



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Social Work | Okanagan Campus

# MSW Student Handbook



[socialwork.ok.ubc.ca](https://socialwork.ok.ubc.ca)

Canvas [MSW Program Homepage](#)

Facebook: [UBC School of Social Work | Okanagan Campus](#)

## **Acknowledgements**

We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work in the unceded territory of the Syilx people.

The School of Social Work at UBC's Okanagan Campus would also like to acknowledge the contribution of ideas, material and content in this Handbook from a large group of friends and colleagues in the social work field. In particular, we would like to thank the Florida Atlantic University for permission to draw from the content in their handbooks. Their assistance has been instrumental in strengthening the content and form of this handbook and we believe it has helped to make our program stronger.

## **About This Handbook**

This MSW Student Handbook is intended to provide students with information regarding the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, including an overview of the program requirements and the School's policies and procedures. It is important that students also review the [Okanagan Academic Calendar](#) and be familiar with all University policies, dates and deadlines. The UBCO Academic Calendar supersedes the School's Student Handbook. When there is a difference between the Handbook and UBCO Calendar, the Calendar takes precedence.

Additional information about policies and procedures specific to Field Education can be found in the Field Education Handbook. Students are expected to be familiar with both Handbooks and to utilize these as appropriate.

The MSW Student Handbook is revised as needed; students must ensure they are using the version relevant to the academic year. The most up to date Handbook is available on the [MSW Student Resources website](#) and on the MSW Program Homepage on [Canvas](#) (current students are added to this page for the duration of their program – if you are a current student and do not have access to this page, please email [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca)).

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## Welcome Message from the Program

Dear Students,

Welcome to the School of Social Work at UBCO! We are pleased to have you join us.

UBC consistently ranks among the top 2 universities in Canada<sup>1</sup> and the top 41 universities world-wide<sup>2</sup>. UBC Okanagan School of Social Work offers a clinical and direct practice MSW program with two tracks: Advanced One-Year track for those with a social work degree and a Foundational Two-Year track for those with an undergraduate degree other than social work. There are over 55,000 social workers in Canada<sup>3</sup>, and labour market demand is strong for the profession<sup>4</sup>, across the country<sup>5</sup>.

Our MSW program integrates critical, structural, and social-relational perspectives with clinical knowledge and expertise. Our graduates enter the job market with specialized knowledge as well as evidence-based expertise. Our program is fully accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE)<sup>6</sup>.

We are a faculty of dedicated instructors and scholars, who are committed to your professional and occupational success.

Welcome to one of the country's finest Schools of Social Work.

School of Social Work

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1 [http://www.webometrics.info/en/north\\_america/canada](http://www.webometrics.info/en/north_america/canada)

2 <https://www.ubc.ca/about/our-place.html>

3 <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/Rp-eng.cfm?LANG=E&APATH=3&DETAIL=0&DIM=0&FL=A&FREE=0&GC=0&GID=0&GK=0&GRP=0&PID=105897&PRID=0&PTYPE=105277&S=0&SHOWALL=1&SUB=0&Temporal=2013&THEME=96&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEFF>

4 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/career-advice/i-want-to-be-a-social-worker-what-will-my-salary-be/article17782489/>

5 <http://www.canadavisa.com/social-workers-4152.html>

6 <https://caswe-acfts.ca/commission-on-accreditation/list-of-accredited-programs/>

## **ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AT UBCO**

**School of Social Work, Faculty of Health and Social Development, UBC Okanagan**

1147 Research Road (ARTS Building)

Kelowna, BC Canada V1V 1V7

250 807 8738

<https://socialwork.ok.ubc.ca/>

[ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca)

### **School's Directory**

**Dr. Judy Gillespie, BSW, MSW, PhD**

Director

**Cecilia Salazar Zamorategui**

School Assistant

**Harleen Jhavar**

Associate Director &  
Graduate Program Coordinator

**Sharon Crux Rasi**

Field Education Coordinator

**Jamie Tomlinson**

Field Education Coordinator

**Megan Lindner**

Graduate Program Assistant

**TBA**

Community Field Education Liaison

For the complete Faculty and Staff Directory, visit the School's website

<https://socialwork.ok.ubc.ca/contact/faculty-and-staff/>

To connect with the Field Education Coordinators, please email [ask.field@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.field@ubc.ca)

To connect with a member of the administrative staff, please email

[ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca)

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the School of Social Work at UBC Okanagan is to deliver quality graduate-level clinically focused social work education, and to produce high impact internationally recognized research, both intended to respond to the diverse needs of social work clients.

## **Core Values**

We promote a culture of mutual accountability, integrity, ownership, and transparency (**Accountability**); We welcome diverse ways of understanding, knowing, teaching, and learning and take a respectful, scholarly approach to understanding the differences (**Appreciation for Different Perspectives**); We strive to empower clients through advancements in social work scholarship and education (**Empowerment**); We encourage all members of the School – students, staff, and faculty – to initiate action towards positive change, collaborate fully and constructively, and foster healthy supportive relationships among all groups (**Leadership and Healthy Relationships**); We treat all members of the School and its communities – students, staff, faculty, field educators, and community partners – with respect and dignity, regardless of their ability, age, class, culture, ethnicity, gender, political ideology, race, religion, sexual orientation, social condition, and all intersectionalities of life (**Respect for Human Diversity**); We pursue social justice, advocate for positive social change, and protect the human rights of individuals, families, and communities, in all aspects of our teaching, research, and service (**Social Justice**); We value purposeful productivity and are committed to enhancing and improving our research, teaching, and service (**Work Ethic**).

## **Expectations of Students**

When entering this professional Master's program, a transition takes place. Students enter a domain where all interactions with staff and faculty, Field Education personnel, and student peers become part of a professional space. Accordingly, our approach to social work graduate education is based on a model of adult education, in which students play a significant role in the process of their learning and growth. Students will be challenged to think differently, to question what they already know, and experience what they may not have anticipated, both in the classroom and in field education.

The unknowns associated with any type of social work practice, along with the responsibilities social workers carry for their clients' wellbeing, often make social work students feel anxious. As with all clinically based MSW programs, we recognize that it is common and normal for students to feel under-prepared for their field education practicums. The School of Social Work aims to empower students to step outside their comfort zone and embrace the unknown territory, while supporting and guiding them along the way.

Furthermore, the School of Social Work encourages students to access clinical services for themselves, throughout the completion of their degree. The known benefits of receiving clinical services include (1) enhanced self-care by working through personal challenges that may affect one's ability to support their clients, and (2) enhanced



understanding of social work clients' experiences by putting one's self in the service users/clients' shoes.

Students, faculty, and staff are expected to conduct themselves according to professional practice standards. In order to do so, every individual must become familiar with the relevant codes of ethics (BCASW, BCCSW and CASW). Students are expected to use these codes of ethics as a guiding framework for most situations they will experience in the program, and in their work following graduation. The School also expects all students, faculty, and staff to become familiar and conduct themselves in accordance with the [UBC Statement on Respectful Environment for Students, Faculty and Staff](#) at all times, on and off campus; in the classrooms, field education practicums, and the community.

Graduate students are expected to be independent and self-directed. As such, MSW students are expected to utilize this Student Handbook, the Field Education Handbook, Course Syllabi, and various UBCO webpages included in this Student Handbook (e.g., Okanagan Academic Calendar, College of Graduate Studies, School of Social Work website) to locate information. Students are also always welcome to email program-related inquiries to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca), field-related inquiries to [ask.field@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.field@ubc.ca), and any course-specific inquiries directly to the course instructor. If students are unsure where to start, they are encouraged to email [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca) and a member of the administrative team will connect with them.

## **Respectful Dialogue and Conduct Guideline**

The School of Social Work (SSW) is committed to cultivating a respectful, inclusive environment by upholding the University of British Columbia's Principles and Practices of respectful dialogue and conduct.

The University explicitly states: *"Racism and discrimination have no place in our community and we will take measures to ensure those values are upheld at all times. Not only are racist, sexist, misogynist and hate-based comments potentially unlawful, they may also contravene UBC's Discrimination Policy and Student Code of Conduct and can result in discipline for non-academic misconduct."*<sup>1</sup>

In alignment with this statement, SSW colleagues and students will demonstrate accountability, appreciate various perspectives, empower and respect others through scholarship and education in order to foster the best possible conditions for learning, researching and working.

Social work professional identity, SSW Values and Mission promote societal change through equity, social justice, diversity, and inclusion: *"We must work together to dismantle the tools of discrimination, colonization and white supremacy that remain prevalent and entrenched in our everyday systems."*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, Indigenization,

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<sup>1</sup> [UBCO Statement on Racism and Discrimination](#)

decolonization, anti-colonial, anti-racism, anti-oppression knowledge and skill development are expected throughout all aspects of the Master of Social Work (MSW) education and professional work. The goal is to work on creating equitable, diverse, and inclusive learning spaces where Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+, women, gender diverse individuals, people with disabilities, Black people, People of Colour, multiracial individuals and individuals from equity deserving groups can thrive, feel safe, valued, and respected.

The SSW acknowledges our greater responsibility and necessary commitment toward addressing the complicity and harmful role that social work (in practice and education) has played in the historical and ongoing perpetuation of a predominant colonial reality. This is an opportunity to learn how to **effect optimal environmental change by developing and modeling** respectful dialogue skills and conduct during classroom discussions, teaching environments, practicums and community. Therefore, as recommended and stated in the [2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards on Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity](#), and Inclusion, the [ARIE report](#) (other [strategic plans and frameworks](#)) and feedback from SSW members, the Faculty, SSW program, and Field Education Office are **aligning their actions and resources** to foster a climate of respectful dialogue and conduct.

### **Advocacy, Respect, and Social Change**

[The BC College of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice](#), [CASW's Code of Ethics](#), and [2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards on Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) highlight social work advocacy, cooperative respect, and commitment to social justice. The MSW program offers opportunities for:

- Learning about historically and existing systems of oppression and discrimination, and identifying ways to address them through existing systems
- Developing healthy relationships and alliances toward reimagining and building new systems
- Exercising personal and professional empathetic, kind, change leadership
- Exemplifying respectful, mindful communication principles
- Intentionally identifying and engaging in Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-ableism and anti-oppression.<sup>2</sup>

### **Aligning Actions and Resources**

The UBCO SSW puts emphasis on respectful dialogue and conduct:

- Inclusion of two sections of SOCW 531 Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive Clinical Practice for the 2023-2024 academic year
- The Faculty of Health and Social Development (FHSD) is implementing training/education (Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-ableism and anti-oppression, conflict engagement, inclusive teaching, and power and privilege) for FHSD members

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the 54 recommendations from the [UBC Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force Report- ARIE Report](#). Specifically, the ARIE Intersectional recommendations, as well as the Indigenous, Blackness and People of Colour Committee Reports.

