

Programs of Study

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at Western Kentucky University (WKU) prepares students for professional social work practice at the graduate level to meet the needs of increasingly diverse rural populations. It is particularly dedicated to addressing the workforce needs of agencies that serve families and communities. Moreover, the MSW curriculum emphasizes social work practice at an advanced level in rural communities.

There are two program options for students meeting the admission requirements outlined below. The Traditional Option requires 60 semester hours for students with a baccalaureate degree in any field and may be taken full or part-time. The Advanced Standing Option requires 30 semester hours for students who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from an accredited social work program and who have fulfilled all admission requirements. The Advanced Standing Option may be taken full- or part-time as well. These programs are delivered on the main campus in Bowling Green, KY as a hybrid format or in a completely online format.

All program options require students to complete the co-requisites SWRK 622 and SWRK 661 as capstone courses prior to graduation. These courses integrate the entire curriculum in a comprehensive practice experience. Additionally, students are required to successfully complete a comprehensive examination, the Practice Readiness Exam (PRE), prior to graduation.

The program specific plans of study are as follows:

**2 Year Full-Time Traditional
60 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY Campus and Online)**

Year 1 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	501	Diversity, Oppression and Equity in Social Work Practice
SWRK	510	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWRK	520	Generalist Social Work Practice
SWRK	540	Foundation of Social Research Methods
SWRK	560	Generalist Field Practicum I

Year 1 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	522	Group Dynamics in Social Work Practice
SWRK	523	Rural community Organization and Development
SWRK	530	Foundation of Social Welfare Policy
SWRK	561	Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 1*

Year 2 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 2*

Year 2 Spring Semester *Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)*

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 3*

Year 2 – May Graduation

*Electives may be taken in Winter and Summer terms. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.

**4 Year Part-Time Traditional Program
60 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY Campus Only)**

Year 1 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	501	Diversity, Oppression, and Equity
SWRK	510	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWRK	540	Generalist of Social Work Research Methods

Year 1 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	530	Foundation of Social Welfare Policy
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 1*

Year 2 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	520	Generalist Social Work Practice
SWRK	560	Foundation Field Practicum I

Year 2 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	522	Group Dynamics in Social Work Practice
SWRK	561	Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	523	Rural Community Organization and Development

Year 3 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 2*

Year 3 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 3*

Year 4 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I

Year 4 Spring Semester*Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)*

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II

Year 4 – May Graduation

*Electives may be taken in Winter and Summer terms. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.

**1 Year Full-Time Advanced Standing
30 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY Campus and Online Cohort Only)**

Year 1- Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	612	Social Work in Diverse Rural Areas
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I

Year 1 Spring Semester

Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 1*

Year 1 – May Graduation

* Elective may be taken in Winter, Spring, or Summer term. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.

**2 Year Part-Time Advanced Standing
30 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY Campus and Online)**

Year 1 – Fall Semester

Course	Number	Name
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	612	Social Work in Diverse Rural Areas
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention

Year 1- Spring Semester

Course	Number	Name
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 1*

Year 2- Fall Semester

Course	Number	Name
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I

Year 2- Spring Semester

Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)

Course	Number	Name
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II

Year 2 – May Graduation

* Elective may be taken in Winter, Spring, or Summer term. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.

3 Year Traditional Program
60 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY and Online)

Year 1 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	501	Diversity, Oppression, and Equity
SWRK	510	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWRK	540	Generalist of Social Work Research Methods

Year 1 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	530	Foundation of Social Welfare Policy
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 1*

Year 2 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	520	Generalist Social Work Practice
SWRK	560	Foundation Field Practicum I

Year 2 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	522	Group Dynamics in Social Work Practice
SWRK	523	Rural Community Organization and Development
SWRK	561	Generalist Field Practicum II

Year 3 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 2*

Year 3 Spring Semester
Exam)

Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 3*

Year 3 – May Graduation

**Customized plans of study are available with a spring start

MSW Spring Admission Curriculum Schedule Options

(Effective Spring 2027)

Part Time Traditional

60 Credit Hours (Bowling Green, KY and Online)

Year 1 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	530	Foundation of Social Welfare Policy
SWRK	510	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWRK	501	Diversity, Oppression, and Equity

Year 2 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	520	Generalist Social Work Practice
SWRK	540	Foundation of Social Work Research Methods
SWRK	560	Generalist Field Practicum I

Year 2 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	522	Group Dynamics in SW Practice
SWRK	523	Rural Community Organization and Development
SWRK	561	Generalist Field Practicum II

Year 3 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	623	SW Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK Elective 1		

Year 3 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	630	Rural SW Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK Elective 1 or 2		

Year 4 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I
SWRK Elective 2 or 3		

Year 4 Spring Semester *Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)*

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated SW Practice with Families

SWRK 661
SWRK Elective 3

Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II

Year 4 – May Graduation

*Electives may be taken in Winter and Summer terms. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.

**Full Time Traditional
60 Credit Hours (Bowling Green and Online)**

Year 1 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	530	Foundation of SW Policy
SWRK	501	Diversity, Oppression, and Equity
SWRK	510	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWRK Elective 1*		

Year 2 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	Elective	Elective 1* or 2*
SWRK	520	Generalist Social Work Practice
SWRK	540	Foundation of Social Research Methods
SWRK	560	Generalist Field Practicum 1

Year 2 Spring Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	522	Group Dynamics in SW Practice
SWRK	523	Rural Community Organization and Development
SWRK	561	Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 2* and/or 3*

Year 3 Fall Semester

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	610	Social Work Administration and Supervision
SWRK	620	Advanced Psycho-Social Approaches for Rural Practice
SWRK	623	Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWRK	660	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum 1
Elective 3* if needed		

Year 3 Spring Semester

Practice Readiness Exam (Comprehensive Exam)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
SWRK	622	Integrated Social Work Practice with Families
SWRK	630	Rural Social Work Policy
SWRK	640	Applied Social Work Research
SWRK	661	Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II
SWRK	ELECTIVE	Elective 3* if needed

Year 3 – May Graduation

*Electives may be taken in Winter and Summer terms. If an elective is completed in the summer following graduation, the graduation date will be August.