

# College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, & Technologies

## SOCIAL WORK (SWK)

### Graduate Faculty:

Beth Betman, M.S.W.; Carol Cohen, Ph.D.; Elizabeth Moore, M.S.W. (*M.S.W. Program Director*); Teresa Mason, Ph.D. (*Chair*); Janet Pray, Ph.D.; Martha Sheridan, M.S.W., Ph.D.; Barbara White, Ph.D.

### Professional Staff:

Marcia Schweitzer, M.S.S. (*Director of Field Instruction*)

### About the Department:

The Department of Social Work offers the master's in social work (M.S.W.) degree and the baccalaureate degree with a major in social work. The M.S.W. program admitted its first class in 1989.

The M.S.W. program prepares deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students to assume leadership positions in the provision of social work services for deaf and hard of hearing people throughout the United States and internationally. Graduates are employed in child welfare agencies, schools and universities, mental health settings, family service agencies, correctional facilities, and programs for people with developmental disabilities, among many others. Graduates are providing clinical services and are engaged in advocacy, administration, program and policy development, community development, consultation, research, and publication.

The Department of Social Work has seven faculty and one professional staff who are highly qualified and experienced in their fields. Department members are engaged in research, are active in community service projects, and present regularly in professional conferences, workshops, and colloquia.

Social work faculty are engaged in program development efforts on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing people throughout the metropolitan Washington area. In addition, the department sponsors guest lectures and colloquia by professional social work practitioners from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area as well as from other areas of the country.

The master's program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The baccalaureate program in social work has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1976 and was reaccredited in 1994.

### Master of Social Work Program

The master of social work program at Gallaudet University prepares students for advanced social work practice with deaf and hard of hearing populations. Graduates possess the knowledge and skills to enter the profession as practitioners in various settings, such as schools, health care agencies, family and child welfare agencies, mental health settings, disability organizations, corrections agencies, organizations that provide services to senior citizens, etc. Graduates possess knowledge and skills in areas of direct generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Graduates may practice in areas such as policy, research, program development, and agency and community work.

The M.S.W. program consists of 62 credit hours of study. The foundation curriculum consists of courses in eight core curriculum areas: human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research, field education, values and ethics, diversity, and populations at risk, including social and economic justice. Foundation students attend a concurrent field practicum with courses, entering the field of practice for two eight-hour days a week at an internship site. Students complete the first year of study with approximately 500 hours of field practicum experience in addition to course and lab credit.

The advanced curriculum concentration courses consist of advanced content in all of the curriculum areas. Graduates expand and deepen knowledge and skills acquired during the foundation year and develop special knowledge and skills needed for practice with deaf and hard of hearing populations. Students in the advanced year have a full semester of courses in the fall semester and a full block placement in the spring semester with two online courses. During the spring semester, students are placed in settings that require advanced social work practice skills.

Students work at their internship sites for four eight-hour days, totaling thirty-two hours per week or 512 hours for the semester in addition to two online courses. At the completion of the second year of study, students graduate with 12 credits of field practicum (approximately 1012 hours of field practicum) and 50 course credits.

Students in the M.S.W. program may apply to participate in a school social work specialization which is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Students take courses specifically related to school social work, including school social work policy and school social work practice. Internship experiences during both years take place in school settings or in other education-related agencies. A student may take an approved elective course in order to enhance preparation to work with deaf and hard of hearing children in schools. Participants in this program may apply to take part in a U.S. Department of Education grant, which provides half tuition waivers and stipends during all four semesters. Students selected for the grant opportunity must commit to work in a school setting after graduation.

M.S.W. students must achieve an ASLPI rating of 2 by the end of their foundation curriculum, prior to taking the qualifying examination and prior to admission into the concentration curriculum. Students are responsible for scheduling their ASLPI evaluations by appointment with the Center for American Sign Language Literacy (CASLL) on the second floor of the Merrill Learning Center early in the fall semester of their first year in the program. ASLPI scheduling at the CASLL only occurs during a two-week sign-up period only at the beginning of the semester. This is the only time during a given semester that M.S.W. students may secure individual interviews.

