DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This document is a template and serves only as a guide. It is not final or binding. The specific sequence of courses must be developed by the student and the respective department advisor semester by semester, along with a final Plan of Study. Students are expected to meet with their advisors in each department regularly to discuss their course of study and progress.

DEGREES AWARDED UPON COMPLETION: Master of Social Work & Master of Public Administration

SPONSORING SCHOOLS/COLLEGES: College of Social Work/College of Arts & Sciences, Dept. of Political Science

# OF YEARS TO COMPLETE DUAL DEGREE: 3 to 3.5, depending upon Summer study.

# OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR EACH DEGREE: Dual degree students are able to obtain both the MSW degree and the MPA degree with fewer overall total hours than if they were to obtain each degree separately. Shared courses are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, depending on a student’s individual POS, with approval from the COSW, the Dept. of Political Science and – ultimately – with final approval from the Graduate School. At the beginning of every semester, please discuss your course selections with your advisors in each department. One semester of field placement is shared; students must seek prior approval from the MSW field office. Students must also confer with the MPA advisor in a timely manner, to formally waive the MPA internship requirement.

HOW TO APPLY: Separate applications must be made to both departments through the Graduate School. Students in good standing in one department may change their status to dual degree status by completing an Update Request Form (http://gradschool.sc.edu/prospective/apply-grad.asp?page=apply) during their first year of study. The MPA application requires Graduate Record Examination scores; The GRE requirement may be waived for the MSW application, depending on Grade Point Average (GPA).

NOTE: Students will select one of five areas of specialization during their advanced year (Year 2) of MSW study (i.e., Aging; Children, Youth, & Families; Military; Health and Mental Health, and Community, Social, & Economic Development). To enroll in any advanced year courses in SW, students must complete the entire foundation year (including field placement). Students will choose their SW specialization when they enroll in SOWK 777, typically during the spring semester of their foundation year.

1 MSW specialization courses are sorted by section number.
2 Students must complete a total of 6 POLI elective hours; they may do so at any time but should discuss course sequencing with their advisor (additional elective hours are shared from MSW).
3 Most advanced year courses in the MSW curriculum may satisfy the requirement for the advanced year practice elective. Students should consult with the MSW dual degree coordinator for final approval of their choice for specialization elective.
4 Students must take a total of 12 MSW elective hours (3 advanced MSW, 9 more POLI).
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Students should plan to begin their studies in the COSW; they should plan to complete one year of SOWK courses before initiating their POLI course studies.

Social Work Foundation (15 Hours): Fall
- SOWK 716 – HBSE I: Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- SOWK 714 – Exploring Diversity and Social Justice
- SOWK 791 – Research in Social Work Practice
- SOWK 781 – Field Instruction I / Generalist Social Work Practice: Introduction to Social Work Practice & Professional Development

Social Work Foundation (15 Hours): Spring
- SOWK 722 – Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Small Groups
- SOWK 732 – Social Work Practice in Communities & Organizations
- SOWK 742 – Social Work Policy and Practice
- SOWK 777 – Advanced Theory for Social Work Practice (specialization-specific)*
- SOWK 782 – Field Instruction II / Generalist Practice: Introduction to Social Work Practice & Professional Development

NOTE: In order to enroll in any advanced year courses, students must complete the entire foundation year (including field placement). Students will choose their specialization when they enroll in SOWK 777.

* Specialization courses are sorted by section number.

Social Work Advanced (SOWK 15 Hours): Fall
- SOWK 779 – Advanced Social Work Interventions (specialization-specific)*
- SOWK 783 – Field Instruction III / Advanced practice
- SOWK 792 – Evaluation of Practice OR SOWK 793 – Evaluation of Programs
- 6 credits of electives (any combination of 1, 2 or 3 credit POLI shared courses)

Social Work Advanced (SOWK 15 Hours): Spring
- SOWK 718 – Systems Analysis of Social Work Practice (Capstone Course)
- SOWK 778 – Advanced Analysis of Social Policy, Programs, & Services (specialization-specific)*
- SOWK 784 – Field Instruction IV / Advanced practice
- 3 credits of ADVANCED PRACTICE elective
- 3 credits of electives (any combination of 1, 2 or 3 credit MSW or POLI courses, depending on a shared field)
IMPORTANT:

1. Dual MSW / MPA students typically begin their studies in the COSW (though it is not mandatory). They will complete their first year there before switching over to the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences (as soon as the Summer term after the Foundation year).

2. Students will use a combination of SOWK and POLI courses completed in throughout their entire academic career to fulfill program requirements for both degrees.

3. Students may be able to arrange an MSW field placement that allows waiving of the MPA internship. They must seek approval from both departments (in the COSW, specifically from the Field Office) prior to beginning placement.

4. At the beginning of every semester, please seek approval for your course selections from your advisors in each department. Shared courses are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, depending on a student’s individual Plan of Study, with approval from both departments (and ultimately from the Graduate School); students should discuss shared hours AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

GENERAL PROGRESSION OF STUDY:

Year 1 – MSW course work
Summer after Year 1 – MPA study
Year 2 – MPA course work
Summer after Year 2 – MPA course work
Years 3 – MSW/MPA shared course work

MPA contact: Dr. Chris Witko @ witkoc@mailbox.sc.edu or 803-777-3109