

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (M.S.W.)

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## Goals and Objectives

### Goals

The goals for the M.S.W. program are:

1. To develop a strong knowledge and skill base in generalist practice with a focus on and commitment to human rights and social justice.
2. Develop specialist skills in advanced areas of the social work profession such as clinical, leadership and macro practice, research, community and organizations, that build on the generalist practice foundation
3. Practice with and on behalf of diverse populations, in order to promote individual, familial, organizational, and community well-being.
4. Critical and systematic examination, evaluation, and utilization of research and other sources of empirical evidence in order to refine practice knowledge, skills, and interventions
5. Competent social work practice guided by a sense of professional identity, values and ethical standards, as well as by recognition of the need for ongoing professional development

### Objectives

The objectives for the M.S.W. program are:

1. Practice the core values of the social work profession as outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics including:
  - a. Commitment to service, human rights and social justice
  - b. Assistance to access resources, benefits and service in order for individuals to achieve their potential
  - c. The ideal in which every individual in society has equal rights opportunities, social benefits, and protection
  - d. Dignity & worth of every person
  - e. Placing the individual in high esteem and valuing individual differences
  - f. Importance of human relationships
  - g. Integrity, trustworthiness and adherence to moral principles
  - h. Competence, having the skills and abilities to work with clients effectively
2. Develop and practice a high level of self-awareness in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and other professionals
3. Demonstrate knowledge about the effects of oppression and discrimination on individuals, families, groups, and communities and the importance of human rights and social justice advocacy
4. Consistently work to assess the risk and resiliency factors of client systems of various sizes and types, especially with marginalized and culturally or socially diverse groups; and implement interventions that utilize a strengths perspective
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of social welfare as an institution and the history, mission and philosophy of the social work profession
6. Demonstrate knowledge, and skills in relation to varied practice settings with a focus on social policy, programs and practice

development, organization and community change, and advocacy for clients with the goal of working to alleviate human oppression and discrimination by advancing human rights and social justice and the well-beings of all people

7. Critical thinking skills developed from a grounding in scientifically analyzed and applied theory and research that informs social work practice at all levels of intervention
8. Apply an analytic, empirically based approach to knowledge building in practice that integrates the methods of social research, the critical appraisal of research findings, and the evaluation of social policies, programs, practice processes and outcomes
9. Demonstrate the self-awareness skills necessary to evaluate practice outcomes through a commitment to ongoing learning and professional development