Students not reaching the ASLPI rating of 2 in the fall semester must meet with their advisors to develop a plan of activities (ASL classes and interaction activities) which will facilitate skill and rating advancement. It is the students's responsibility to register for these classes and activities, and to schedule subsequent ASLPI evaluations until the required rating is achieved. A rating of 2+ is required for graduation. Students not achieving the ASLPI rating of 2+ are required to provide a portfolio of documentation which would include the ASLPI or SCPI proficiency level(s) obtained and three letters of recommendation from individuals (internship supervisor, academic advisor, or others), along with everything else the students have done to improve their skills. Then the Social Work Department will make a decision based on that information, the student progress in the M.S.W. program, and the population and setting in which the student aims to work.

**Admission Requirements for the M.S.W. Program in Social Work**

**Checklist of requirements for application to every Gallaudet University graduate program:**

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. (Those applying during their final undergraduate year will be required to submit a final transcript after completion of their bachelor's degree and before enrolling in their first semester of graduate study.)
- Official transcripts of all graduate study.
- A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study. (Occasionally, applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted conditionally upon the recommendation of the department.)
- An application fee of \$50.
- A completed graduate school application form.
- Goals statement.
- TOEFL scores for all international applicants.

**Checklist of requirements specific to this program:**

**Are additional application materials required?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Standardized Test Scores?	GRE or MAT
<input type="checkbox"/>	References?	Three Letters
	Reference Citing Sign Language Skills?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Essay?	Narrative
	Resume?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writing Sample?	Recommended
	Videotape of Signing and/or English?	No

**Are there additional application requirements?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	On-Campus Interview?	Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Months of Interviews	February-March
	Sign Language Evaluation?	No
	English Evaluation?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture and Language Colloquium Required?	Strongly Recommended

**Are there additional background requirements?**

	Prior Master's Degree?	No
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	Required Undergraduate Major?	No
	Recommended Undergraduate Major?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite Coursework (Required)?	30 Hours Liberal Arts or Humanities Coursework in Human Biology
	Standardized Testing Substitute for Prerequisite?	No
	Recommended Prior Coursework?	No
	Prior Professional Experience?	No
	Prior Certification?	No
	Health Certification Requirements?	No
	Police or Other Background Check?	No

**Application Deadlines and Program Scheduling**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Last Date to Submit Completed Application?	February 15
	First Date for Consideration of Application?	No Set Date
	Summer Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Admission Possible?	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter Admission Possible?	Only with advanced standing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time Study Possible?	Yes
	Summers-Only Study Possible?	No
	Weekend and Evening Study Possible?	No

**Conditional Admission**

Occasionally, a student who is unable to satisfy a particular admission requirement but otherwise gives evidence of ability to succeed in a graduate social work program may be awarded admission conditionally. The student then has until the end of the first semester to remove those conditions. If the student does not remove those conditions, he or she will not be allowed to continue in the program.

**Advanced Standing**

Students who have graduated with bachelor’s degrees in social work from Council on Social Work accredited programs may be eligible for advanced standing through the waiver of first semester courses. Up to 15 credits may be waived if students have received a grade of B or better in their undergraduate courses and are recommended for

advanced standing by their undergraduate program. Waiver of field practicum credits requires the recommendation of the field practicum director. Admission with advanced standing is decided on an individual basis and is designed to prevent duplication of material learned in the applicant’s undergraduate social work program. Students are encouraged to take electives up to the 62 credit limit.

**Curriculum**

The M.S.W. program consists of 62 credit hours distributed among: a) required foundation courses; b) concentration course areas in deaf and hard of hearing populations; and c) elective credits. The full-time program is designed to be completed in two years. The elective credits can be taken in any graduate department at Gallaudet or through the consortium. Students specializing in school social work are expected to choose electives, with the approval of their advisors, that relate to the specialization. ASL courses do not satisfy the elective requirement. All students are required to take HSL 707 (3 credits)\*.

**Part-time Options**

Students may wish to enroll on a less than full-time basis. Part-time options are available on a three-year schedule. The program must be completed within three years. The course plans are designed to preserve sequential learning.

**Field Instruction**

The Field Practicum component of social work education is a central feature of social work training because it provides the opportunity for the student to apply and integrate knowledge and skills learned in the classroom with professional practice opportunities in human service agencies.

The first year of field practicum offers students opportunities for learning experiences, including responsibility for working with individual clients and their families; development and leadership of a client group; and organizational/program development and community interventions.