- The SSW is reviewing the Respectful Dialogue and Conduct Principles at Student Orientations
- The FHSD EDI Team will be presenting resources at Student Orientations
- Field Education Orientations will highlight the characteristics of professional dialogue and conduct specific to field assignments
- With the support of faculty, Field Education Coordinators will cultivate additional field education sites that serve Indigenous communities, and ethnically, racially, 2SLGBTQIA+ and gender diverse populations, including people with disabilities
- Initial Field Liaison meetings with Field Instructor and student will review the site/agency and UBCO's commitment to student well-being through Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-ableism and anti-oppression principles<sup>3</sup>
- Offer supplemental Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-ableism and anti-oppression training for Field Education Instructors
- Make campus resources available to students experiencing incidents or concerns, including but not limited to racism, transphobia and other forms of discrimination and harassment as outlined in [UBCO Policy SC7: Discrimination](#)
- SSW EDI Committee will continue to conduct regular meetings and make recommendations for change
- The [FHSD EDI Advisor to the Dean and FHSD EDI Coordinator](#), as well as the university's Equity and Inclusion Office can provide information about campus resources should concerns arise
- SSW faculty and staff will participate in Cultural Safety Training with syilx Elders

The SSW embraces the University's Respectful Dialogue and Conduct Principles and social work values, with a vigorous commitment to our role as change agents. The SSW advances the principles of respectful dialogue through actions that promote Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-ableism and anti-oppression. This commitment will be reflected in the MSW Student and Field Education Handbooks, as well as the FHSD Equity website. For more detailed information about the principles and guidelines for respectful dialogue, please refer to [Appendix A](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the resources offered through the [FHSD Equity page](#).

## **THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) PROGRAM**

The School of Social Work at UBCO offers a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree that is accredited by the Canadian Association of Social Work Education (CASWE). The program provides advanced education and training so students can graduate job-ready for professional leadership roles in clinical and direct-practice organizations. Our graduates are eligible to apply for full registration/licensing with the BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW) and similar regulatory bodies nationally and North America-wide.

While promoting a professional social work identity, the Master of Social Work program at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) is proudly a program of study with a focus on clinical social work.

### **Clinical Social Work at UBCO**

At the UBCO School of Social Work, “clinical social work” refers to the application of various theories of human behaviour and contextual understanding of social environment to conceptualize clients’ difficulties, while integrating dynamic effects of discrimination, economic hardships and additional oppressive structural forces on individual lives. Utilizing multi-dimensional clinical assessments, clinical social work aims to restore, maintain and enhance physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Additional focus expands to include improving the overall human condition through positive structural changes and enhancing diversity and equality at a micro, mezzo and macro scale.

A clinical social worker at UBCO is trained to conduct individual, family, couple and environmental assessments, diagnose or understand human and ecological problems, identify effective therapies, counseling techniques, advocacy, or environmental interventions, and collaboratively with the client employ evidence-based psychological or environmental methods for resolving bio-psycho-social difficulties.

Rooted in a longstanding commitment to social justice, clinical social workers utilize practice knowledge to inform social policy, research, advocacy, and social action. Informed by theory and available evidence-based practice, clinical social workers emphasize the centrality of helping relationships, tailoring their interventions to the unique needs of each client whilst abiding to the social work code of ethics and the policies of the British Columbia College of Social Workers (BCCSW), and like regulatory bodies nationally and North America-wide: to which graduates of our clinical program are eligible to apply for full registration/licensing.

### **Program Objectives**

The MSW courses and field education aim to:

1. facilitate and enhance students’ social work identity
2. facilitate students’ theoretical understanding of the dynamic interaction between individuals and their social environments

3. advance students' knowledge and skills to critically analyze personal problems from social and psychological perspectives in clinical practice
4. teach advanced skills of engagement, assessment, formulation, planning and intervention, and evaluation
5. enhance students' knowledge and skills for reflexive and reflective clinical practice
6. enhance students' knowledge and skills for clinical decision-making based on ethical principles
7. enhance students' knowledge and skills in the use of evidence to inform clinical practice
8. develop students' knowledge and skills to integrate intersectionalities of ability, age, class, culture, ethnicity, gender, Indigeneity, power, religion, race, sexual orientation, social condition, among other positionalities, in clinical social work practice
9. develop students' advocacy and leadership skills in facilitating organizational, policy, and community-level change
10. enhance students' knowledge and skills to work with positional differences in clinical practice

## Program Tracks

The School of Social Work at UBCO offers two tracks of the MSW program:

- (1) Foundational (FDN) Two-Year track (60 credits), designed for students who hold an **undergraduate degree other than a BSW**. Students spend the first year building foundational knowledge, and their second year advancing their clinical social work skills.
- (2) Advanced (ADV) One-Year track (30 credits), designed for students who currently hold an **approved Bachelor's level social work degree** and who wish to advance their theoretical understanding and practice skills.

## Program Requirements

Foundational-Track (FDN) Year 1 Core Courses (30 credits)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOCW 511 Introduction to Social Work Theory and Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 512 Theories and Interventions for Clinical Social Work (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 513 Assessment Skills for Clinical Social Work (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 514 Diversity and Critical Reflexive Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 515 Social Welfare Policy in Canada (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 517 Social Work and Indigenous Peoples and Canada (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 518 Integrative Seminar for Field Education (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 519 Social Work Field Education I (450-hours; 6 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 525 Human Development for Clinical Social Work (3 credits)</li> </ul>

<b>Advanced-Track (ADV) / Foundational-Track (FDN) Year 2 Core Courses (21 credits)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOCW 551 Advanced Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 553 Research Knowledge and Evidence in Clinical Social Work (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 554 Mental Health and Mental Illness (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 555 Organizations and Leadership (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 558 Advanced Integrative Seminar (3 credits)</li> <li>• SOCW 559 Field Education II (450 hours; 6 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Electives (9 credits)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 approved electives (more information can be found in the <a href="#">Electives</a> section below)</li> </ul>

### Field Education Streams

The Field Education Coordinators will randomly assign every MSW student to a Field Education Stream upon consideration of site availability and Exception to Field Policy requests. This will dictate the student's academic plan of the following year (see Stream-Based Annual Academic Plans section next). The assignment to streams is done every year in the summer for the following academic year.

Students in the **first year of the two-year Foundational Track** are randomly assigned to one of two (2) Field Education practicum streams:

- (1) Winter Local (January-April)
- (2) Summer Local (May-August)

Students in the **second year of the two-year Foundational Track OR the one-year Advanced Track** are randomly assigned to one of five (5) Field Education practicum streams:

- (1) Winter Local (January-April)
- (2) Winter Distance (January-April)
- (3) Winter Two-Term Local (September-April)
- (4) Summer Local (May-August)
- (5) Summer Distance (May-August)

More information about these streams and the assignment process can be found in the MSW Field Education Handbook.

Note: Students completing the **thesis-based option** of the MSW are **still assigned to an annual field education stream**. Therefore, their academic plan is dictated *both* by their field education stream and the course requirements associated with the thesis-

based option. More information about the thesis-based option can be found in the [Course-Based vs Thesis-Based Option](#) section.

### Stream-Based Annual Academic Plans

The following one-year academic plans<sup>4</sup> include the **core courses** required of students in each academic term, based on the Field Education Stream they are assigned to.

In addition, each academic plan includes “SOCW 519/559: Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions Only” which students are required to attend in the academic term **prior to** their practicum. More details about the Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions can be found in the Field Education Handbook.

**\*NOTE: Online sections of courses will be available for students in distance field placements**

#### *Foundational (FDN) Year 1 Academic Plans (by Streams)*

##### **(1) FDN Year 1 Winter Practicum Stream**

Winter Term 1	Winter Term 2	Summer Terms (May-Aug)
<b>SOCW 511</b> <b>SOCW 512</b> <b>SOCW 514</b> <b>SOCW 517</b> <b>SOCW 519 (Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions Only)</b>	<b>SOCW 518</b> <b>SOCW 519 (Complete 6-credit Practicum)</b>	<b>SOCW 513</b> <b>SOCW 515</b> <b>SOCW 525</b>
<b>12 credits completed</b>	<b>9 credits completed</b>	<b>9 credits completed</b>

##### **(2) FDN Year 1 Summer Practicum Stream**

Winter Term 1	Winter Term 2	Summer Terms (May-Aug)
<b>SOCW 511</b> <b>SOCW 512</b> <b>SOCW 514</b> <b>SOCW 517</b>	<b>SOCW 513</b> <b>SOCW 515</b> <b>SOCW 525</b> <b>SOCW 519 (Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions Only)</b>	<b>SOCW 518</b> <b>SOCW 519 (Complete 6-credit Practicum)</b>
<b>12 credits completed</b>	<b>9 credits completed</b>	<b>9 credits completed</b>

*Advanced (ADV) or Foundational (FDN) Year 2 Academic Plans (by Streams)*

**(1) ADV/FDN Year 2 Winter One-Term Practicum Stream**

Winter Term 1	Winter Term 2	Summer Terms (May-Aug)
SOCW 551 SOCW 553 SOCW 554 SOCW 559 ( <i>Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions Only</i> )	SOCW 555 SOCW 558 SOCW 559 ( <i>Complete 6-credit Practicum</i> )	3 Elective Courses
9 credits completed	12 credits completed	9 credits completed

**(2) ADV/FDN Year 2 Winter Term One and Two Practicum Stream**

Winter Term 1	Winter Term 2	Summer Terms (May-Aug)
SOCW 551 SOCW 554 SOCW 559 ( <i>Practicum in Progress</i> )	SOCW 553 SOCW 555 SOCW 558 SOCW 559 ( <i>Complete 6-credit practicum</i> )	3 Elective Courses
6 credits completed	15 credits completed	9 credits completed

**(3) ADV/FDN Year 2 Summer Practicum Stream**

Winter Term 1	Winter Term 2	Summer Terms (May-Aug)
SOCW 551 SOCW 553 SOCW 554	SOCW 555 SOCW 559 ( <i>Pre-Practicum Preparation Sessions Only</i> ) 2-3 Elective Courses	SOCW 558 SOCW 559 ( <i>Complete 6-credit practicum</i> ) 0-1 Elective Courses
9 credits completed	9-12 credits completed	9-12 credits completed

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<sup>4</sup> All academic plans are for one year.



### *Changes to Academic Plans*

The program plans outlined above offer the most streamlined student experience. Students must be aware that core MSW courses are typically offered once a year so removing a core course from a student's academic plan will typically require a one-year delay in completing the program.

Students wishing to request changes to their academic plans (e.g., adding a course, or taking a course in a different term than indicated in their assigned academic plan) must submit the "Request for Exception to Course Schedule" form (available on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas, under Resources) **2 weeks prior to the start of term. Students may not register themselves in the requested course, prior to receiving approval.** Such requests are assessed by the School on an individual basis.

### **Integrative Seminars (SOCW 518 and SOCW 558)**

Students are required to take an Integrative Seminar while in practicum (i.e., SOCW 518 while in SOCW 519 and SOCW 558 while in SOCW 559)<sup>5</sup>. The Integrative Seminars help students integrate theoretical knowledge and practice experiences. In these seminars, students learn by sharing their experiences and listening to other students' experiences, both through the online discussions and in-class participation. Therefore, attendance and participation make up a significant component of the course requirements. Details about the online Integrative seminar are included below.

Integrative Seminars are typically scheduled on Fridays to allow students to complete their practicum hours Monday-Thursday. The Integrative Seminars are hybrid courses, meaning they require bi-weekly in-class seminar activities (e.g., lectures, class discussions, student presentations, and guest speakers), and online activities (e.g., readings, videos, tutorials, and reflective online discussions). The Integrative Seminar courses are graded as Pass/Fail. It is important to review the course syllabi for specific description of what constitutes a Pass/Fail grade and further details on each course schedule.

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<sup>5</sup> Students in a two-term practicum take the Integrative Seminar in the second academic term of their practicum.

### *Online Integrative Seminar for Distance Practicums*

Students in distance practicums will take the Integrative Seminar as an online course, which typically requires scheduled synchronous class times (during which all students and the instructor participate online), and asynchronous learning activities (i.e., students complete independently at different times). Scheduled synchronous class time is typically set for Fridays. Students can find the final scheduling details of the course in Workday.

