

2 year OL (Spring start) – updated January 2025 For students starting Spring 2026 and beyond

MSW Curriculum at a Glance

Full Time – Two Year Online Plan (Spring Start)

YEAR 1			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	
Generalist curriculum			
[502] Human Behavior and the Social Environment	[500] Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups)	[501] Practice with Organizations and Communities)	
[504] Social Welfare Policy and Services	Elective*	[505] Methods of Social Work Research	
[506] Diversity and Oppression	Practicum 1 (2 credits) 10 hrs/wk	[507] Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	
	Practicum Lab Seminar (1 credit)	Practicum 2 (2 credits) 10 hrs/wk	
		Reflective Practice Seminar (1 credit)	

YEAR 2			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	
	Specialized Curriculum begins		
Elective*	[511] Clinical Social Work I or [535] Management Practice Theory	[512] Clinical Social Work II or [536] Strategic Planning	
Elective*	[595] Evaluation of Social Work Practice and Programs	Advanced Practice* Distribution Requirement	
Practicum 3 (2 credits) 10 hrs/wk	Advanced Contemporary Policy Requirement	Elective*	
	Practicum 4 (2 credits) 16.75 hrs/wk	Practicum 5 (2 credits) 16.75 hrs/wk	

^{*}Course offerings may differ based on availability and demand.

All courses are three credits, with the exception of the practicums, which are two credits, and the seminars, which are one credit.



Practicum Learning Curricular Requirements

Students in the online MSW program complete 900 hours of practicum during the program, 400 in the second, third, and fourth (generalist practicum 1, 2 and 3) and 500 in the following two semesters of placement (specialized practicum 4 and 5.) The schedules are as follows:

	Hours per Week	# of Weeks	Term	Total Hours
	10	10	Summer	100
	10	15	Fall	150
	10	15	Spring	150
			Total – Generalist	400
Specialized	16.75	15	Summer	250
	16.75	15	Fall	250
			Total – Specialized	500

Courses must be taken in the above sequence and practicum hours must be completed in the above sequence. Only after successful completion of the generalist courses, generalist practicum hours and the statistics requirement, can students begin the specialized curriculum. Placements cannot be provided for evening and weekends only. It is the responsibility of the student to have the hours available to do the practicum.

Monday – Friday during the business day (9-5). There may be placements that offer some weekend and evening hours, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Generalist Curriculum

All students, except those with baccalaureate degrees from programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, are required to take all of the generalist courses. These courses contain a body of knowledge, values, and skills essential for social work practice. This common base is transferable among settings, population groups, and problem areas. The generalist curriculum consists of courses in generalist social work practice with corresponding practicum instruction, human behavior and the social environment, clinical assessment & diagnosis, introductory social work research methods, social welfare policy and services, and a course focused on diversity and oppression.

Successful completion of the generalist program is required before beginning the specialized curriculum.

The required generalist courses are:

19:910:500 Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (3)

19:910:501 Practice with Organizations and Communities (3)

19:910:502 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3)

19:910:504 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)

19:910:505 Methods of Social Work Research (3)

19:910:506 Diversity and Oppression (3)

19:910:507 Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis (3)

19:910:____Practicum 1, 2, 3 (2, 2, 2)

19:910: Practicum Lab Seminar (1), Reflective Practice Seminar (1)

19:910: Elective (3) Course offering may differ based on availability and demand.



Specialized Curriculum

The specialized curriculum consists of a specialization in a method of advanced clinical practice or management and policy, an advanced research course, advanced practicum instruction, and electives. Only after successful completion of the generalist courses and the statistics requirement can students begin the specialized curriculum. Courses required for the specialization and which must be taken concurrently with a practicum are:

19:910:511 Clinical Social Work I (3) or [535] Management Practice Theory

19:910:512 Clinical Social Work II (3) or [536] Strategic Planning

Additional required advanced courses are:
19:910: Advanced Contemporary Policy Requirement (3)
19:910:595 Evaluation of Social Work Practice and Programs(3)
19:910: Practicum 4, 5 (2, 2)
19:910:Advanced Practice Distribution Requirement (3) Course offerings may be limited based on availability and demand.
19:910:Elective (3). Course offerings may be limited based on availability.
19:910:Elective (3) Course offering may be limited based on availability. 19:910:Elective (3) Course offering may differ based on availability and demand.

In the specialized curriculum, students may choose a second Advanced Practice Distribution Requirement and/or Advanced Contemporary Policy Requirement to satisfy the elective requirement in the second year specialized curriculum. Course offerings may be limited based on availability.

For full course descriptions, please visit our website at_ https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/academics/master-socialwork-msw/msw-curriculum-syllabi

State social work boards determine the requirements for social work licensure. Prospective students should contact their state licensing board to determine if this online program meets licensure requirements.