In the advanced year, the field practicum provides students with learning opportunities in an agency that focuses on services for deaf and hard of hearing clients or in an organization developing those services. Advanced year internships occur during the final spring semester and are structured so students can benefit from strong experiences across the nation and internationally. Students engage in internships four days per week in order to provide consistent service to clients and to gain an in-depth understanding the agency setting. Students gain 500 hours of practicum experience following this block internship format.

The director of field instruction selects agencies able to provide students with rich learning opportunities and supervision by a qualified M.S.W. social worker. The field

\*May be taken during summer or any semester of the program.

instructor fills a dual role as practitioner and educator and is chosen on the basis of social work practice competence, supervisory experience, and commitment to student learning. The students' interests, career goals, and learning needs are considered in the selection of internship sites. Students specializing in school social work have internship sites in schools or education-related organizations.

Some settings that have provided foundation year internships are:

- Advocates for Justice and Education
- Arlington County Public Schools
- Baltimore City Public Schools
- Child and Family Service Agency
- Deaf-REACH, Inc.
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Family Service Foundation-Institute on Deafness
- Girls and Boys Town of Washington, DC
- Jewish Social Service Agency
- Kendall Demonstration Elementary School for the Deaf
- Maryland State Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Maryland School for the Deaf
- Model Secondary School for the Deaf
- National Association of Social Workers
- Prince Georges County Department of Social Services
- Sasha Bruce Youthworks
- Washington Urban League, Senior Day Program
- Washington Hospital Center

Some settings used to date for advanced year block placements are:

- American School for the Deaf, Hartford, CT
- California School for the Deaf, Fremont, CA
- JFK Partners, Colorado University Health Services Center, Denver, CO
- Community Counseling Center, Portland, ME
- The E.C. Drury School for the Deaf, Toronto, Canada
- G.R.E.A.T. Day, Inc., Atlanta, GA
- Hawaii Center for the Deaf and Blind, Honolulu, HI
- International Deaf Education Association, Bohol, Philippines
- Lexington School for the Deaf, New York, NY
- Mental Health Center, Gallaudet University
- The National Deaf Academy, Mt. Dora, FL
- New Mexico School for the Deaf, Santa Fe, NM
- San Diego Deaf Mental Health Services, San Diego, CA
- Tennessee School for the Deaf, Knoxville, TN
- University of California Center on Deafness, San Francisco, CA
- Virginia School for the Deaf, Staunton, VA

**Typical Two-Year Program of Study**

(Foundation Year)

*Semester I - Fall*

- SWK 705 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3)
- SWK 711 Social Policy and Social Services (3)
- SWK 741 Social Work Practice I (includes lab) (5)
- SWK 755 Research Methods I (3)

- SWK 771 Foundation Field Practicum I (3)
- Total: 17 credits

*Semester II - Spring*

- SWK 706 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3)
  - SWK 742 Social Work Practice II (3)
  - SWK 756 Data Analysis (3)
  - SWK 772 Foundation Field Practicum II (includes lab) (3)
  - HSL 707 Audiology and Hearing Technology for Educators and Counseling Professionals (3) Elective (3)\*
- Total: 18 credits

(Advanced Concentration Year)

*Semester III - Fall*

- SWK 713 Issues in Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations (3)
  - SWK 751 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations: Micro Interventions (3)
  - SWK 752 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations: Macro Interventions (3)
  - SWK 791 Research Practicum I: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations (3) Elective (3)\*
- Total: 15 credits

*Semester IV - Spring*

- SWK 715 Disability Policy: Implications for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations [online] (3)
  - SWK 780 Advanced Practice Seminar (3)
  - SWK 783 Field Practicum with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations (6)
- Total: 12 credits
- Grand Total: 62 credits

**Typical Two-Year Program of Study with School Social Work Specialization**

(Foundation Year)

*Semester I - Fall*

- SWK 705 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3)
  - SWK 711 Social Policy and Social Services (3)
  - SWK 741 Social Work Practice I (includes lab) (5)
  - SWK 755 Research Methods I (3)
  - SWK 771 Foundation Field Practicum I (3)
- Total: 17 credits

*Semester II - Spring*

- SWK 706 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3)
- SWK 742 Social Work Practice II (3)

\*May be taken during summer or any semester of the program.

