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Berkeley social work masters

Berkeley Social Welfare is dedicated to empowering students for leadership roles within the realm of social welfare and professional social work. Since 1944, our esteemed institution has cultivated over 11,000 accomplished social work professionals and scholars, each equipped to excel in a variety of research, teaching, advanced practice, and management positions. We offer two graduate degrees: the Master of Social Welfare (MSW) for those seeking a professional track, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare (PhD) for academic pursuits. Our MSW program is thoroughly accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), providing students with specialized skills to tackle specific intervention levels. We emphasize a deep understanding of social science knowledge, welfare policies, and service organizations, preparing our graduates to excel in diverse leadership roles within the profession. Our pedagogical approach fosters critical inquiry and encourages the application of tested theories and methods. In addition to the traditional MSW program, we offer flexible options tailored to meet the needs of working professionals: the FlexMSW Advanced Standing Program for those with a CSWE-accredited baccalaureate degree in social work; and the FlexMSW Extended Program for part-time students requiring more flexibility. Notably, Berkeley Social Welfare will not be accepting applications for Fall 2025 admission to either FlexMSW track. Furthermore, we offer various certificate programs, including the School Social Work Credential Program, a Social Work with Latinos Certificate, and a Graduate Certificate in Aging. We also provide concurrent master's degrees with the School of Public Health (MSW/MPH) and the Goldman School of Public Policy (MSW/MPP). Lastly, our PhD program in Social Welfare is dedicated to developing scholars who can challenge conventional wisdom and make meaningful contributions to the field of social welfare. Berkeley's social welfare department focuses on academic excellence through research, teaching, policy creation, and management, enabling students to become experts in their area of interest. Students are expected to demonstrate scholarly competence by publishing a dissertation after completing their PhD studies. However, the university will not be accepting applications for Fall 2025 admission to its Social Welfare PhD Program. The department educates students for leadership roles in social welfare and social work professions, having prepared over 11,000 professionals and scholars since 1944. Berkeley offers two graduate degrees: a Master of Social Welfare (MSW) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare (PhD). The MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and prepares students for specialized practice roles through foundation, advanced, and practicum curricula. It also emphasizes critical inquiry and tested knowledge application in developing intervention methods. Students are trained for professional responsibility and social justice advancement in the field of social welfare and its institutional systems. The full-time MSW Program is a two-year degree that follows a prescribed 60-unit program, while the FlexMSW Advanced Standing Program is available to working professionals with a CSWE-accredited baccalaureate degree in social work. The FlexMSW Extended Program allows part-time enrollment over three years to complete the same 60-unit program as traditional full-time MSW students. Notably, Berkeley will not be accepting applications for Fall 2025 admission to either FlexMSW Program track or the Social Welfare PhD Program. The department also offers certificate programs such as the School Social Work Credential Program, a Social Work with Latinos Certificate, and a Graduate Certificate in Aging. To be eligible for admission to Berkeley Social Welfare's master's degree programs, applicants must meet several requirements. These include holding a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and maintaining a satisfactory scholastic average, typically a minimum grade-point average of B or better (3.0 on a 4-point scale). Additionally, applicants must have sufficient undergraduate preparation for graduate study in social welfare, which includes coursework in the social and behavioral sciences and statistics. A college-level introductory course in statistics is also required prior to matriculation. Applicants for the MSW program specifically need strong academic preparation in liberal arts and sciences, including coursework in social and behavioral sciences. Moreover, they must have gained experience related to social welfare or human services equivalent to one full year of paid or voluntary work by the application deadline. International applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a satisfactory TOEFL score or other evidence of English language proficiency. For concurrent master's degree programs, such as MSW/MPH and MSW/MPP, and the Combined MSW/PhD Program, applicants must meet eligibility requirements for both programs, including any examination requirements. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for admission to Berkeley Social Welfare's PhD program in social welfare. Berkeley Social Welfare only accepts applications for the fall semester of each academic year, with the online application becoming available in early September. A separate application to the School of Social Welfare is not necessary, as all applicants apply through UC Berkeley's online Graduate and Professional Application for Admission. For MSW-only and combined MSW/PhD programs at Berkeley Social Welfare, a master's degree is not required for admission. However, visiting their website will provide complete details on eligibility requirements. It's worth noting that Berkeley Social Welfare will not be accepting applications for Fall 2025 to the Combined MSW/PhD Program or FlexMSW Programs. For PhD in Social Welfare Program, applicants are preferred who hold a master's degree in social work or have similar preparation in a related field and demonstrate intellectual qualifications. To be considered for admission, applicants must satisfy Berkeley's minimum graduate study requirements, possess a master's degree in social work or equivalent, and show