

# Dual MSW/MS in Special Education/Applied Behavior Analysis Degree

## Program Description

The purpose of the MSW/MS dual-degree program is to prepare and train students in practicing in clinical settings that require in depth knowledge of both social work and applied behavior analysis. The dual degree allows the social work student to combine practice skills across social work settings with behavioral intervention skills gained in the Applied Behavior Analysis program. By combining the programs, students are able to develop a special expertise in applied behavior analysis and its applications to social work practice. At the completion of the program, students will be eligible to become both a Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Under the dual degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in approximately two semesters less than it would take to obtain them if pursued consecutively.

This interdisciplinary education supports the training of highly skilled professionals who are competent in both behavior analysis and social work. By combining the two degrees, students will have advanced clinical skills to practice across a range of employment settings including private practice, schools, and health care. In the past few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of children and adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. The dual degree is particularly useful in supporting individuals diagnosed with these disorders.

## Admission criteria and process

Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Master of Social Work and the Master of Science degree programs. Both programs must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program that he/she intends to pursue the dual MSW/MS program.

## Program completion requirements

A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The joint curriculum (see Table 1 below) will allow twelve credit hours to be shared between the two degrees.

## Award of degree

A student enrolled in the dual degree program may receive the MSW degree or the MS degree when he or she has satisfied the requirements for either degree.

## Admission

A potential student must make separate application to, and be independently accepted to, both the MSW and MS programs. Application to both programs at the same time is encouraged. This dual program is designed for students who wish to complete both degrees simultaneously. Students are admitted into each program separately; completion of one degree is not contingent upon completion of both.

**Table 1: MSW/MS Three Year Plan of Study**

**Year 1**

<b>FALL</b>			<b>SPRING</b>		
SWRK 7001	Social Work Practice Skills	3	SWRK 7003	Groups	3
SWRK 7002	Individuals and Families	3	SWRK 7005	Psychopathology	3
SWRK 7021	SW Across Lifespan	3	SWRK 7022	Organizations & Communities	3
SWRK 7030	Social Welfare Policy	3	EDPR 7521	Intro to Educational Research	3
SWRK 7051	Field Placement I	3	SWRK 7052	Field Placement II	3

**Year 2**

<b>FALL</b>			<b>SPRING</b>		
SWRK 7016	Adv. Individual Child/Youth	3	SWRK 7026	Evaluative Research	3
SWRK 7017	Adv. Family Child/Youth	3	SWRK 7032	Adv. Community Child/Youth	3
SPED 7514	Intro to ABA	3	SPED 7518	Evidence Based Practice	3
SPED 7010	Ethics	3	SPED 7517	Functional Behavior Analysis	3
<b>Summer 2</b>					
EDPR 7581	Single Subject Design	3	SPED 7519	Practicum	3

**Year 3**

<b>FALL</b>			<b>SPRING</b>		
SWRK 7055	Integrative Field Seminar I	3	SWRK 7056	Integrative Field Seminar II	3
SPED 7519	Practicum	3	SPED 7519	Practicum	3
SPED 7516	Advanced ABA	3	SPED 7520	Behavior Seminar	3
SWRK	Social Work Elective	3			
<b>Summer 3</b>					
SPED 7900	Advanced Practicum	3			