



Robert Stempel College
of Public Health
& Social Work

Welcome to the School of Social Work MSW New Student Orientation

Fall 2026



First things First ALWAYS check and use
your FIU email.



Know your Panther ID and include it in
ALL communication to university personnel.



FIU

Robert Stempel College
of Public Health
& Social Work

Add an email signature!

[First Name] [Last Name]
Master of Social Work Student
School of Social Work
Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
Florida International University
Panther ID: #####
Phone: (###) ###-####



Robert Stempel College
of Public Health
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Advising

- **An initial advising session is required.** If you have not met with your MSW Advisor, please schedule a session as soon as possible.
- You can meet with your MSW Advisor **as often as needed.**
 - Recommended: prior to enrolling for each semester.
- Meet with your MSW Advisor **in-person** or **via Teams**. Scan the **QR code** to **schedule at your convenience!**



Prerequisites

- Missing pre-requisites??*
- **MUST be completed during the first term**
 - Biology with human content (BSC 2023; will take an equivalent: BSC 1010, BSC 1005, BSC 2085, BSC 2086)
 - Statistics (STA 2023, STA 2122)
 - Twelve (12) credits in social science courses (Psychology, Sociology, American Government/Political Science, Economics)

* Check admission letter for notification of missing pre-reqs

Just finished your Bachelor's degree?

- Graduate Conditional One Term Hold
 - Be sure to request for your undergraduate institution to send a final official transcripts to FIU.
 - Students who earned their Bachelor's degree at FIU do not have to submit a transcript.
 - **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF THE FIRST TERM.**
- * Check admission letter for notification of missing transcript.

Key Policies

- **You must begin the program in your admit term.** Otherwise, you need to formally defer your application.
- **Attending the first day of class is required.** Reach out to your instructor immediately if you are unable to attend. Failure to attend the first day of class may result in being dropped from the course.
- **You must satisfy the attendance policy for in-person courses.** Failure to do so will result in not passing the course.
- You must earn a grade of a **B or higher in required courses** and a **C or higher in elective courses**.
- **You may attempt a course a total of 2 times.** Failure to pass on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.
- **You must not exceed two consecutive semesters unenrolled.** Three or more unenrolled semesters = dismissed from program.

FIU's MSW 2 Year Breakdown

❖ **Year One - Generalist: Beginning** generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations.

❖ **Year Two – Specialization: Advanced Clinical Practice**

Advanced Standing students have satisfied this during their BSSW.

Course Tracks

- **Standard MSW (60-credits)**
- "Two Year Program"
 - 5-6 semesters
 - Students may take up to four years (12 semesters), if needed.
- **Advanced Standing MSW (33-credits)**
- "One Year Program"
 - 2-3 semesters
 - Students may take up to four years(12 semesters), if needed.

**Students in the combined (MPH or JD) must complete the program in the intended timeframe.*

Master of Social Work (MSW) 60 Credit Program Plan

All new students are required to see the social work advisor before registering for classes. For course descriptions, see University Catalog: <http://catalog.fiu.edu/>.

Year One – Generalist

Block I	Block II
<u>SOW 5105 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3cr)</u> Pre-req: BSC 2023 – Human Biology (Acceptable substitutions: BSC 1005, BSC 1010, BSC 2010, BSC 2085, BSC 2086, PCB 2099) <u>SOW 5235 – Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3cr)</u> Pre-req: No Pre-Req <u>SOW 5342 – Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families (3cr)</u> Pre/Co-req: SOW 5105 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment I Co-req: SOW 5379L – Interviewing Skills Lab <u>SOW 5379L – Interviewing Skills Lab (3cr)</u> Co-req: SOW 5342 – Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families <u>SOW 5404 – Social Work Research Methodology (3cr)</u> Pre-req: STA 20122 – or – STA 2023 – Statistics	<u>SOW 5344 – Theory and Practice with Communities & Organizations (3cr)</u> Pre-req: No Pre-Req <u>SOW 5629 – Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations (3cr)</u> Pre-req: SOW 5342 – Social Work Practice with Individuals & Families <u>SOW 5324 – Theory and Practice with Groups (3cr)</u> Pre-req: SOW 5342 – Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families Co-req: SOW 5532 – Field Practicum I <u>SOW 5532 – Field Practicum I – MSW I* (3cr)</u> Pre-req: Block I Co-req: SOW 5324 – Theory and Practice with Groups <i>Pre/Co-reqs: SOW 5344 – Theory and Practice with Communities & Organizations; SOW 5629 – Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations</i> * Clinical Fee - \$200