evidence of being intellectually qualified for the program. International applicants also need to meet English language proficiency standards. It is crucial to note that there will be no Fall 2025 admissions to the Social Welfare PhD Program at Berkeley Social Welfare. For those interested in graduate studies, UC Berkeley offers more than 120 programs across various disciplines, with a comprehensive list available on the Graduate Division website. Applying involves submitting an online application along with program-specific materials. Minimum graduate admission requirements include having a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, maintaining a satisfactory scholastic average (usually a GPA of 3.0 or higher), and completing enough undergraduate coursework to pursue graduate studies in their chosen field. Detailed requirements can be found on the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page. It is also recommended that applicants check with specific programs for additional requirements. For those seeking to apply, visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page. Lastly, PhD students must complete a course of study in social welfare and related departments to earn their Doctor of Philosophy degree, which includes satisfying all specified requirements by the school. To pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, students must demonstrate proficiency in several key areas. This involves passing qualifying examinations that showcase their knowledge in social welfare policy, administration, history, philosophy, and research methods. Additionally, students must pass an oral examination before a committee appointed by the Graduate Council. Admission to candidacy for the PhD degree requires meeting specific procedures set forth by the Academic Senate. Students must also complete a dissertation that addresses a significant problem within the field of social welfare. The dissertation should demonstrate the student's ability to conduct independent research. A minimum of two years of graduate study in residence at UC Berkeley is required, with no total unit requirement for the PhD degree. However, students must enroll full-time and take at least 12 units per semester until they pass the qualifying exam. The course of study includes seminars on research methods, statistics, theory, and other related courses. Students also participate in individual tutorials with faculty members. Prior to taking the Qualifying Exam, students must complete specific required courses in statistics and professional endeavors, marking the completion of required coursework and the advancement towards receiving the doctoral degree. The Berkeley Master's in Social Work (MSW) program requires two years of full-time study, consisting of a minimum of 60 units. To be eligible for degree conferral, students must complete specific requirements, including 20 units of Generalist Practice coursework, 10 units of professionally relevant elective coursework, and 24 units of practicum education. Generalist Practice is a foundational component of the MSW program, comprising eight required courses that cover key concepts and theories in social work. Students must successfully complete these courses before progressing to the Advanced curriculum, which includes specialized courses and practicum placements. MSW students can fulfill the 2-unit community & organizational intervention and/or policy course requirement by taking one of the following courses: Policy Courses MSW students must complete two specific courses: Social Research Methods and Master's Capstone Requirement All MSW students must finish SOC WEL 282B to satisfy the Berkeley master's capstone requirement. Practicum Education All MSW students need to complete SOC WEL 402 four times while in practicum placement sites. MSW students also earn a total of 24 units in practicum education, including agency-based experience and integrative seminar. Concurrent Degree Programs Berkeley Social Welfare offers two Concurrent Degree programs: one with the School of Public Health leading to both MSW and MPH degrees; and another with the Goldman School of Public Policy resulting in both MSW and MPP degrees. These combined degree programs require 90 or 88 units of coursework, respectively, over three years, including foundation curriculum, advanced courses, and a joint Master's capstone. Berkeley Offers Advanced Social Welfare Programs for Graduate Students UC Berkeley Graduate Certificate in Aging The UC Berkeley Graduate Certificate in Aging is designed to provide students with advanced knowledge of social welfare and public policy, resulting in a joint Master's capstone that addresses both fields. Prospective applicants can reach out to either school for more information about this program. Given article text here In the Latino social work field, students pursue a certificate that demands at least six units, including one mandatory course: SOC WEL 250J Social Work with Latino Populations. Students must also choose two elective courses from an approved list, such as SOC WEL 274 Immigrants and Refugees in the U.S or SOC WEL 255 Community Organizing. To add more courses, students can submit their syllabus to GSAO at swmswadvvisor@berkeley.edu for approval. In addition, students need to complete a minimum of 120 hours of direct practice with clients who predominantly speak Spanish. For more information about electives and practicum experience requirements, visit the Berkeley Social Welfare Social Work with Latinos Certificate website. Courses from other departments are also accepted as electives for MSW degree: AFRICAM 107Race and Public Policy, ANTHRO 115Introduction to Medical Anthropology, ANTHRO 149Psychological Anthropology, and ASAMST 141Law in the Asian American Community. Coursework in Planning and Needs Assessment includes PB HLTH 206B: Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs, PB HLTH 210: Foundations of Maternal and Child Health Policy, Practice and Science, and others. Family planning, population change, and health are explored in PB HLTH 213A, while evaluation of health and social programs is covered in PB HLTH 218B. Biomedical innovation policy is a focus of PB HLTH 222A, and strategic management in the health sector is discussed in PB HLTH 223C. Global health economics is examined in PB HLTH 226D, and healthy cities