KOREA-BASED MSW PROGRAM
University of South Carolina  
College of Social Work  

Korea-based Master of Social Work (MSW) program

The University of South Carolina began to offer its Korea-based Master of Social Work program in 1993 and has graduated 175 students. Of the graduates, 38 are Americans. These include military personnel and their families, civilians working at the military base, and English teachers.

The MSW program in Seoul, Korea, was developed in response to a request from Korean social workers who desired a master’s degree, but whose life circumstances precluded their coming to the United States to study. Students who attend the Korea-based MSW program would typically not be able to complete their degree from US school. In addition, enrolling in the program in Korea is more affordable for these students than attending a program in U.S. or other schools in Korea.

The Korea-based program has consistently been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education as part of the reaffirmation process of the College’s regular MSW degree program. From 1992 to the present, there have been five required independent evaluations of the program as well as two on-site visits from the CSWE’s former Director of the Division of Standards and Accreditation. The Korea-based program is also evaluated by the Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) as part of its accreditation of the University of South Carolina. This assessment process has included review of self-study documents and outcome data specific to the Korea-based program.

The purpose of reaffirmation and reaccreditation is to ensure that students in the Korea-based program have parallel course content, similar resources and learning opportunities (libraries, equipment, field placements), and a program of equivalent quality to the Columbia-based MSW. Accommodations are made to allow for the need for translation and for differences in national and cultural contexts (e.g., different social welfare policies in South Korea, limited racial diversity).

The Deans of the College have gone to Korea, as well as former Provost Jerry Odom, to talk with students, view classroom facilities and field agencies, and meet with community and other university representatives. For more details, click here.

Program highlights

1. The program is built on the same curriculum that the main campus (Columbia, SC) offers. The only difference is that the lectures are simultaneously translated for Korean students.

2. Applications for this program are accepted every three years. Applicants to the Korea-based program must meet the same standards as those applying for the Columbia MSW program, with the exception of the TOEFL requirement.

3. The class meets at Yongsan USO.
Application Requirements

1. Application deadline: March 1
2. Submit Graduate School application
   • Autobiographical statement
   • Current resume which outlines education, work, and volunteer activities
3. All official post-secondary transcripts (If you have not graduated, you must submit an official transcript with all grades posted through the semester prior to the application deadline)
4. Two letters of recommendation from individuals such as professors, employers or supervisors who can provide a detailed assessment of the applicant’s specific qualifications for both graduate studies and the field of Social Work
5. Applicants whose cumulative undergraduate GPA (from bachelor’s degree institution) is below 3.0 must submit official GRE scores. (The GRE is NOT required of applicants who have earned a master’s degree from an accredited institution).

How to Apply?

For question regarding the application process, please contact Mrs. Cheon (H.P. 010-2382-3649).

• Go to www.gradschool.sc.edu and click “Apply”
• Click on “Graduate School Application & Update Request Form”
• Click on “Create an Account”
• Go through the steps presented to create your user name and password
• Then return to this link and select “Degree Application”
• If not currently logged on, log into application
• Once logged on, you will be directed to a page titled “Application To A Graduate Degree Program”
• Under “Program Choice” select “Social Work – MSW”
• Choose “Summer 2017” under “Select Term”
• Click button “Save Your Selection”
• Once you have completed the above, you can now start filling out the rest of the application by clicking “Next Page”
• The first section of the application is general information about yourself and your educational background
• Although official transcripts must be submitted, we highly recommend uploading a copy each transcript/s
• Make sure copies of uploaded transcripts are legible
• Test score information can be submitted, but is not required to move forward in application
• For the application you will need your recommenders' name and e-mail address
• Two letters of recommendation from individuals such as professors, employers or supervisors who can provide a detailed assessment of the applicant's specific qualifications for both graduate studies and the field of Social Work (Each referee must also attach a letter of recommendation to the form)
• Recommenders will be e-mailed the information needed to access the online system
• When you reach the “Supplementary Application” for “College of Social Work”
• Under “Type of Enrollment” select “Korea-based MSW Program Degree Candidate”
• Under “Location of Study” select “Korea”
• Make sure to upload your resume and autobiographical statement
• An application fee of $50 is required to process your application
• Payment must be submitted online when you submit your application

Note: Application does not have to be completed in one session. You can “Save & Exit Application” to finish working on the application later.