Year Two – Specialization

Block III	Block IV
<u>SOW 6125 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment II - Psychopathology (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses <u>SOW 6236 – Social Welfare Policy & Services II (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses <u>SOW 6435 – Evidence Based Social Work Practice (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses <u>SOW 6425 – Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses Co-req: SOW 6533 – Field Practicum II <u>SOW 6533 – Field Practicum II – MSW II ** (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses Co-req: SOW 6425 – Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning <i>Pre/ Co-reqs: SOW 6125 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment II; SOW 6236 – Social Work Policy and Services II; SOW 6435 – Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice</i> ** Clinical Fee - \$100	<u>SOW 6351 – Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice (3cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Block III Co-req: SOW 6534 – Field Practicum III <u>SOW 6534 – Field Practicum III – MSW III *** (6cr)</u> Pre-reqs: Block III Co-req: SOW 6351 – Clinical Intervention in Couple & Family Social Work Practice *** Clinical Fee \$200
	Additional Course Requirements: SOW XXXX – Clinical Social Work Elective (3cr) SOW XXXX – Clinical Social Work Elective (3cr) PHC 6500 – Foundations of Public Health Practice (3cr) Total Credits: 9

When applying to practicums, students must meet the following requirements: (1) Minimum GPA of 3.00 (2) Completion of each course in Block I with final grade of 'B' or better, and (3) Proven Readiness. Please see advisor for clarification as no exemptions are allowed.

Practicum Application deadlines:

September 5th - Spring
January 5th - Summer
May 5th - Fall

Office of Field Education:

<https://stempef.fiu.edu/academics/school-social-work/>

Robert Stemple College of Public Health and Social Work
School of Social Work
Master of Social Work (MSW) 33 Credit Program – Non-FIUBSSW

All new students are required to see the social work advisor before registering for classes. For course descriptions, see University Catalog: <http://catalog.fiu.edu/>.

Year Two – Specialization

Block III	Block IV
SOW 6125 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment II – Psychopathology (3cr) Pre-req: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses SOW 6236 – Social Welfare Policy & Services II (3cr) Pre-req: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses SOW 6435 – Evidence Based Social Work Practice (3cr) Pre-req: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses SOW 6425 – Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning (3cr) Pre-req: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses Co-req: SOW 6533 – Field Practicum II SOW 6533 – Field Practicum II – MSW II ** (3cr) Pre-req: Advanced Standing status or All Foundation Year Courses Co-req: SOW 6425 – Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning <i>Pre/ Co-reqs: SOW 6125 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment II; SOW 6236 – Social Work Policy and Services II; SOW 6435 – Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice</i> ** Clinical Fee - \$100	SOW 6351 – Clinical Intervention in Couple and Family Social Work Practice (3cr) Pre-req: Block III Co-req: SOW 6534 – Field Practicum III SOW 6534 – Field Practicum III – MSW III *** (6cr) Pre-req: Block III Co-req: SOW 6351 – Clinical Intervention in Couple & Family Social Work Practice *** Clinical Fee \$200 Additional Course Requirements: SOW XXXX – Clinical Social Work Elective (3cr) SOW XXXX – Clinical Social Work Elective (3cr) PHC 6590 – Foundations of Public Health Practice (3cr) Total Credits: 9

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Note: Admitted advanced standing students with BSSW grades lower than a 'B' will be required to complete the equivalent graduate courses in the first term of the MSW program. The course equivalencies are as follows:

<u>Final Grade 'B-' or less in BSSW Course:</u>	<u>Must retake MSW Equivalent:</u>
SOW 3113 The Social Environment and Human Behavior I SOW 3100 The Social Environment and Human Behavior II	SOW 5105 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I *Pre-req to SOW 6125 HSBE II
SOW 3232 Social Welfare Policy & Services I SOW 3233 Social Welfare Policy & Services II	SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policy and Services I *Pre-req to SOW 6236 Policy II
SOW 3203 Introduction to Social Work - and/or - SOW 3313 Social Work Practice with Families and Individuals	SOW 5342 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 3350 Interviewing Techniques Lab	SOW 5379L Interviewing Skills Lab *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 3404 Social Work Research	SOW 5404 Social Work Research Methodology *Pre-req to SOW 6435 Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice
SOW 3620 Social Work & Human Diversity	SOW 5629 Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 4322 Social Work Practice with Groups	SOW 5324 Theory and Practice with Groups *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 4332 Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations	SOW 5344 Theory and Practice with Communities and Organizations *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning

Revised Summer 2022

Robert Stemple College of Public Health and Social Work
School of Social Work
Master of Social Work (MSW) 33 Credit Program – FIUBSSW

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SOW 3232 Social Welfare Policy & Services I SOW 3233 Social Welfare Policy & Services II	SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policy and Services I *Pre-req to SOW 6236 Policy II
SOW 3203 Introduction to Social Work - and/or - SOW 3313 Social Work Practice with Families and Individuals	SOW 5342 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 3350 Interviewing Techniques Lab	SOW 5379L Interviewing Skills Lab *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 3404 Social Work Research	SOW 5404 Social Work Research Methodology *Pre-req to SOW 6435 Evaluating Empirically Based Social Work Practice
SOW 3620 Social Work & Human Diversity	SOW 5629 Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 4322 Social Work Practice with Groups	SOW 5324 Theory and Practice with Groups *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning
SOW 4332 Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations	SOW 5344 Theory and Practice with Communities and Organizations *Pre-req to SOW 6425 Clinical Assessment and Intervention Planning

Revised Summer 2022

Graduate Certificate Programs

- Graduate Certificate in Addictions
 - Graduate Certificate in Child Welfare
 - Graduate Certificate in Disaster Behavioral Health
-
- To apply for a certificate, please see the University Graduate School Admission Page:

http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Certificate_Application.pdf
 - Applications must be completed and processed prior to graduation term

Core Competencies

- **Competency 1:** Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- **Competency 2:** Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- **Competency 3:** Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Practice
- **Competency 4:** Engage In Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
- **Competency 5:** Engage in Policy Practice
- **Competency 6:** Engage with Individuals, Families, and Groups
- **Competency 7:** Assess Individuals, Families, and Groups
- **Competency 8:** Intervene with Individuals, Families, and Groups
- **Competency 9:** Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups

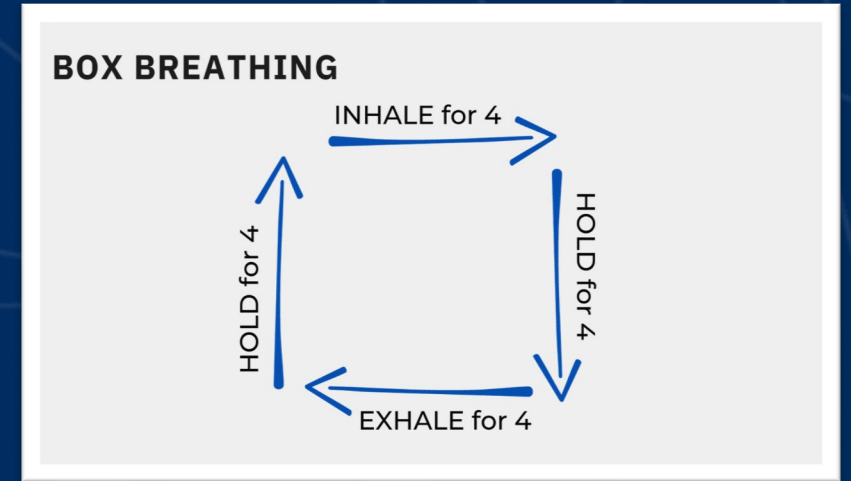
Courses + Field + Capstone = Graduation

- **Courses** = classes you will attend in-person (or sometimes online)
- **Field** = supervised internship experience
- **Capstone** = assessment tool to ensure students attained competency in all required areas



"You wouldn't have made it this far if you weren't capable of what comes next."

- Take a slow, deep breath...
- Unclench your teeth
- Relax your shoulders
- Put both feet on the ground
- Notice what you're feeling without judging it
- Identify one strength you're bringing with you
- Remind yourself: I am capable of taking on what comes next



Field Practicum/Internship



Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Signature Pedagogy

- Apply theories and concepts learned in class; engage in practice behaviors to achieve competencies
- Discover what you may/may not enjoy
- Requires emotional and physical commitment:
 - All are significant time commitments (at least the same as a part-time job)
 - Must practice self-awareness and self-regulation to serve at-risk, vulnerable populations (not “just” working a shift)

Applying for Field Practicum/Internship

Plan to apply for field during the semester before you plan to begin field.

* Be sure to go over pre-requisites for field (listed in field manual) with advisor before applying for field.