are explored in PB HLTH C233. Coursework also includes social epidemiology (PB HLTH 255A), public health and spirituality (PUB POL C164), and the impact of government policies on poor children and families (PUB POL 280). Microeconomic organization and policy analysis is covered in PUB POL 251, while public leadership and management is discussed in PUB POL 260. Sociology courses include the sociology of the family (SOCIO 111), politics and social change (SOCIO 140), social psychology (SOCIO 150), and advanced studies in substantive sociological fields such as poverty and gender (SOCIO 280A and SOCIO 280L). Note that Berkeley Social Welfare will not be accepting applications for Fall 2025 admission to the FlexMSW Program. The FlexMSW Advanced Standing Program is a one-year MSW degree track option for eligible working professionals with accredited professional social work degrees. To be eligible, prospective students must hold an accredited BASW or BSW and meet all other admissions requirements. The FlexMSW Advanced Standing program requires 27 units, including 14 units in Practicum Education, and can be completed in one calendar year over three consecutive semesters. The FlexMSW Extended Program also has eligibility requirements similar to the full-time Berkeley MSW program. Once admitted, students are not permitted to switch degree tracks. Given article text here Master of Social Welfare (MSW) Degree Track The FlexMSW Extended degree track is designed to be completed in eight semesters over three calendar years. Students can expect to spend two summer terms as part of the program. Upon successful completion, students will receive their MSW degree, typically awarded in August. The Berkeley Social Welfare FlexMSW Extended Program offers a unique opportunity for students to engage with renowned instructors and researchers in public child welfare. Participants in the Child Welfare Scholars program will receive a training stipend for up to two years in exchange for a post-graduation work commitment of at least two years in a California county public child welfare service agency. Throughout the program, students will focus on developing skills related to working with children and families who have experienced abuse and neglect. They will also explore specialized curriculum that includes field placements in either a county child welfare unit or a closely related agency. Clinical instructors with significant experience in public child welfare will provide guidance throughout the program. The course structure emphasizes hands-on practice, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. Social Welfare/Course Description: The Infant Development and Graduation Grading letter grades offered in the following terms: Spring 2024, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session, and Spring 2023. The course focuses on children's bio-psycho-social development, including cognitive growth, self-regulation, internal representation, affect, cognition, relatedness, and separation. This course is designed to equip students with practical knowledge and skills in multi-level practice. The curriculum focuses on developing an understanding of relational concepts and theories that underpin effective engagement, assessment, and intervention planning. Emphasis will be placed on learning to work with existing knowledge while acknowledging its limitations and discussing how value can be extracted from information not created for marginalized communities. The course aims to strike a balance between theoretical foundations, practical skills, and self-reflection. Students will have the opportunity to explore various interventions that cater to client needs, organizational contexts, and evidence-based practices. Key objectives include developing rapport-building skills during clinical interviews, identifying factors affecting the presenting issue, and incorporating human diversity, structural, and environmental considerations into intervention planning. Throughout the course, students will engage with tools for assessing performance, communicate program needs effectively to stakeholders, and analyze facilitators and barriers of organizational change. The curriculum also covers how organizations function in human services and provides a comprehensive overview of group, organizational, and community behavior. Assessment & Intervention Planning w/Groups Organizations Communities: Read More [+] Prerequisites for Social Welfare courses include successful completion of specific classes or instructor consent. Students need to understand community needs and capacity assessment in program planning, design, and development, and the role of social workers in facilitating interpersonal processes in groups. Theory and practice regarding group formation, sustenance, and termination will be explored, along with intervention skills for family work using theoretical frameworks and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) principles such as maintaining a positive stance and focusing on strengths. Students will learn how to implement SFBT in clinical practice and communicate effectively with monolingual Spanish-speaking clients through essential Spanish language training. Culturally sensitive services will be provided to U.S. Latino populations using social science theories and frameworks, enhancing cultural sensitivity and competence among students. Given article text here **Social Work Practice with Latino Populations** This course teaches culturally competent practice skills through a comprehensive Latino practice model, addressing cultural diversity from a social justice perspective. Topics include undocumented Latinos and immigration policy issues. **Human Sexuality** This course explores human sexuality from various perspectives, including the human sexual response cycle, childhood and adolescent sexuality development, and sexual orientation and gender identity development. Interactive lectures, small group discussions, video presentations, and guest speakers will be used to facilitate learning. **Death and Dying** This course examines death and dying from different viewpoints, emphasizing understanding of the experiences of those dying and their loved ones. Implications for social work interventions are discussed using a variety of materials such as autobiography, scholarly writings, case