### **Electives**

As part of the program requirements, students must complete three 3-credit elective courses (9 credits total). Students can fulfill the elective requirement by taking approved elective courses, completing a graduating paper, and/or completing directed-studies courses.

### *Pre-Approved Elective Courses*

As described in the [Okanagan Academic Calendar](#), pre-approved elective courses include 500-level courses offered by the School of Social Work, Okanagan Campus (SOCW) and Health-Interprofessional (HINT).

### **SOCW Electives**

Each year the School offers a number of SOCW electives taught by our faculty or adjunct instructors, based on their expertise in a particular area of practice (see School of Social Work website for information about our Faculty and Adjuncts). Elective courses can be found on the [Academic Calendar](#)<sup>6</sup> (any course number that is not included in the above list of core courses is considered an elective course). However, students should note that **not all elective courses on the Academic Calendar are offered every year.**

The School is committed to offering elective courses that meet the interests of MSW students, given the availability of resources and instructor expertise.

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<sup>6</sup> SOCW 540, Selected Topics in Social Work Practice, is used to represent new or rarely offered elective courses. Therefore, descriptions for these courses are not available on the Academic Calendar.

## HINT Electives

HINT courses are offered by the Faculty of Health and Social Development and encourage effective interprofessional collaboration and understanding among students of health and human service programs, and between the external community and the University. Some HINT courses are taught by Social Work faculty while other courses may be taught by either Nursing faculty or Health & Exercise Sciences faculty. HINT courses typically have a number of seats reserved for MSW students.

### *Directed Studies (SOCW 541; 3 credits)*

A Directed Studies in Social Work is a learning experience in a focused area of study, with the agreement and under supervision of a School of Social Work faculty member selected by the student. Directed Studies are typically used when a student wishes to advance their knowledge on a particular topic which is not covered in an offered core or elective course. At times, a Directed Studies course can be used to develop foundational knowledge on a topic to help frame and enhance student's knowledge prior to the completion of an MSW thesis.

SOCW 541 is typically scheduled as a one-term course, is expected to be completed within this timeframe, and is graded on a percentage scale. Therefore, the student's final percentage grade for the course is due by the end of the examination period of the term in which it is completed.

The creation of a Directed Studies course can be a lengthy process. It requires the development of an individualized course syllabus, which clearly outlines the description of the course, the expected learning outcomes, the evaluation criteria and other expectations of the student, an initial list of required readings, and a course schedule, all of which are determined collaboratively between the instructor and the student.

The proposed syllabus must be submitted for review **eight (8) weeks prior to the beginning of the term** in which the student wishes to take the course. Every submitted syllabus is reviewed by the School Director. Once approved, the course is created and the student will be registered in the course.

To take a Directed Studies course, a student must follow the following steps:

1. Identify a faculty member and approach them to ensure the faculty member is willing to create this individualized course with the student.
2. **In collaboration with the instructor**, create a course syllabus using the MSW Course Syllabus Template (available to all MSW instructors). Please develop this course syllabus in advance of the eight weeks prior to the start of the term.
3. Complete the "Request for Exception to MSW Course Schedule" form *at least eight weeks prior to the course beginning*. This form is available on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas, under the Resources tab. Students are asked to attach the proposed course syllabus to this form upon completion. Upon review,

the School Director and/or the Graduate Program Coordinator may reach out to the course instructor to collect additional information about the course, and may ask for changes to be made to the course syllabus as a condition for approving the request. If changes are needed, both the student and the course instructor will be contacted.

4. Once approved, the student and instructor will be notified via email of the decision and the student will be registered in the course.

Students are encouraged to consult with the Graduate Program Coordinator prior to taking the steps listed above.

#### *Graduating Paper (SOCW 598; 3 credits)*

A Graduating Paper in Social Work is a scholarly paper in an area of interest that conforms to the demands of a peer-reviewed social work journal. Typically, the graduating paper is approximately 20 pages in length and conforms to the specific guidelines of the selected journal. Students must work with a School of Social Work faculty member as their graduate paper supervisor. They are often encouraged by their graduate paper supervisor to submit their paper to the selected journal. SOCW 598 may be scheduled as a one- or two-term course; students are required to complete the graduating paper within 8 months or two academic terms.

A student may engage in a graduating paper:

- to deepen the student's understanding of a particular theoretical or practice issue,
- to potentially contribute to the social work literature,
- to demonstrate mastery of a particular content area, and
- to utilize an opportunity to develop skills in writing for publication.

A Graduating Paper is graded as Pass or Fail. The faculty member who supports the student's learning is their Graduating Paper Supervisor. The Supervisor is normally an expert in the area of concentration of the paper. The Supervisor provides guidance and counsel on the subject, and approves the final draft of the paper.

As with a Directed Studies course, the creation of a Graduating Paper course can be a lengthy process. It requires the development of an individualized course syllabus, which clearly outlines the description of the course, the expected learning outcomes, the evaluation criteria and other expectations of the students, an initial list of required readings, and a timeline/schedule, all of which are determined collaboratively between the supervising faculty member and the student.

The proposed syllabus must be submitted for review **eight (8) weeks prior to the beginning of the term** in which the student wishes to start the course. Every submitted syllabus is reviewed by the School Director. Once approved, the student will be registered in the course.

To undertake a Graduating Paper, a student must follow these steps:

1. Identify a faculty member and approach them to ensure the faculty member is willing to supervise the student in the process of completing the graduating paper.
2. In collaboration with the instructor, create a course syllabus using the MSW Course Syllabus Template (available to all MSW instructors).
3. Complete the "Request for Exception to MSW Course Schedule" form *at least eight weeks prior to the course beginning*. This form is available on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas, under Resources. Students are asked to attach the proposed course syllabus to this form upon completion. The School Director and/or the Graduate Program Coordinator may reach out to the course instructor to collect additional information about the course, and may ask for changes to be made to the course syllabus as a condition for approving the request. If changes are needed, both the student and the course instructor will be contacted.
4. Once approved, the student will be registered in SOCW 598. The student and instructor will be notified via email of the decision.
5. Students completing a Graduating Paper will remain registered in SOCW 598 until they receive a final grade for the course.

The table below summarizes the similarities and differences between Directed Studies and Graduating Paper:

	<b>Directed Studies</b>	<b>Graduating Paper</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To advance a student's knowledge in a particular field of practice within Social Work; Focuses on a topic that is not covered elsewhere in the program; May be foundational to developing a thesis topic.	To produce a scholarly paper or another project with emphasis on knowledge translation; To contribute to the existing body of knowledge; To advance a student's knowledge in a particular field of practice within Social Work
<b>Length of Time</b>	One academic term (4 months)	1-2 academic terms (4-8 months)
<b>When taken</b>	Requires program approval	Typically taken in the second year near the completion of the program
<b>Expectation of Student</b>	To be determined between the student and the instructor	Final paper/project of publishable quality
<b>Supervisor/Instructor</b>	Faculty member is considered the student's Course Instructor	Faculty member is considered the student's Graduating Paper Supervisor;
<b>Grade</b>	Graded 0-100%;	Pass/Fail;
<b>Process of Registration</b>	Submission of course syllabus to <a href="mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca">ask.socialwork@ubc.ca</a> 8 weeks prior to start of course; upon approval, student is registered in SOCW 541	Submission of course syllabus to <a href="mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca">ask.socialwork@ubc.ca</a> 8 weeks prior to start of course; upon approval, student is registered in SOCW 598
<b>Completion</b>	Must be completed at the end of the term in which it was scheduled	Student will automatically remain registered in SOCW 598 until course is completed and final grade is received

### *Taking Non-Preapproved Courses*

Upon approval of the Director and the Graduate Program Coordinator, MSW students may complete **up to two** of the three required electives (or 6 of the 9 credits) by taking graduate-level courses from a different unit within UBCO (outside of SOCW and HINT courses), from UBC Vancouver, from another approved university, or up to 6 credits of UBCO undergraduate level courses (300-/400-level).

To initiate the approval process, students are to submit the "Request for Exception to MSW Course Schedule" form (available on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas, under Resources) **and attach a copy of the syllabus of the course** they wish to take

to their request (additional forms may be required; see information below). Students may need to request a copy of the syllabus directly from the course instructor. Syllabi from the last 1-2 years are acceptable for the review and approval process. In some cases, the Graduate Program Coordinator may reach out to the student to arrange a follow-up meeting to discuss the request in more details. Please note,

- The deadline to submit this form is 4 weeks prior to the start of term
- Students may not register themselves in the requested course, prior to receiving approval

#### Taking courses from a different unit in UBCO (graduate or undergraduate)

Students wishing to take a course outside of Social Work must provide a detailed rationale for how the course will support/advance their preparation for social work practice. Requests must be submitted **at least four weeks prior to the start of the academic term** in which the course is offered, with the exception of courses in Winter Term 2 (Jan-Apr) for which requests must be submitted **by the end of the first week of December**.

If approved, students will be required to complete the College of Graduate Studies [Registration/Audit Form](#) and submit it to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca) **at least one week prior to the start of the course**.

#### Taking courses from UBC Vancouver

Students may be able to take online graduate courses from UBC Vancouver. In addition to the Request form, students are required to complete the [College of Graduate Studies' "Registration in Vancouver Courses" form](#) and attach it to their request. Requests must be submitted **at least four weeks prior to the start of the academic term** in which the course is offered, with the exception of courses in Winter Term 2 (Jan-Apr) for which requests must be submitted **by the end of the first week of December**.

NOTE: An approval from UBC Okanagan to take a course from Vancouver campus does not guarantee a student's registration in the course. Final approval is made by UBC Vancouver, typically close to the start of the academic term in which the course is offered.

#### Taking courses from a different university through Western Deans' Agreement

UBC Okanagan is a participating institution of the [Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies](#) (WCDGS). Under the [Western Deans' Agreement](#), "graduate students paying normal required tuition fees to their home institution will not pay tuition fees to the host institution". MSW students interested in taking a course from another participating institution must complete the [Western Deans' Agreement Authorization and Course Registration form](#) and **attach it to their Request for Exception to Course Schedule form**. As is the case with requesting to take courses from a different unit in UBCO, if the course is not a social work course, students must provide a detailed rationale for how the course will support/advance their preparation for social work practice. Requests must be submitted **at least four weeks prior to the start of the academic term** in which the course is offered, with the exception of courses in Winter

Term 2 (Jan-Apr) for which requests must be submitted **by the end of the first week of December**. However, many participating institutions of the Western Deans' Agreement have earlier due dates than four weeks prior to the start of a term. Students are expected to review and become familiar with these deadlines prior to submitting their request.

NOTE: An approval from UBC Okanagan to take a course via the Western Deans' Agreement does not guarantee a student's registration in the course. Final approval is made by the hosting institution, typically close to the start of the academic term in which the course is offered.

Students are notified of the final decision via email once their request has been processed by the other institution. If approved, students are responsible for meeting all policies and procedures of the host institution. At the completion of the course, students are responsible for ordering an official transcript from the other institution and submitting it directly to the UBCO College of Graduate Studies in order for the course to be indicated on the student transcript and be used towards the MSW degree.

### Course Registration

The MSW program is designed for full-time study. That is, students must be continuously registered in courses during all terms of the program by following the academic plan associated with their Field Education Stream. If students cannot maintain regular registration, they should contact the Graduate Program Coordinator and consider the option of taking a [Leave of Absence](#).