Semester You Plan to Begin Field	Application Due Date
Spring	September 5 th
Summer	January 5 th
Fall	May 5 th



MSW II & III Only



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Applying for Field Practicum/Internship

Step 1: Visit the Stempel website to contact Field Faculty and review the MSW Field Education Manual

Step 2: E-mail field office at sowpracticum@fiu.edu by deadline listed on practicum flyer email and program sheet

Step 3: Complete application in Exxat by semester deadline

- **No late or incomplete applications will be accepted**
- ✓ Students can access agency listing and internship descriptions after applying to field.

Planning for Field Practicum

- Plan for additional costs: background checks, travel (gas and parking) typical for most internship programs****
- Employment Setting Placements:
 - Additional application process for students
 - FIU must be able to affiliate with the agency prior to placement
 - Agency must have an MSW with 2 years post graduate experience to serve as field instructor
- Students with any criminal background issues:
 - Contact Prof. Abeloff, Associate Director, immediately to assess your ability to complete field placement as soon as possible

Scholarship Opportunities

- **Marian Dumaine Scholarship**

Students must demonstrate financial need as well as a high level of commitment to the field of social work through academic achievements and community engagement. One Dumaine Scholarship for \$500 is awarded each semester to help recipients balance the extra costs of field practicum.

- **Welker Mitchell Scholarship**

Applicants must be fully admitted into the MSW program for the semester during which the scholarship is awarded. Applicants must have demonstrated financial need as well as high commitment to the field of social work through academic achievement and community engagement.

- **BHWET**

Eligible students receive a \$25,000 stipend and tuition waiver for to 12 credits for one semester, among other networking opportunities. Students applying must be admitted to the MSW Program and eligible for the MSW II clinical practicum.

- **CSWE-Minority Fellowship Program**

<https://www.cswe.org/centers-initiatives/minority-fellowship-program/>

For more information, visit School of Social Work website.



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Important Field Placement Information

*Plan ahead for required field hours

***Evening/weekends are very limited due to lack of agency availability**

MSW I (SOW 5532) FIELD PRACTICUM HOURS:

During Fall & Spring semesters:

344 hours to be completed = 21.5 hours per week for 16 weeks

No Field Placements Will Be Made During Summer Semester

MSW II (SOW 6533) & MSW III (SOW 6534) FIELD PRACTICUM HOURS

During Fall & Spring semesters:

288 hours to be completed = 18 hours per week for 16 weeks

During Summer semester:

288 hours to be completed = 24 hours per week for 12 weeks



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KeepCalmAndPosters.com

How to Prepare for Field Experience:

- ✓ Assess how you will meet internship commitments (work – family - school balance)
- ✓ Plan Ahead:
 - Financially
 - Work Hours
 - Supports/Self-Care (FIU Resources)
- ✓ Consult with MSW Field Coordinator, Elise Linder – eslinder@fiu.edu
- ✓ Review internship requirements (hours and background) so you understand and agree to program policies

Preparing for State Licensure Post Graduation: Registered Clinical Social Work Intern

- MSW III Seminar course provides post graduation career preparation, including information about the Florida licensure exam as well as how to register with the State as an intern.

*Currently, Florida requires graduates wait 18 months before taking the licensure exam so the School facilitates a licensure prep course at no cost to alumni.

Capstone

Program outcome measure that allows students to critically analyze, synthesize, and apply the knowledge and skills of advanced clinical social work to a client case

- Capstone is a 20-minute presentation to a panel of 2 faculty and 1 field instructor during last semester of program
- Major elements: Critical thinking - Evidence based practice - Application of theory to practice - Self-awareness – Ethical practice
- Capstone Workshop and ongoing faculty support

Helpful Reminders:

- Self Care! Manage your time. PACE yourselves
- **ALWAYS** check Panther Degree Audit after each term and always include your Panther ID on all correspondence
- Work with your academic advisor to plan your program of study
- Most courses have pre/co-requisites
- Not all courses are offered every semester
- Summer courses limited and are not guaranteed

Access FIU Resources

- ❖ **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

305-348-2277/ 305-919-5305

- ❖ **Disability Resource Center**

305-348-3532/ 305-919-5307

- ❖ **Fostering Panther Pride**

305-348-3445

- ❖ **Veteran & Military Affairs**

305-348-2838

- ❖ **Office of Scholarships**

305-348-0349 and OSAA in Stempel College

Contact Information:

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