examples, films, poetry, and guest lectures. **Public Child Welfare Services** This course prepares students for careers in public child welfare by covering legal documentation requirements, practice issues within the court setting, and presentation skills. The course aims to equip social work students with various theories and methodologies for diagnosing and treating substance abuse disorders. It covers the disease model, interventions, prevention, and epidemiology, emphasizing the unique role of social workers in preventing/intervening substance abuse problems. Additionally, it will explore strategies for engaging, assessing, and intervening effectively with individuals, families, and children impacted by intimate partner violence. The seminar focuses on the theory and practice of social development, analyzing widely used strategies in community settings worldwide. It is designed primarily for MSW students interested in international social welfare, but also open to doctoral and undergraduate students. Furthermore, the course aims to increase students' understanding and competencies in cognitive-behavior methods through close integration with research and guided experience. By exploring multiple intervention options and focusing on student and family strengths, this course promotes an ecosystemic and resilience perspective. To achieve maximum success, students will have the chance to develop a fundamental understanding of essential behavior principles. Cognitive Behavioral Methods: This graduate-level course is required for students in the Management and Planning concentration. The primary goal of this course is to equip learners with the expertise necessary for effective program design, including group management, community engagement, and resource collaboration. The course will focus on developing community-wide interventions by analyzing social issues, identifying community capacities and needs, designing effectiveness-driven programs, and conducting assessments. Program Development: This graduate-level course focuses on strategic management and leadership skills, introducing students to the unique role of managers in public and nonprofit human service organizations. The seminar-style course emphasizes managerial processes, with a focus on analytical and interpersonal aspects of program implementation. The three domains of program management - leadership roles, analytic roles, and interactional roles - form the foundation of this course. Program Implementation: This graduate-level course aims to help students' skills in policy practice, enabling them to act as more effective change agents within their organizational, systems, and policy environments. Policy Practice in Social Work: This course focuses on refining students' abilities to propose or enact policy changes in legislative, regulatory, agency, and community settings to promote social and economic justice. The objectives of this course include developing evidence-based strategies for decision-making in advocacy and policymaking, as well as enhancing critical analysis skills in evaluating proposed policies for their potential impact on vulnerable populations. **Social Welfare Courses** **Policy Practice in Social Work***: Explores the theory and practice of community organization to benefit vulnerable populations. Students will learn tools and techniques for effective planning and budgeting, as well as how to design information systems to control, evaluate, and revise plans. **Financial Management***: Focuses on financial management skills needed by senior and middle managers in large and small social service organizations. The course examines accounting principles and systems from a management perspective, with an emphasis on designing systems to meet unique organizational needs. **Forensic Social Work***: Examines the practice of forensic social work in correctional settings, focusing on issues related to people whose social positions and/or mental health struggles render them disproportionately affected by incarceration. The course uses a person-in-environment perspective to explore the phenomenology of corrections. ### Course Details **Social Welfare/Graduate Level***: Courses are designed for students with a background in social welfare or graduate-level coursework. **Letter Grade Grading***: All courses use a letter grade grading system. **Albano Instructor***: Albano is the instructor for select courses, including Policy Practice in Social Work and Forensic Social Work. ### Course Offerings **Policy Practice in Social Work***: Spring 2025, Spring 2024 **Financial Management***: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020 **Forensic Social Work***: Spring 2025, Spring 2024 Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week Additional DetailsSubject/Course Level: Social Welfare/GraduateGrading: Letter grade. Instructor: STERZING Critical Disability: Read Less [-] Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017 Students in this practice course will be introduced to the foundation of integrated behavioral health practice, including population-based screening instruments and functional assessment for use in primary care. Students will become familiar with primary care medical culture and psychopharmacological interventions for depression and anxiety. A main emphasis of this class is skill acquisition in evidence-based behavioral interventions for a variety of conditions commonly seen in IBH settings. Climate & Culture Imperatives: Exploring Systemic Social and Emotional Learning ##### Foundation Course This course delves into the core components and goals of systemic social and emotional learning (SEL), highlighting its significance in fostering positive relationships, well-being, and success. We'll examine why SEL is crucial for promoting these outcomes in various settings. With this course, students will gain the skills to work effectively with refugees and immigrants facing difficulties, examining how policy impacts newcomers and their families in the U.S. They will develop critical research literacy skills to evaluate research quality across various formats, focusing on equity issues. The course will introduce library research resources, including reference works, bibliographic aids, and computer databases, as well as the purpose and politics of citations and AI's role in summarizing knowledge. Students