Students register in courses twice a year, in summer for the winter terms (September-April) and again in spring for the summer terms (May-August). Registration reminders and dates are sent to students by email in advance. The UBC Scheduling Office typically releases the final course schedule for the Winter Terms in mid-May and for the Summer Terms in mid-February (available to students via Workday). Therefore, students can review and plan prior to their registration date. Students in the Advanced Track or in the second year of the Foundational Track are typically allowed to register one day prior to students in the first year of the Foundation Track. This is done to allow priority over seats in electives to students who are closer to graduation.

Here are some reminders for course registration:

- Exceptions to academic plans must be approved *prior* to a student registering in any courses different than the ones indicated in the registration email
- Students must clear any holds (such as financial holds) they have on their student accounts prior to course registration. Students with current holds are not eligible to register in courses

Please note: While we appreciate students have many reasons for wanting to enroll into a course, class sizes are negotiated with the instructor by the school ahead of time. Discussions with instructors regarding seat increases will be done by the school, not by students, as instructor employment contracts are the sole responsibility of the school. Should students have questions regarding course capacity or would like to request a seat in a course that is full, please email [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca). Please do not approach an instructor to request a seat in their course.



## Transfer Credits

All MSW core courses must be taken from the School of Social Work at UBC Okanagan. Credits from any course taken at a different university cannot be used to satisfy the core course requirement of the program. In addition, all courses used towards the MSW program requirements must be taken while the student is enrolled in the program. Thus, credits of courses completed prior to the start of the program cannot be used to fulfill any of the MSW program requirements.

## Course-Based vs Thesis-Based Option

When students are admitted to the MSW program at UBC Okanagan, they are assigned to the course-based option by default. The vast majority of our students remain in the course-based option. Students choosing the thesis-based option of the program are required to complete a thesis under the supervision of a Social Work faculty member.

The Master's thesis is an independent research or scholarly project which aims to develop knowledge for clinical social work practice, provide a guided experience in conducting research, and demonstrate a student's mastery of the field she or he presents including a thorough knowledge of the relevant literature. Students may develop a project in any area of interest relevant to clinical social work. The thesis is based on independent study and scholarly research of a theoretical, empirical or historical focus, which builds or tests theory through disciplined and focused study. In addition, the thesis demonstrates the candidate's competence in completing a research project. Dissemination of the project results after its completion and before graduation is also required.

The purposes of undertaking a thesis are to:

- develop research skills and critical thinking,
- deepen understanding of specific theoretical and/or practice issues,
- strengthen capacity for scholarly investigation, and
- contribute to the social work knowledge base.

Undertaking a thesis can be a complex, challenging, and highly time-consuming process. *Students considering the completion of a thesis must be ready to stay in the program longer than the original length of the program.*

Additional information students should know when considering the Thesis-Based option include:

- Students in the Thesis-Based option complete the same total number of credits as students in the course-based option (30 credits for Advanced Track and 60 credits for the Foundational Track).
- Students in the Thesis-Based track are required to complete the same field requirements as students in the Course-Based option (one 450-hour practicum per year)
- The first year of the Foundational-Track Thesis-Based option has the exact same course requirements as the Course-Based option of the program. The difference in requirements and expectations starts in the second year of the Foundational-Track (or the one year of the Advanced-Track).

- The course requirements of the Thesis-Based option (Year 2 of the Foundational Track or Advanced Track) are listed in the table below, and compared to the Course-Based option
- Students in the Thesis-Based option typically take fewer skill/practice-based courses and more research-related courses (as illustrated in the table below).

### *Thesis-Based Option Course Requirements*

The table below compares the program requirements of the Course-Based option and those of the Thesis-Based Option:

<b>Year 2 of the Foundational Track OR Advanced Track (30 credits in total)</b>		
	<b>Course-Based Option</b>	<b>Thesis-Based Option:</b>
<b>MSW Core Courses</b>	SOCW 551 (3 credits) SOCW 553 (3 credits) SOCW 554 (3 credits) SOCW 555 (3 credits)	SOCW 553 (3 credits) <b>and ONE of</b> SOCW 551/SOCW 554/SOCW 555 (3 credits)
<b>Field Education</b>	SOCW 558 (3 credits) SOCW 559 Field (6 credits)	SOCW 558 (3 credits) SOCW 559 Field (6 credits)
<b>Electives</b>	Three 3-credit electives	One elective (3 credits)
<b>Thesis</b>	N/A	SOCW 599 Thesis (9 credits) <b>and</b> An approved Advanced Research Methods course (3 credits)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>30 credits</b>	<b>30 credits</b>

### *Entering the Thesis Option*

To enter the thesis option of the MSW program, the following forms must be completed and submitted to the program ([ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca)):

- Checklist of Expectations for Graduate Student and Supervisor (found on the [College of Graduate Studies website](#))
- MSW Thesis-Option Request Form (can be found on the Program's Canvas page, under the Resources tab)

These must be submitted to the program prior to the start of the program for Advanced Track students, and prior to the end of the first year for Foundational Track students.

Because such a transition affects a student's registration in courses, it should ideally be fully processed and completed prior to the course registration date in early July so that the student can register in the correct course according to the thesis-based option of the program. Therefore, **students are strongly advised to submit requests to switch into the Thesis-Based Option by the end of May**. Requests may be submitted between June-August; however, they may not be approved prior to course registration in early July and therefore, their approval will likely warrant changes to the student's course registration. Also, late requests may lead to further delays in the student

progression and completion of the program.

Under special circumstances, students who are approved to enter the thesis-based option may wish to go back to the course-based option of the program. Students who choose to do so will be required to complete the MSW course-based requirements courses. Given that core courses are typically only offered once per year, such a transition may also lead to further delays in the student progression and completion of the program.

Students interested in switching to the Thesis-Based option of the program must carefully review and follow the instructions in [Appendix B](#).

### **Program Completion**

As indicated on the [Okanagan Academic Calendar](#), all Master's level graduate students at UBC Okanagan must complete all program requirements within 5 years of the initial course registration (please note, time taken on an approved Leave of Absence is not counted towards these 5 years). This is applied to MSW students in either the course-based or thesis-based options. Under exceptional circumstances, extensions may be granted by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, with the recommendation of the program.

In order for the program to be considered complete, students must have completed all MSW program requirements as listed in the [Academic Calendar](#) and all final grades must be entered. The date of program completion is the date on which the student's last final grade was entered. General information about [Program Completion and Graduation](#) can be found on the College of Graduate Studies' website.

At the end of every winter term, and at the end of every month during the summer terms, the Graduate Program Administrator reviews student files of students who are due for program completion. The program then makes recommendation of program completion to the College of Graduate Studies. Upon recommendation for completion by the MSW program, the College of Graduate Studies also evaluates each file individually. This process may take several weeks from the date the student's last final grade was entered. All course work must be complete with a final grade prior to the [published program completion deadline](#) to qualify for conferral of your degree. The College of Graduate Studies notifies the student when this review process is complete and you will receive a Program Completion email. More information related to Degree Conferral and Convocation can be found in [Appendix C](#).

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The School of Social Work is governed by the UBCO Board of Governors, Senate, College of Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Health & Social Development (FHSD), and its own School Council. The UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar contains the UBCO [Campus-Wide Policies and Regulations](#), [Academic Regulations of the College of Graduate Studies](#) and the [Program Regulations for the School of Social Work](#) referred to in this section. Further, this section includes procedures to guide students through completing various program-related tasks. MSW students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the following policies and regulations, guidelines and procedures.

### **Criminal Record Check**

As a condition of admission, applicants to the Master of Social Work program are required to submit a criminal record check that provides clearance to work with children and vulnerable populations during a field education practicum. MSW Students must submit a specific type of BC Criminal Record Check (*Type: Schedule B, Works With: Children and vulnerable adults*) from the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. For more information and instructions please visit our MSW Program website – [Criminal Record Check](#). The BC Criminal Record check may be accessed via their [eCRC](#) site.

While in the program, students are required to provide notification and authorization for a further criminal record check should the student be charged with, or convicted of, a relevant criminal offence subsequent to their last Criminal Records Review Act check. BC Criminal Record Checks are valid for up to 5 years from being issued – if your criminal record check provided at the time of admission expires during your study you must submit a new criminal record check in advance of the expiry.

Some Field Education practicum agencies may require an updated criminal record check or an RCMP check in order to provide a practicum to a social work student. The additional measures and/or costs associated with field education will be at the expense of the student. Additional information about sharing students' criminal record checks with their practicum agencies can be found in the MSW Field Education Handbook.

Failure to comply with the School of Social Work's criminal record check policy, or failure of the criminal record check may result in the student being involuntarily withdrawn from the Master of Social Work program.

### **Annual Student Accident Insurance**

All MSW students are automatically enrolled in UBC Student Accident Insurance. More information on accident insurance can be found on the [UBC Risk Management website](#). This insurance provides coverage for students for accidental injuries related to their UBC studies (laboratories, certain field work, or field education). The plan does not provide 24-hour coverage; it applies only during the involvement of the student in

coursework (or field education). This coverage does not cover students against claims made by third parties.

### **Leave of Absence**

Students are encouraged to take a leave of absence from their studies whenever they need one.

To request a leave of absence, the [Leave of Absence form](#) and a memo outlining the situation is submitted to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca). The student will be notified via email once the request has been approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Master of Social Work program is a cohort-based program and the courses in each term lead into the following term. Some courses are only offered once a year, or every other year. Students taking a leave are welcome and encouraged to set up a meeting with the Program Coordinator (and the Field Education Coordinator, if relevant) to discuss their course plan. The student may find it helpful to review the information about Leave of Absence available in the [Graduate Policy and Procedure Manual](#) of the College of Graduate Studies.

It is very important to check with all your funding supports prior to taking a leave. A leave may require adjustments to sponsorships, scholarships, awards, bursaries, student loans and student visas. Please check with each of these agencies that you are working with prior to submitting your Leave of Absence. International Students should contact International Programs and Services prior to submitting a leave request to ensure you are aware of all the immigration and student visa regulations that apply to your situation.

### **Withdrawal and Readmission**

Students progress through the Master of Social Work degree on a term-by-term basis, only by successfully completing the courses in each successive term. Students who are considering withdrawal should meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator to discuss the implications for their program. Specifically, students must make the necessary arrangements to return to study for the term in which the courses they require are offered. Refer to the Academic Regulations outlined by the College of Graduate Studies for Academic Progress and [Withdrawal, Reinstatement and Readmission](#). Please ensure you are aware of the requirements of any financial supports and/or international student policies that apply to you prior to requesting a program withdrawal.

## Grading Practices

Master's Level Grades are assigned according to the College of Graduate Studies' [grading scale](#):

Percentage (%)	Letter Grade
90–100	A+
85–89	A
80–84	A-
76–79	B+
72–75	B
68–71	B-
64–67	C+
60–63	C
0–59	F (fail)

## Evaluation of Students' Progress

As per the [Academic Regulations](#) of the College of Graduate Studies, satisfactory progress in any Master's program requires grades of a minimum of 60%, *and* only up to 6 credits (i.e., two 3-credit courses) with final grades of 60-67%. To keep track of students who may be struggling to maintain the satisfactory progress in the program, course instructors inform the Graduate Program Coordinator when giving a student a grade below 68%. The Graduate Program Coordinator works together with students to ensure they are able to regain and maintain a satisfactory progress. Therefore, the Graduate Program Coordinator reaches out to students who receive less than 68% in any course to further discuss the implications for their program and initiate the resolution process.

### *Failing a course*

Students who fail a mandatory course will be required to repeat the course for a higher standing. Since all MSW core courses are typically offered once a year, retaking a mandatory course will most likely significantly delay the completion of the program. Students who fail an elective course may take an alternate course on the recommendation of the Graduate Program Coordinator and the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. If the Graduate Program Coordinator does not make a recommendation to allow a student to retake a failed core course or replace an elective course with another one, or if the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies does not approve the recommendation, the student will be required to withdraw from the program.