SWK 756 Data Analysis (3)  
 SWK 761 School Social Work Policy (3)  
 SWK 772 Foundation Field Practicum II  
 (includes lab) (3)  
 HSL 707 Audiology and Hearing Technology for  
 Educators  
 and Counseling Professionals (3)\*  
 Total: 18 credits

(Advanced Concentration Year)  
*Semester III - Fall*

SWK 713 Issues in Human Behavior and the Social  
 Environment: Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations (3)  
 SWK 751 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations: Micro Interventions (3)  
 SWK 752 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations: Macro Interventions (3)  
 SWK 760 School Social Work Practice (3)  
 Elective (3)\*  
 Total: 15 credits

*Semester IV - Spring*

SWK 715 Disability Policy: Implications for Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Populations (3)  
 SWK 780 Advanced Practice Seminar [online] (3)  
 SWK 781 Field Practicum with Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Populations I (3)  
 SWK 782 Field Practicum with Deaf and Hard of

Hearing Populations II (3)  
 Total: 12 credits  
 Grand Total: 62 credits

**Typical Three-Year Program of Study**

(First Year: Foundations)  
*Semester I - Fall*

SWK 705 Human Behavior in the Social  
 Environment I (3)  
 SWK 711 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)  
 SWK 755 Research Methods I (3)  
 Total: 9 credits

*Semester II - Spring*

SWK 706 Human Behavior and the Social  
 Environment II (3)  
 HSL 707 Audiology and Hearing Technology for  
 Educators  
 and Counseling Professionals (3)  
 Elective (3)\*  
 Total: 9 credits

(Second Year: Foundations, continued)

*Semester III - Fall*

SWK 741 Social Work Practice I (includes lab) (5)  
 SWK 771 Foundation Field Practicum I (3)  
 Elective (3)\*  
 Total: 11 credits

*Semester IV - Spring*

SWK 742 Social Work Practice II (3)  
 SWK 756 Data Analysis (3)  
 SWK 772 Foundation Field Practicum II  
 (includes lab) (3)  
 Total: 9 credits

(Third Year: Advanced Concentration)

*Semester V - Fall*

SWK 713 Issues in Human Behavior and the Social

Environment: Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations (3)  
 SWK 751 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations: Micro Interventions (3)  
 SWK 752 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations: Macro Interventions (3)  
 SWK 791 Research Practicum I: Deaf and Hard  
 of Hearing Populations (3)  
 Total: 12 credits

*Semester VI - Spring*

SWK 715 Disability Policy: Implications for Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Populations (online) (3)  
 SWK 780 Advanced Practice Seminar (3)  
 SWK 781 Field Practicum with Deaf and Hard  
 of Hearing Populations I (3)  
 SWK 782 Field Practicum with Deaf and Hard of

Hearing Populations II (3)  
 Total: 12 credits  
 Grand Total: 62 credits

**Typical Three-Year Program of Study with School  
 Social Work Specialization**

(First Year: Foundations)

*Semester I - Fall*

SWK 705 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I  
 (3)  
 SWK 711 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)  
 SWK 755 Research Methods I (3)  
 Total: 9 credits

*Semester II - Spring*

- SWK 706 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3)
  - SWK 756 Data Analysis (3)
  - SWK 761 School Social Work Policy (3)
  - HSL 707 Audiology and Hearing Technology for Educators and Counseling Professionals (3)\*
- Total: 12 credits

(Second Year: Foundations, continued)

*Semester III - Fall*

- SWK 741 Social Work Practice I (includes lab) (5)
  - SWK 771 Foundation Field Practicum I (3)
  - SWK 760 School Social Work Practice (3)
- Total: 11 credits

*Semester IV - Spring*

- SWK 742 Social Work Practice II (3)
  - SWK 772 Foundation Field Practicum II (includes lab) (3)
  - Elective (3)\*
- Total: 9 credits

(Third Year: Advanced Concentration)

*Semester V - Fall*

- SWK 713 Issues in Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations (3)
  - SWK 751 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations: Micro Interventions (3)
  - SWK 752 Practice with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations: Macro Interventions (3)
- Total: 9 credits

*Semester VI - Spring*

- SWK 780 Advanced Practice Seminar [online] (3)
  - SWK 783 Field Practicum with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations (6)
  - SWK 791 Research Practicum: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations [online] (3)
- Total: 12 credits
- Grand Total: 62 credits