For question regarding the application process, please contact Ms. Analucia Brown at: COSWAdms@mailbox.sc.edu.

Structure of the Program

The Korea program is structured on the framework of the part-time MSW program. Faculty from the University of South Carolina travel to Korea to teach courses on-site during the summer and in specially arranged schedules during the fall and spring semesters. In order to accommodate the needs of working students, courses are taught during evenings and weekends.

In addition to the regular classroom teacher, a Korean interpreter participates in each class. The interpreter, who holds a master’s and doctoral degrees in social work from United States schools, helps ensure the correct meaning, cultural relevance, and appropriate application of the course content.

Field instruction is offered through the College of Social Work’s block placement format. Students are supervised by qualified instructors who hold the MSW degree from Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)–accredited programs. The College’s director of field instruction makes several visits to the field agencies to oversee the field instruction.

Several faculty from both countries have engaged in joint research projects, which have resulted in scholarly publications and papers presented at national and international conferences.
Courses are offered as follows

**First year (2017)**

- Four courses in summer for 12 weeks
- Two courses in fall for 6 weeks

**Second year (2018)**

- Two courses in spring for 6 weeks
- Four courses in summer for 12 weeks
- Internship (fall)

**Third year (2019)**

- Two courses in spring for 6 weeks
- Two courses in summer for 6 weeks
- Internship (fall)
- Coming to the main campus (Columbia, SC) for graduation in December, 2019

The curriculum offered in the Korea-based program is identical to that of the main campus program in Columbia, SC. In order to help Korean students with limited English capacity, a simultaneous translation is provided. Throughout the history of the program, American students have interacted with Korean students at the highest level of cooperation, making the class culturally diverse and mutually beneficial. U.S citizens are, of course, eligible to get a student loan.

**Korea Program Course Schedule for the 9th Cohort**

**Summer Session I - 2017**

SOWK 712 - Human Behaviors and Social Environments I
SOWK 791 - Social Work Research Methodologies
SOWK 714 - Diversity and Social Justice for Social Work Practice
SOWK 716 - Human Behaviors and Social Environments II

**Fall Session, 2017**

SOWK 722 - Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups
SOWK742 - Social Welfare Policy Analysis
Spring Session, 2018
SOWK 732 - SOWK Practice with Organizations and Communities
SOWK 777 - Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice: H/MH

Summer Session I, 2018
SOWK 778 - Advanced Analysis of Social Policy, Programs, and Services: H/MH
SOWK 779 - Advanced Social Work Interventions: Integrated Health OR Mental Health

Summer Session II, 2018
SOWK 792 - Evaluation of Practice
SOWK 768 - Social Work Case Management

Fall Semester, 2018
SOWK 781 - Field Internship
SOWK 782 - Field Internship

Spring Session, 2019
SOWK 758 - Dynamics of Substance Abuse (Elective)
Elective Class

Summer Session I, 2019
SOWK 760 - Psychopathology
SOWK 718 - Systems Analysis of Social Work Practice (Capstone)

Fall Semester, 2019
SOWK 783 - Field Internship
SOWK 784 - Field Internship

December, 2019
Graduation - Columbia, South Carolina
For further information, please contact:

Sung Seek Moon, PhD                         Mrs. Jihyang Cheon, LMSW  
Director of Korea-based Program            Coordinator in Korea  
College of Social Work                      University of South Carolina  
University of South Carolina                010-2382-3649 (Korea)  
803-777-7252 (U.S); 010-5701-8005 (Korea)  
cjh305@hanmail.net 
sungseek@mailbox.sc.edu