### *Grade Challenges/Appeals*

Students who wish to appeal decisions relating to their academic studies may do so, as outlined in the [Appeal Procedure](#) of the UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar. The appeal should be initiated as near the source of difficulty as possible, presumably to the Instructor, and progress to the Director of the School and then to the Dean of the Faculty. There is a standing committee of the University Senate – the Committee on

Appeals of Standing and Discipline – that reviews all appeals made to the Senate, the senior academic authority in the University.

### *Deferred Standing*

As indicated on the College of Graduate Studies [Deferred Standing](#) (SD) Policy, a Deferred Standing is appropriate if medical or personal problems make it impossible for the student to complete the course requirements on time, but the requirements can be completed with an extension of time (i.e., Students granted Deferred Standing in Winter Session courses must complete all outstanding course requirements by August 23 following. Students granted Deferred standing in Summer Session courses must complete all outstanding work by December 23 following).

To initiate the request for a Deferred Standing grade, the student and instructor work together to submit the Standing Deferred form (available on request: email [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca)) The program submits the request form to the Faculty Dean or Designate for final approval. The grade status will remain SD until all remaining work is complete and the course instructor submits a final grade.

Students and instructors must follow the College of Graduate Studies' guidelines and timelines of the Deferred Standing, as mentioned above.

### *Annual Progress Reports*

In addition to the MSW program's own evaluation of student progress, Foundational MSW students also submit an Annual Progress Report to the College of Graduate Studies. Advanced MSW students do not need to submit an annual progress report. This is typically due in April/May of every year. Annual Reports are an opportunity for the Administrative team to ensure students are on track with their studies and able to receive supports in a timely manner if needed. More information on Progress Reports is circulated in the spring each year.

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students seeking accommodations during coursework and/or field education practicums should follow the [Academic Accommodation Process](#), as outlined by the College of Graduate Studies.

Students requesting accommodations due to disability register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). See Appendix C for more information about the DRC and the registration process.

### **Academic Concessions**

Students who need accommodations within their courses (outside of official accommodations overseen by the Disability Resource Centre) are encouraged to communicate with their course instructor (or the Field Education Coordinator, if the accommodation is for their field education) as soon as possible to discuss a plan to complete the course requirements. See [UBC Campus-Wide Policy on Academic Concession](#) and College of Graduate Studies [Academic Concession Policy](#) for information on conflicting responsibilities and unforeseen events. Note that UBC's



concession policy supports students who are absent from classes and scheduled examinations in order to participate in observances of religious significance, or observances of cultural importance to students who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

### **Freedom from Harassment and Discrimination**

The School of Social Work respects human diversity. We strive to treat all members of the School and its communities - students, staff, faculty, field educators, and community partners – with respect and dignity, regardless of their ability, age, class, culture, ethnicity, gender, political ideology, race, religion, sexual orientation, social condition, and all intersectionalities of life. Further, the School is committed to providing a collegial, safe, and pleasant working and learning environment for all members of the School, one that respects differences, champions fair treatment, and celebrates diversity.

#### *Reporting of Harassment or Discrimination*

Students who experience harassment and/or discrimination, or witness another person within the School being harassed and/or discriminated against, are advised to consult [UBC Policy 3 \(SC7\) on Discrimination](#) and [UBC Statement on Respectful Environment for Students, Faculty and Staff](#), and consider reporting the incident(s) to a member of the School (e.g., Graduate Program Coordinator, Field Education Coordinator, Director, or a faculty member). If the concern involves sexual harassment, then students are also advised to consult [UBC Policy 131 \(SC17\) on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct](#).

The Faculty of Health and Social Development Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisor to the Dean, [Rishma Chooniedass](#) is available to support students experiencing harassment and/or discrimination.

The School takes such reports very seriously and, in consultation with the Equity and Inclusion Office and/or the FHSD Dean or Associate Dean, ensures measures are taken to address the reported incident. It is important to know that the School may be obligated to report the incident to the BC College of Social Workers or other regulatory bodies, if an incident involves the professional conduct of a Registered Social Worker.

#### *Campus Support and Resources*

Students may wish to visit the [Equity and Inclusion Office](#) website for information about available support. UBCO also has a [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response](#) office that provides support, information about reporting, and links to community resources for those who have been impacted by sexual misconduct or assault.

### **Student Privacy and Confidentiality**

The School of Social Work gathers and maintains student information for the purposes of admission, registration, and other fundamental activities of the School, in accordance with the UBCO Campus-Wide Policies and Regulation around students' right for [Protection of Privacy and Access to Information](#). However, UBC and the School of Social Work also acknowledge that some scenarios require the disclosure of students'



personal information, as included in the [Disclosing Personal Information for Health and Safety Reasons Fact Sheet](#).

The table below summarizes and provides examples of situations requiring information disclosure:

Type	Definition	When Permitted	Example within the School of Social Work
<b>Internal Disclosure</b>	Disclosure of personal information to other UBC employees, volunteers or service providers	According to Section 33.1(e) of the Freedom of Information Privacy Protection Act in British Columbia, internal disclosure can be done on a “need-to-know” basis	Course instructors disclose to the Graduate Program Coordinator the names and grades of students who received low grades in their course
<b>External Disclosure</b>	Disclosure of personal information to somebody outside UBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For protecting the health and safety of the individual and/or others.</li> <li>2. For matching students to Field Education Practicums (see MSW Field education Handbook for more information)</li> </ol>	Sharing a student name with the police for the purpose of a law enforcement investigation

Also, in accordance with the Okanagan Academic Calendar UBC Graduate Admissions Student Declaration, the MSW program may share student email addresses with the Social Work Course Union for the purpose of running elections and communicating with the rest of the student body.

## Course-Related Policies

### *Attendance*

The Master of Social Work program is an intensive full-time program and is highly participatory in nature. Regular attendance is a professional commitment that is expected of students in all classes and other mandatory scheduled events. Vacations and other personal events should not conflict with classes or field education practicums.

**Specific policies for attendance expectations for each course are noted in each respective course syllabus.** Satisfactory attendance includes arriving on time, remaining for the duration of class or experience, and participating in all scheduled coursework and field education practicums. These expectations typically apply to synchronous virtual class time as required in online courses, unless notified otherwise by the course instructor. Students who do not attend or participate regularly as outlined in course syllabi may not meet course expectations. See the MSW Field Education Handbook for specific attendance expectations of students in practicums.

Repeated issues of attendance in any mandatory program events (including courses and field practicum) are considered professional misconduct in accordance to Standard 4.17 of the [Professional Standards for Students in the School of Social Work](#).

### *Submission of Assignments*

Students must submit course assignments by the deadline indicated on a course syllabus, and in accordance with the provided instructions (e.g., via email, Canvas, etc.).

Unless outlined differently in the course syllabus,

- Late assignments will be assessed as follows: 5% deduction of the total value of the assignment for each calendar day. (e.g., if the assignment is due on a Friday and submitted the following Thursday, the assignment is considered six days late and the value of the assignment will be reduced by 30%).
- Extensions may be granted on an individual basis for the following reasons: personal illness or accident (doctor's certificate may be required), compassionate reasons, major life crisis, and/or a significant health issue.

Students who are unable to submit a course assignment as instructed by the deadline and wish to request an extension must email the course instructor as soon as they become aware of the potential issue, and *at least 24 hours prior to the assignment's submission deadline*. In their email, students are expected to:

- Notify the instructor of the issue and if desired, request an extension,
- Provide a rationale for the request for extension, and
- Propose an alternative arrangement/deadline for submission

### *Missed Exams*

Students who become aware of having to miss an exam must notify the course instructor as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to review the [UBC Campus-Wide Policy on Academic Concession](#).

## **Professional Standards for Students in the School of Social Work**

The School of Social work is committed to creating a learning environment conducive to optimal education and clinical practice. The School has identified the standards of professional conduct set out in this policy as minimum requirements for the conduct of students registered with the School of Social Work.

All students are expected to abide by these Standards of Professional Conduct as well as by University policy at all times and, in particular, while in any settings where activities (e.g., academic, clinical, or social) are carried out under the auspices of the University. The School of Social Work adheres to and promotes UBC [Board of Governors Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#), UBC Okanagan's [Campus-Wide Policies and Regulations](#), including the [Student Conduct and Discipline](#), and the [Canadian Association of Social Workers' \(CASW\) Code of Ethics](#).

Students who fail to meet expectations regarding professional conduct may be deemed unsuitable for further training and may be withdrawn from the program even though they

meet all other program requirements.

### *Standards of Professional Conduct*

#### **1. Respect for the Inherent Dignity and Worth of Persons**

- 1.1 Maintain the best interest of the client as the primary professional obligation.
- 1.2 Respect the intrinsic worth of clients. Do not discriminate in interactions with others, based on age, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, unrelated criminal convictions, or any other ground protected by human rights legislation.
- 1.3 Treat clients and their families with respect and dignity both in their presence and in discussions with other members of the health care team or academic community.
- 1.4 Treat all members of the health care team or academic community with respect and dignity in, or out of, their presence, in written communications, and in discussions with others.
- 1.5 Respect client autonomy by disclosing findings and test results pertinent to the client's care and by discussing treatment options with the client or legal representative and by involving the client, or legal representative, in the treatment options where appropriate and with regard to the client's preferences.
- 1.6 Adhere to the guidelines for informed consent and consult with the client's legal representative when a client lacks the capacity to make treatment decisions.

#### **2. Pursuit of Social Justice**

- 2.1 Advocate change in the best interest of the client, and for the overall benefit of society.

#### **3. Service to Humanity**

- 3.1 Place professional service before personal goals or self-interest.
- 3.2 Conduct research and complete assignments in accordance with University policies and in an ethical and unbiased manner, record and report results truthfully, and credit work and ideas developed by others. Appropriately acknowledge the contributions made by others to your research, publications and other presentations.

#### **4. Integrity in Professional Practice**

- 4.1 Act with integrity and demonstrate personal and academic honesty in all interactions and communications, verbal and written.
- 4.2 Do not allow another profession, occupation, affiliation or calling affect the social work relationship with the client, professional judgment, independence and/or competence.
- 4.3 Do not provide social work services or otherwise behave in a manner that discredits the profession of social work or diminishes the public's trust in the profession.

