concurrent with the student's first semester of SOWK 660 (660A).

SOWK 660B Advanced Practicum

The Advanced Practicum advances the skills, knowledge, cognitive/affective processes, and values of social work as applied to rural practice. In the Advanced Practicum students complete a minimum of 500 practicum hours. Each student will complete the advanced practicum across three semesters and will complete 16 or 21 hours per week to obtain the minimum 500 hours, depending on the student's progression through the program. SOWK 660A must be taken before students start SOWK 660B.

SOWK 660C Advanced Practicum

The Advanced Practicum advances the skills, knowledge, cognitive/affective processes, and values of social work as applied to rural practice. In the Advanced Practicum students complete a minimum of 500 practicum hours. Each student will complete the advanced practicum across three semesters and will complete 16 or 21 hours per week to obtain the minimum 500 hours, depending on the student's progression through the program. SOWK 660A and 660B must be taken before students start SOWK 660C.

SOWK 661 Appalachian Culture, Structure, & Environment

This advanced course integrates social work issues and methods from across the curriculum within a rural setting and Appalachian context. The course builds upon the conceptual and historical foundations of rural practice and the unique Appalachian culture and resultant family, community, and delivery structures. Further, the course explores mechanism to build individual and community capacity, in part, by recognizing and exploring avenues of strength, inherent in and indigenous to, the environmental context of Appalachia.

SOWK 670 Advanced Research

This is the second research course and is required for both foundation and advanced students. This research course is taken concurrently with Advanced Field Practicum. The course emphasizes the application of research methods for the evaluation of practice effectiveness and/or program outcomes in rural evidence-based practice. Students will choose an intervention and engage in the evaluation process. The course emphasizes the evaluation of evidence-based interventions and the utilization of the results to make practice decision that improve the quality of services, interventions and improve delivery of social services. Students will deepen their understanding of the essential components of research that was introduced in SOWK 570 or their BSW research methods course.