will learn how to conduct a literature review, critically evaluate research applications, and understand ethics for social work research practice. This course will cover program evaluation techniques and challenges starting from Spring 2025, revisiting the topics in 2024 and 2023. Students will gain essential skills to assess evaluation projects, apply technical skills in practice, and create evaluation plans for various programs. They'll combine their knowledge of research methods with MSW training to develop a program evaluation plan, focusing on participatory, collaborative, and equitable approaches, as well as qualitative methods. Course Objectives: - Distinguish between different types of evaluations (needs assessment, process evaluation, outcome evaluation). - Identify key steps in planning an evaluation for social welfare programs. - Master basic concepts of program evaluation. - Understand how to evaluate survey quality and other instruments assessing processes and outcomes. - Write a finalized plan to conduct a process or outcome evaluation with instructor and peer feedback. Course Details: - Prerequisites: Social Welfare 280 and Social Welfare 282A - Format: 2 hours of seminar per week (15 weeks) or alternative schedules for summer sessions Social Work Scholars and Educators Seminar Prepares Doctoral Colleagues for Academic Positions A seminar is designed to facilitate an understanding of research universities and social work education in these institutions. The course focuses on preparing doctoral colleagues for academic positions within research universities, discussing roles and expectations related to scholarship, teaching, and service. The seminar explores the evolution of professional social work education, with a particular emphasis on research universities, and addresses current topics, issues, and concerns in the field. It deals with macro-theories, including conceptual representations of welfare systems, dynamics, functions, and normative perspectives that inform policy making. Several theoretical perspectives are reviewed, such as institutionalism, welfare pluralism, neo-liberalism, Marxism, traditionalism, regulationism, critical theory, multiculturalism, feminism, ecologism, and developmentalism. This course is designed for doctoral students but is open to other qualified graduate students with instructor permission. This course allows graduate students in social welfare to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member on topics they choose. Students can select from various sections including writing tools, proposals for grants and fellowships, dissertations, and publishable articles or dissertations. The seminar also covers key aspects such as introduction, method section, and presentation strategies. Repeat enrollment is permitted without restriction. Separate course offerings include individual study, where students engage in independent research with a faculty member's guidance, and group studies that focus on specific social welfare topics. Additionally, the course involves participating in research colloquia, which exposes students to diverse scholarly approaches, models for professional development, and public presentation techniques. By engaging in these activities, students can refine their skills in presenting scholarly work, critiquing others' work, and receiving feedback. For social work academics, it is essential to be familiar with various forms of scholarship, participate in research forums, identify areas for growth, and develop effective strategies for showcasing scholarly work. This course aims to equip graduate students with these critical skills, making them better prepared for their academic pursuits. Course rules include allowing students to repeat classes without restrictions for credit. The format may vary depending on whether it's fall or spring semester, with either a 15-week duration plus 1-6 hours of independent study per week or a 10-week summer session with 2-15 hours of independent study weekly. In terms of grading, the course is offered as satisfactory or unsatisfactory only. This graduate-level social welfare course covers various aspects of teaching and research in social work, including syllabus design, technology use, diversity content coverage, student assignment, and working with students who have special needs. It also explores philosophies and theories of adult education, highlighting the importance of critical reflection for both teachers and students. Students will be able to share their own learning experiences, develop a teaching portfolio, and gain essential skills in advising, mentoring, and teaching social welfare. The course structure may include lectures, seminars, or independent study based on the semester. MSW students will be exposed to various learning opportunities in a supervised setting, allowing them to practice and refine their competencies. They will work with different groups at various levels of social ecology, from individuals to communities. The students' competencies will be assessed through observation-based feedback. The practicum courses include: - Foundation Practicum I: 15 weeks, 15 hours/week fieldwork. - Foundation Practicum II: 15 weeks, 15 hours/week fieldwork; requires SOC WEL 410A prerequisite. - Advanced Practicum I: 15 weeks, 21 hours/week fieldwork; requires SOC WEL 410A and SOC WEL 410B prerequisites. The terms offered for these practicum courses are Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023 for Foundation; Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020 for Foundation; Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022 for Advanced Practicum I MSW Students Gain Expertise Through Supervised Fieldwork Advanced MSW students will participate in a supervised practicum, guided by a qualified social work practitioner, to develop their learning capacities, professional competencies, and leadership abilities. During the practicum, students will engage with complex learning opportunities across various phases of the intervention cycle and at different levels of the social ecology. This hands-on experience enables them to practice, receive feedback, refine their skills, and meet advanced competency standards. The programme allows for a range of learning experiences, including observation-based feedback, enabling students to assess their competencies.