- 4.4 Ensure that all communications on the internet and social media are respectful and meet the same level of professionalism as would be expected in direct or other written communications with and about colleagues, instructors, students, and clients.
- 4.5 Use social media responsibly refraining from posting any information or comments related to clients, and from disclosing personal or confidential information about members of the health care team or academic community. Do not post information that is untruthful, hurtful, or disrespectful and use discretion when posting personal information.
- 4.6 Respect the intellectual property of others by adhering to University policy and guidelines related to copyright and distribution of written, audio or digital materials.
- 4.7 Accurately report and record history, test results, and other information pertinent to the care of the client.
- 4.8 Engage in ethical interactions with agencies, by declaring and managing conflicts of interest, real or perceived.
- 4.9 Create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and to the conduct of professional work in all learning environments (classroom and all clinical settings). Maintain personal composure and consideration for others in all interactions. Model language, appearance, and demeanor appropriate to the academic or professional healthcare setting.
- 4.10 Establish and maintain appropriate personal boundaries in relationships with clients, staff, students and faculty, recognizing your potential influence over others and the vulnerability inherent in relationships in which there is a power disparity.
- 4.11 Respect the personal boundaries of others including, but not limited to, refraining from making unwanted romantic or sexual overtures, protecting personal information, and respecting individual workspace.
- 4.12 Do not engage in sexual or romantic relations with clients, or with individuals with whom you have a supervisor/supervisee relationship. Do not engage in exploitive relationships with colleagues, students, clients, or their families for emotional, financial, research, educational or sexual purposes.
- 4.13 Follow specified protocols to disclose and address clinical errors or misjudgments.
- 4.14 Do not use alcohol or drugs, including prescription drugs, in any way that could interfere with academic, professional or clinical responsibilities.
- 4.15 Report professional misconduct to the appropriate authorities while taking care to avoid unjustly discrediting the reputation of members of the health care team or of the academic community.
- 4.16 Model behaviour consistent with the Code of Conduct and ethics of professional and licensing bodies, and teach and promote concepts of professional behaviour, ethical research and practice.
- 4.17 Meet expectations related to punctuality, attendance and participation in all academic classes and clinical settings including student practicums. Meet deadlines for group or individual assignments, or for the submission of requested

documentation and information in the clinical or academic setting. Make timely alternative arrangements when you are unable to meet stated deadlines.

- 4.18 Use computers provided in the academic or health care settings in accordance with the applicable policies and engage for personal use only as provided in the site policies
- 4.19 Use personal communication devices in the academic or health care settings appropriately. Use of personal communication devices must not be disruptive or interfere with interactions with clients, families, or other health care providers. Comply with requests from clients or other health professionals to cease using personal communication devices in the academic or health care setting.

## **5. Confidentiality in Professional Practice**

- 5.1 Respect and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of information about clients. This includes limiting discussion of client health issues to appropriate settings for clinical or educational purposes and to those family member caregivers identified by client consent.
- 5.2 Avoid potential breaches of privacy and confidentiality when communicating through various modes of communication, especially the internet and social media, and take precautionary measures including using other more secure means of communicating as required.
- 5.3 Act in accordance with obligations imposed by privacy legislation related to collection, storage and disclosure of personal information and maintenance and use of health records. Disclose confidential information only when required or allowed by law to do so, or when clients have consented to disclosure.
- 5.4 Adhere to data access and security regulations in both academic and clinical settings. Do not share computer login codes, communicate client data via unsecured networks, or obtain or use any other information outside the bounds of the defined access and use regulations. Use only institution-approved personal data storage devices, such as USB keys, and use appropriate password/encryption to protect sensitive data.
- 5.5 Do not access personal information related to clients or any other individuals stored in files or computers in the University or clinical setting unless authorized and required to fulfill your clinical duties to a client with whom you have a current health professional/client relationship.

## **6. Competence in Professional Practice**

- 6.1 Provide feedback, oral or written, to members of the health care team or academic community, in a timely, constructive and respectful manner to identify deficits and effect change and not to embarrass or humiliate.
- 6.2 Be accountable to yourself and all relevant stakeholders for personal decisions in the workplace and all learning environments.
- 6.3 Promote and maintain personal health and well-being and monitor your physical and mental fitness to perform duties in the academic and clinical setting. Seek appropriate assistance as required in the event you are physically or mentally unfit to perform your assigned duties.

- 6.4 Recognize personal limitations when the situation exceeds your level of experience or competence, and consult with and refer to appropriate professional colleagues.
- 6.5 Participate in the processes of self-regulation of the profession.
- 6.6 Maintain and enhance competence through commitment to professional development and practice evaluation.
- 6.7 Demonstrate self-awareness and responsibility for your actions by accepting and responding appropriately to supervision and feedback regarding academic and clinical and professional performance.

### **Professional Communication**

Social workers interface with many different professionals who expect varying degrees of communication formality. MSW students represent the School of Social Work and the profession in any communication they engage in, on and off campus. Therefore, in addition to the above standards of professional conduct, the School of Social Work expects all students to develop and regularly practice strong professional communication skills while in the program.

#### *Professional Use of Email*

Students are eligible to receive a UBC-hosted email address - more information is found on the [UBC Vancouver IT website](#).

### **Social Media**

The School of Social Work recognizes the growing importance of electronic communication and is committed to supporting the rights of social workers to interact knowledgeably and socially in the social media. Members of the School of Social Work community are responsible and accountable for their actions and statements in social media, and recognize that appropriate boundary setting is vitally important in the development and maintenance of professional relationships. The use of discriminatory, derogatory or unfounded statements or willful misrepresentation on social media is not condoned by the School of Social Work and can result in disciplinary action up to and including school and/or field education termination. The Standards of Professional Conduct (4.4, 4.5 and 5.2) below provide specific expectations of professional conduct in relation to social media. The MSW Field Education Handbook includes additional guidelines for students in practicums.

### **Academic and Professional Misconduct**

#### *Academic Misconduct*

According to the [Policies and Procedures of the College of Graduate Studies](#), Academic Conduct that is subject to disciplinary measures includes, but is not limited to, engaging in, attempting to engage in, or assisting others to engage in any of the actions described below.

- A. Cheating, which may include, but is not limited to:
  - 1. falsification of any material subject to academic evaluation, including research data;
  - 2. use of or participation in unauthorized collaborative work;

3. use or possession in an examination of any materials (including devices) other than those permitted by the examiner;
  4. use, possession, or facilitation of unauthorized means to complete an examination (e.g., receiving unauthorized assistance from another person, or providing that assistance); and
  5. dishonest practices that breach rules governing examinations or submissions for academic evaluation see [Student Conduct during Examinations](#).
- B. Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e., phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (e.g., within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.
  - C. Submitting the same, or substantially the same, essay, presentation, or assignment more than once (whether the earlier submission was at this or another institution) unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor(s) to whom the assignment is to be submitted.
  - D. Impersonating a candidate at an examination or other evaluation, facilitating the impersonation of a candidate, or availing oneself of the results of an impersonation.
  - E. Submitting false records or information, orally or in writing, or failing to provide relevant information when requested.
  - F. Falsifying or submitting false documents, transcripts, or other academic credentials.
  - G. Failing to comply with any disciplinary measure imposed for academic misconduct.

Social Work instructors who have evidence to believe an MSW student has engaged in academic misconduct may take disciplinary measures. Disciplinary measures taken by the course instructor may include, but are not limited to:

- Requiring a meeting with the student to warn the student and provide guidance for future appropriate academic behaviour (students who refuse/neglect to meet with the instructor may be subject to more severe consequences)
- deducting a portion of the assignment grade
- assigning a 0% to the assignment
- failing the student on the course

Regardless of the chosen response, instructors have the right to report the behaviour to the Graduate Program Coordinator, School's Director, and/or the Dean of College of Graduate Studies.

Disciplinary actions taken by the School of Social Work in response to a student's academic misconduct are guided by the [UBC Campus-Wide Policies and Regulations](#). These may include, but not limited to,

- a letter of reprimand;
- a failing grade or mark of zero on the assignment or in the course in which the academic misconduct occurred;
- suspension, cancellation, or forfeiture of any scholarships, bursaries, or prizes;
- suspension from the University for a specified period of time;
- expulsion from the University;
- denial of admission or readmission to the University for a specified or indefinite period of time;
- a notation of academic discipline on the student's record in the Student Information System, which will appear on the student's Transcript of Academic Record;
- revocation of a degree or other academic credentials dishonestly or improperly obtained.

#### *Professional Misconduct*

Any behaviour of an MSW student that is in contradiction with the [Professional Standards for Students in the School of Social Work](#) listed in this Handbook is considered professional misconduct.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR MSW STUDENTS**

This section provides information and instructions to guide students through the various tasks/activities they may complete while in the program. Additional resources that are not specific to the MSW program but have been found helpful for all students at UBCO can be found in [Appendix C](#).

### **MSW Program Homepage on Canvas**

[Canvas](#) is UBC's mobile-friendly online learning platform. The MSW Program Homepage on Canvas is designed to be a one-stop shop for information about the program. The Program uses this Canvas page to communicate information to students, post important dates and deadlines, and share available resources. Students are required to subscribe to the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas by the start of their program. Announcements are made regularly to inform students of updates, and provide instructions to guide students in completing various tasks. The Calendar feature of Canvas is used to advertise any events/meetings hosted by the School of Social Work. Other relevant events not hosted by the School are regularly added to the Job Board and Events tab.

It is the students' responsibility to regularly check the [MSW Program Homepage](#) on Canvas and remain informed of required deadlines. It is recommended that students turn on the email notification option on Canvas to ensure they are notified of announcements made by the Program. More information about using Canvas, including downloading the Canvas App, can be found in [Appendix C](#).

### **Workday Resources**

Students must ensure their personal contact information (emails, addresses, etc.) is kept up to date in Workday for the duration of their program. Tutorials on using Workday can be found at <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/workday/>.

### **Student Advising: Academic and Professional**

The Graduate Program Coordinator is considered the academic student advisor for all MSW students. Questions regarding a student's program (e.g., leave of absence requests, consideration of thesis-based option, requests for exceptions to course schedules, need for programmatic accommodations) should be directed to the Graduate Program Coordinator. For professional advising, such as questions about future social work careers and other professional choices, students may reach out to any faculty member of the School for advice and guidance.

### **School Breaks**

The School of Social Work follows the academic year as posted on the [UBCO academic calendar](#) by having midterm breaks in each Winter Term, and a Winter break in December. However, practicum schedules often do not follow the typical UBC term dates. Further information around practicum schedules in relation to university breaks is provided in the Field Education handbook.

### **Student Employment**

The School recommends that students carefully consider their hours of employment while registered in the MSW program. This is to ensure students are available to fully engage with various mandatory and optional learning opportunities and social activities offered by the program. Some on-campus employment opportunities are available to students. Students can find information about these opportunities on the [Student Services](#) website. Employment opportunities that are relevant to the social work profession are often posted on the Job Board of the MSW Homepage on Canvas.

### **Research Opportunities**

While the MSW program is not a research-intensive program, paid Research Assistantships (RAs) and volunteer research opportunities periodically become available. Social Work faculty members are encouraged to share any research positions, paid or unpaid, with the school by emailing [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca) so that these can be posted on the Job Board of the MSW Homepage on Canvas.

Students are also encouraged to seek out [work-study](#) positions as opportunities to get involved in campus research.

### **Student Feedback**

The School of Social Work welcomes student feedback and have a variety of ways students can share feedback:

- Completing of Student Evaluations of Teaching surveys at the end of each course (see information below).
- Attending and participating in MSW Program events throughout the year.
- Completing various Feedback Surveys as they become available via Canvas (e.g., Field Education Student Feedback Survey).
- Emailing the Graduate Program Coordinator, Field Education Coordinator, or Director of the School.

### *Teaching Evaluation*

The University recognizes the importance of high-quality teaching for the academic preparation of its students, and accordingly requires instructors to be annually evaluated by procedures that include provision for assessment by students. Students are encouraged to provide feedback to instructors by completing the teaching evaluation provided in class each term. This feedback is part of the evaluation of teaching effectiveness required by the Committees on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure and by the Director.

### **Student Involvement in the School's Governance**

Students can become involved in the governance of the School by becoming student representatives on various School Committees and Task Groups. [Appendix E](#) lists the School's Committees which include 1-2 student representatives. Students may also be asked to participate in short-term task-oriented groups such as the Student Orientation Event Task Group.

## **Awards**

Graduate student awards are administered by the [College of Graduate Studies](#) and the [Faculty of Health and Social Development](#). The vast majority of these awards are only available for students in thesis-based graduate programs. However, there are three awards that are available for MSW students only:

### *Jody Rud Memorial Award in Social Work*

An award has been endowed by the family and friends of Jody Rud for a full-time student in the Master of Social Work Program in the Faculty of Health and Social Development, at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference is given to students with an emphasis on drug and alcohol addiction or homelessness. Consideration will be given to students who demonstrate a combination of academic achievement and volunteerism, community involvement, or campus leadership. Jody will be remembered for his compassionate nature and his dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. Students self-nominate themselves for this award. The School's Awards Committee then reviews the nominations and submits the final recommendation to the College of Graduate Studies. Specific instructions and deadlines are posted on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas in April.

### *Matthew Yip Memorial Award*

An award has been endowed by family, friends, and colleagues in memory of Matthew Yip, BSc '15. The award is offered to an outstanding graduate student in the Master of Social Work program in the Faculty of Health and Social Development at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus and is based upon a combination of academic achievement and excellence in a field education practicum which focuses on mental-health issues. Preference is given to students whose studies focus on depression, anxiety, and suicide. The recipient of this award is selected on the recommendation of the School's Awards Committee, in consultation with the Field Education Office and submitted to the College of Graduate Studies in April.

### *Garry Douglas McCorrie Award in Social Work*

An award has been made available annually through an estate gift from Garry Douglas McCorrie (1943-2022) for an outstanding graduate student entering second year in the Master of Social Work at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. This award is based on academic performance in Foundational Year 1, with a particular focus on impactful work done during their Practicum. The award is made on the recommendation of the School of Social Work in consultation with the Field Education Office in October.

## **Degree Completion Letter**

Students are welcome to request a Degree Completion Letter for the purpose of satisfying a condition of employment and/or meeting the registration requirements of the BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW). Students may request a Degree Completion Letter from via email after they receive the program completion email from the College of Graduate Studies. The School can send a PDF of this letter directly to BCCSW, at the request of the student.

## Appendix A: Respectful Dialogue and Conduct Resources

The School of Social Work (SSW) is committed to cultivating a respectful, inclusive environment by upholding the University of British Columbia's Principles and Practices of respectful dialogue and conduct. As referenced in the SSW Respectful Dialogue and Conduct guide, the following references provide detailed policies, procedures, resources, and ethical guidelines.

- [SSW Values](#)
- [Respectful Dialogues Guide](#)
- [Student Guidelines for Respectful Online Conduct](#)
- [Building a Respectful Online Work Environment](#)
- [Respectful Dialogue and Debate: Principles and Practices](#)
- [UBCO Statement on Racism and Discrimination](#)
- [Policy SC7: Discrimination](#) + [UBC Statement on Respectful Environment for Students, Faculty and Staff](#)
- [BC College of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice](#)
- [CASW Code of Ethics: Core Social Work Values and Principles](#)
- [CASW Guidelines for Ethical Practice](#)
- [UBC ARIE Task Force Final Report](#)
- [CASWE Media Release: Board of Directors Endorses a Statement of Complicity and Commits to Change](#)
- [CASWE Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards for Canadian Social Work Education](#)
- [Trans, Two-Spirit and Gender Diversity Task Force](#)
- [The Disability Resource Centre \(DRC\)](#)

## Appendix B: Procedure of Switching to the Thesis-Based Option

Prior to submitting the request to transfer into the thesis option of the program, students must complete the following:

1. Read carefully the information in this Student Handbook about the requirements of the Thesis-Based option of the MSW program.
2. Review the expectations associated with conducting a Master's thesis and defending it as set by the [College of Graduate Studies](#).
3. Review the [School of Social Work Contact Us](#) webpage to become familiar with the research interests and active research projects of the School's Faculty, to identify a potential thesis supervisor.
4. Reach out to a potential faculty supervisor, to start developing the relationship and exploring the option of completing a thesis under their supervision.

Once a faculty member has agreed to act as the thesis supervisor, the student and supervisor must:

1. Become familiar with the resources about [Thesis and Dissertation](#) available on the College of Graduate Studies website, including the resources available on campus for students completing theses.
2. Carefully review the information on the [graduate student-supervisor relationship](#) on the College of Graduate website.
3. Complete the Checklist of Expectations for Graduate Student and Supervisor available on the [graduate student-supervisor relationship](#) webpage and submit along with the request form (see last step below).
4. Select the Supervisory Committee, following the College of Graduate Studies' guidelines, as specified in the section on [Supervisors, Supervisory Committees, and Graduate Program Coordinators](#).
5. Identify the specific topic of the thesis.
6. Complete and submit the "Request to Enter the Thesis Option" form (available on the MSW Program Homepage on Canvas, under Resources), along with the completed "Checklist of Expectations for Graduate Student and Supervisor" to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca).

Upon receiving the completed request, the Graduate Program Coordinator will reach out to the supervisor(s) and committee members to verify their role on the student's thesis committee. The Graduate Program Assistant will inform the student and the faculty supervisor of the Graduate Program Coordinator's decision and will keep an electronic copy of the request in the student's electronic folder.

Once a student's request has been approved, students must complete the following:

1. Registration into SOCW 599: Submit a formal email request to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca) asking to be registered into SOCW 599. The Graduate Program Assistant will register the student and will maintain the student registration in the thesis course until the thesis is fully complete. It is the student's responsibility to check their registration and ensure they maintain registration in SOCW 599 as long as there are still in the process of completing the thesis.
2. Selection of an Advanced Research Method course: In consultation with the thesis supervisor, students need to identify an advanced research method course that they will complete earlier in the process of conducting their thesis. Previously approved Advanced Research Methods at UBCO include:
  - NRSG 506 *Qualitative Research*
  - IGS 515 *Advanced Qualitative Methods*
  - PSYO 507 *Advanced Statistics and Research Methods*
  - HINT 504 *Qualitative Methods: Interdisciplinary Health*Other Advanced Research Methods may be used towards this requirement upon approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator. If the selected course is not a HINT course, the student needs to follow the instructions for [taking a non-pre-approved course](#). In their request, students can simply indicate that this Advanced Research Method Course is required for the Thesis-Based option of the program in their rationale.
3. Registration into the Advanced Research Method course: Upon approval of the Advanced Research Method course, the students may be able to independently register in the course. If they are unable to do so (e.g., if they required special permission to override the pre-requisites), they are required to complete the [Registration/Audit Form](#) and submit it to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca).
4. Choosing which MSW Core Course to take: In consultation with the thesis supervisor (and the Graduate Program Coordinator, if needed), students need to

*Optional:*

Students are encouraged to review the College of Graduate Studies website to learn more about the [Award Opportunities](#) available to thesis-based Master's students.

decide which MSW core course they wish to take (SOCW 551, SOCW 554, or SOCW 555). Students may wish to choose a course that is offered when they are NOT in their field placement to reduce their workload. The student is expected to notify the Graduate Program Coordinator once this decision is made by email to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca). The student will be able to register themselves into the course as all other students.

**Additional Thesis Resources**

Students can meet with a staff member of the [Centre for Scholarly Communication](#) to discuss degree and thesis completion timelines. Students can also use the [Thesis Calculator](#) as a resource to help plan their thesis and timeline. NOTE: The [Thesis Calculator](#) is a UBC Vancouver resource so students at UBCO need to substitute in all of the Okanagan equivalents (e.g. UBCO Library rather than UBCV Library, CSC rather than CWSC, etc.).



## Appendix C: General UBCO Student Resources

The resources in this appendix, ordered alphabetically, are relevant to students at UBCO and are not specific to the MSW program.

### Indigenous Programs and Services

Indigenous Programs & Services provides community and culturally appropriate services and support to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Students studying at UBCO. There is a designated Indigenous Centre located in the University Centre (UNC) Room 210. Indigenous Student Advisors provide support from application through graduation. They assist Indigenous students to navigate their academic journey with a holistic approach, including academic, cultural, social and physical considerations. To connect with the Indigenous Programs and Services, please visit their [website](#).

### Canvas

[Canvas](#) is UBC's new mobile-friendly online learning platform. Students log on to Canvas using their CWL user name and password. In Canvas, instructors can share materials (text or multimedia), enable student collaboration and discussion, manage assignments and quizzes, and assign grades. All MSW instructors use Canvas to teach their course(s). Students must be registered in a course to gain access to its shell on Canvas. Instructors often work on their Canvas course shell much before the course starts and publish it to students closer to the start of the course. Students are encouraged to download the Canvas App to their smart phones for easy access to information.

### Conferral, Convocation, and Final Transcripts

According to the [College of Graduate Studies](#) at UBCO, there are four Graduate Conferral dates every year, in September, November, February and May. MSW students that have met their program requirements will be recommended for conferral of their degree in the next occurring conferral date (e.g., completing all program requirements by the end of June means students will be eligible to confer their degree in September).

Students must make a formal application for degree conferral via [Workday](#). Students may apply for degree conferral within their last term in the program, even before completing all program requirements. However, students' application for graduation will not be approved unless all degree requirements are completed by the posted deadlines on the [College of Graduate Studies](#) website. As part of the application process, students are asked whether they will be attending the graduation ceremony (i.e., Convocation) in which they are eligible to participate.

Students must apply for graduation regardless of whether they plan to participate in the Convocation Ceremony.

#### *Convocation Ceremony*

UBCO holds one Convocation Ceremony every year in June. Students must complete all program requirements by the end of April and apply for graduation to



be eligible to participate in the June Convocation Ceremony of the same academic year. Students who complete their program requirements after April 30 are invited to participate in the Convocation Ceremony in June of next year. The UBCO Ceremonies Office will email students who have applied for graduation with details about the June ceremony. Students may wish to view the [Graduation Checklist](#) to ensure they are fully prepared for the Convocation event in June.

#### *Final Official Transcript*

Students who need an official transcript for the purpose of professional registration and/or employment can order one through Workday. It is recommended that students submit their order after their degree conferral date to ensure the official transcripts indicates the degree has been awarded. Students who have any type of hold on their student accounts (e.g., academic, financial, equipment, parking, bookstore, etc.) will not be able to order a transcript.

### **Disability Resource Centre**

The Disability Resource Centre offers programs and services to foster an accessible and welcoming campus, providing access to accommodations for students to overcome disability-related challenges that impede academic success. If you have a disability, an injury or chronic illness, and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives and/or Field Education requirements, please visit the [DRC website](#) to learn more about the process of registration. The DRC is located in University Centre (UNC) Room 215.

### **Email Service**

The [Student and Alumni Email Service](#) is an optional combination of email aliasing, forwarding, and UBC hosted mailbox. All active and registered students are eligible to sign up for a <CWLusername>@student.ubc.ca email account that can be used to send and receive mail.

This account also grants students access to a range of UBC services, including Microsoft Teams and OneDrive.

### **Equity and Inclusion Office**

Through leadership, vision and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office continues to further UBC's commitment to excellence, diversity, and inclusion. The Equity & Inclusion Office works with campus partners to ensure adherence with Employment Equity (Policy #2), Discrimination & Harassment (Policy #3), and the UBC Statement on the Respectful Environment. To learn more about their services and events, please visit the [Equity & Inclusion Office website](#). The Equity & Inclusion Office is located in the University Center (UNC) Room 325H. The Equity & Inclusion Office also publishes an e-newsletter that includes equity, diversity, and inclusion activities at UBC. They send occasional but timely emails, which highlight relevant news, events, and involvement opportunities at UBC, and beyond to subscribed members of the UBCO community. MSW students are welcome to [sign-up](#) to their newsletter and learn about these initiatives.

## Financial Support

Students requiring financial support should visit the [Student Services](#) website to learn about the financial resources available to them, including financial advising, student loans and grants, and emergency financial aid.

### *Students in Financial Difficulty*

Students who find themselves in an emergency situation or faced with an unexpected expense, are encouraged to contact UBC Student Services. They can make an appointment with an advisor who will review the financial situation and explore funding options.

### *UBC Bursary Program*

The UBC Bursary Program aims to cover the gap between students' Canadian government student loans and cost of living. Students can find useful information about the [UBC Bursary Program](#), and the application deadlines, on the Student Services website.

## Health & Wellness Center

At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, visit the [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information or call (250) 807-9270 to book an appointment. They are located in the University Center (UNC) Room 337.

## Library

Students are encouraged to utilize the library resources available to them in order to advance their literacy and academic skills. These resources include:

- **Subject Librarian:** Students wishing to improve upon their literature search skills can arrange to meet with a [subject librarian](#) to determine what skills need improving upon and how to address them.
- **Subject guide:** The [UBC Social Work subject guide](#) lists core resources for Social Work.
- **Centre for Scholarly Communication:** The [UBC Okanagan Library's Centre for Scholarly Communication \(CSC\)](#) supports graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, staff and faculty in disseminating their research. The CSC provides one-on-one consultations and workshops, including writing support for theses, dissertations, journal articles and grant proposals.

## Pride Resource Center

The [UBCO Pride Resource Centre](#) (PRC) is managed by the UBC Student Union Okanagan. It was founded in 2003 and is a space on campus where LGBT and Ally students can come and talk about issues and challenges they face on and off campus. Above all, the PRC strives to provide a space on campus where all students

can feel welcome and comfortable regardless of gender or sexual orientation. The PRC works to create a social atmosphere within the university to foster discussion and awareness on campus of the diversity of sexualities and genders. The PRC can be contacted at [prc@suu.ca](mailto:prc@suu.ca).

### **Spaces for Graduate Students on Campus**

UBCO has two spaces on campus reserved for use by current registered graduate students.

- (1) The [Graduate Collegium](#), located on the fourth floor in Arts and Science building (ASC 460)
- (2) The Graduate Student Commons, located on the third floor of the UBCO Commons Building (COM 310)

Students can use these spaces to study, hang out, eat lunch, engage in intellectual discussion(s) and collaborate with other graduate students, and/or for planned events. To request access to these spaces, please complete the [Graduate Space Access Request Form](#). Once the requests are processed (may take up to two weeks), students receive SALTO cards which are used to access these rooms. Students who request access to the Graduate spaces but already have SALTO cards will not receive an additional card; rather, their existing card will be updated to reflect the additional access they receive. Questions about accessing or booking these spaces can be sent to [gradcommons.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:gradcommons.ok@ubc.ca).

### **Spiritual Multi-Faith space**

The Spiritual/Multi-Faith Space was created to welcome the diverse spiritual and multi-faith practices of the UBC Okanagan campus community. The absence of any particular religious iconography or symbols sets a comfortable, neutral tone so students, faculty, and staff can express their spirituality and faith in a relaxed and private setting. The Spiritual/Multi-Faith Space is located in the University Centre (UNC), Room 316. For more information about this Space, visit their [webpage](#).

### **Tuition**

UBC policy requires that every graduate student maintain continuous registration (year-round) and be responsible for the tuition and fees association with their degree. The Master of Social Work degree tuition is determined annually and published in the Academic Calendar in the [Specialized Master's Degree Program](#) section. At the graduate level, UBC Okanagan tuition is by installment, not per credit hour enrolled. Graduate students pay three tuition installments per year, which coincide with the beginning of the three academic terms (September, January, and May). In addition, all full-time graduate students are required to pay a minimum of three full-time tuition installments and student fees, regardless of the length of their program.

All MSW students continue to pay full-time tuition installments and student fees until they complete all program requirements. Therefore, Foundational Track students pay six installments until program completion, and Advanced Track students pay three installments until they complete all program requirements.

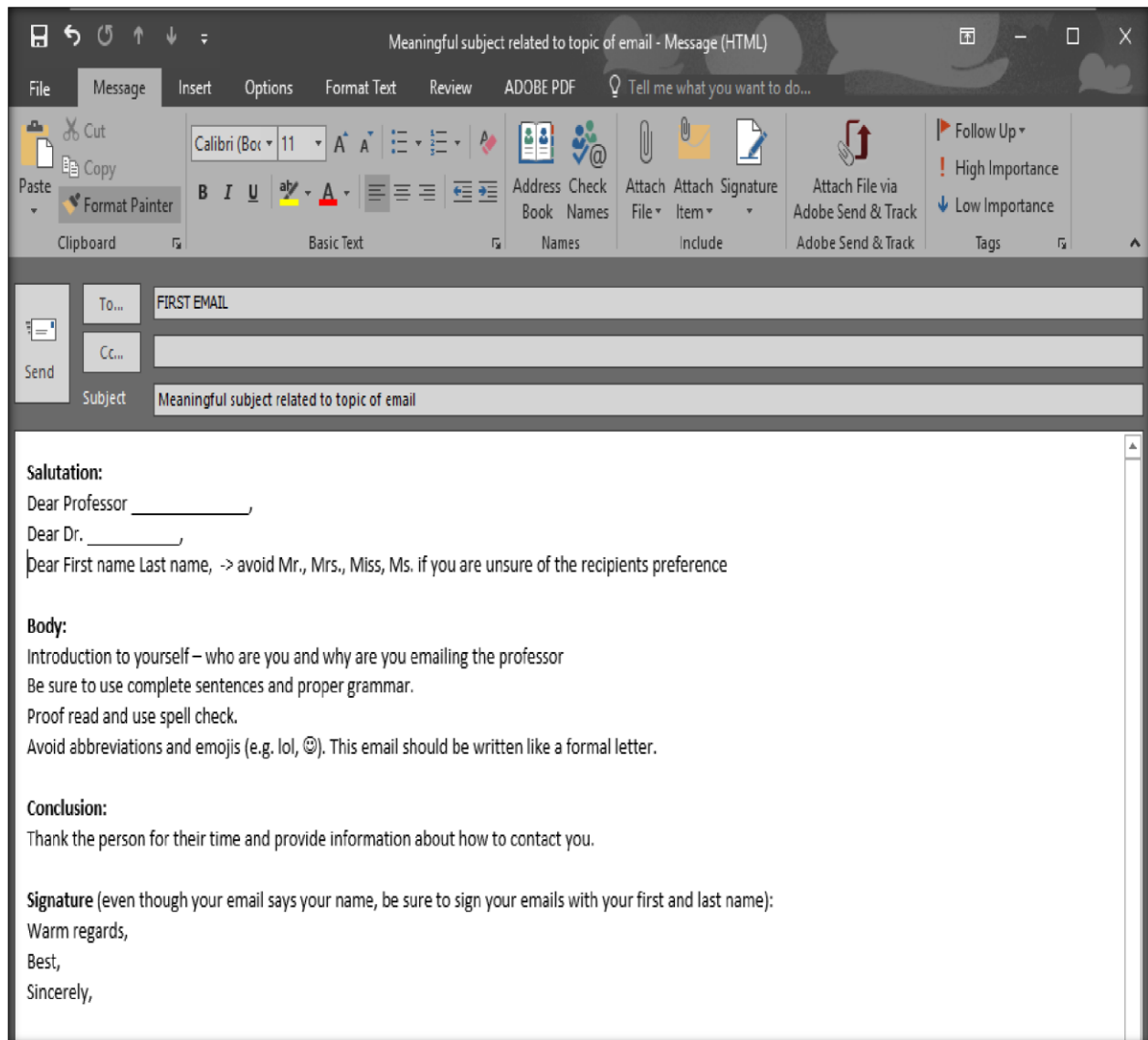
Failure to pay tuition and fees will result in a financial hold inhibiting registration for courses and an interest penalty. To avoid the potential risks of being restricted from course registration or having other university financial holds, students must ensure there is no outstanding balance on their student financial account. Students who have individual inquiries about their financial accounts may email their inquiries to [ask.socialwork@ubc.ca](mailto:ask.socialwork@ubc.ca).

## **Appendix D: MSW Professional Communication Tips**

1. Grad school is a great time to start honing your professional skills and build your network.
  - a. Practice formality when addressing your professors – especially in emails.
    - i. As a practicing social worker, you will interface with MANY different professionals who will expect varying degrees of formality. Err on the side of being formal, knowing it is often easier to move from formal to informal than it is to start informal and move to formal.
    - ii. Ensure your email address is professional looking and sounding, that it does not have any nicknames, inappropriate meaning or saying.
    - iii. See the example of how to write a professional email below.
  - b. Engage in professional conversations with EVERYONE, included by not limited to your professors, agency staff and clients, and your peers.
    - i. Remember you represent UBC, the School of Social Work, and the profession of social work.
    - ii. Before you ask a question or make a comment, THINK!  
T: Is it thoughtful?  
H: Is it helpful?  
I: Is it inspiring?  
N: Is it necessary?  
K: Is it kind?
  - c. Social media can be a great tool to build your professional network when used thoughtfully.
    - i. Pause before posting.
    - ii. Think before friending/following.
    - iii. Privacy settings are key.
    - iv. Privacy extends to social media – posts should not include clients or agency information.
    - v. Once it's in social media, anyone can access it.

### **Writing an email to your professor:**

1. Your first email to a professor should be written like a formal letter.
2. Avoid addressing your professor by their first name until they have given you permission to do so.
3. When in doubt, err on the side of formality.
4. Make sure you clearly explain the reason why you're emailing them, using complete sentences and proper grammar/punctuation.



2. Self-directed learning and educational autonomy are key skills you should be practicing. Knowing how to answer your own questions will be important when you are working. How can you access information on your own?
  - a. Before you email your professor a question, ask yourself:
    - i. Is it in the syllabus? On Canvas? In the Handbooks? In a handout?
    - ii. Does a classmate know the answer?
    - iii. Can you Google it? Find it on a website?
  - b. Think to yourself – what steps have I taken to use my existing understanding and knowledge to answer my question?
  - c. Still don't know? Then email or talk to your professor.
  - d. Finally, send your email during business hours.

## **Appendix E: School of Social Work Service Committee List**

- **Curriculum Committee (includes 2 student positions)** – Ideally involves one first-year foundational student and one second-year foundational or advanced track student. Students help with aspects such as getting student feedback of desired electives/spring & summer courses. They represent the student body in evaluating curriculum. The committee meets monthly between September and May.
- **Field Education Committee (includes 2 student positions)** - Ideally involves one first-year foundational student and one second-year foundational or advanced track student. The Committee discusses policies and procedures related to field education. Students have opportunities for evaluation of the field education component of the program and further developing the field education network. The Committee meets as needed.
- **Alumni Engagement Committee (includes 1 student position)** – This committee assists in further developing the relationship between the school and our alumni, including organizing events, utilizing Facebook to build connections, and engaging in data collections around our alumni. The Committee meets as needed.
- **Student Recruitment Committee (includes 2 student positions)** - Ideally involves one first-year foundational student and one second-year foundational or advanced track student. Students participate in various activities aim to attract students to the MSW program, which may include participation in Information Sessions and mentoring new students before they start the program. The committee meets monthly between September and June.
- **SSW EDI Committee (includes 1 student position)** – To support and advance UBC's mission to equity and human rights by promoting justice, eliminating discrimination and engaging the community in dialogue and action. This committee ideally involves one student who is chosen at random through student self-nominations. Meetings take place once per month, for one (1) hour duration.