



The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Certificate in Health Care Social Work

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work offers MSSW students the opportunity to graduate with a certificate in Health Care Social Work. This certificate program prepares both Clinical and APP students to be health care social work practitioners in diverse health and wellness settings, including integrated health and preventative healthcare programs. Course work emphasizes culturally appropriate practice, leadership, advocacy and policy and will be grounded in interprofessional education and interprofessional collaboration.

Certificate Requirements

The Health Care Social Work certificate program is composed of one anchor course, Social Work and Health Care, elective and selective coursework, 20 hours of professional development and an approved field placement. All coursework counted toward earning a certificate must be taken at the graduate level at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work or through approved out-of-department classes. The student is responsible for documenting that all requirements for the certificate have been successfully completed.

Approved Field Placement

Certificate students will participate in one official field placement that is focused on health care or health care-related social work practice. The placement is a key educational component, providing students with hands-on learning and an opportunity to apply and integrate classroom-based knowledge. This placement may occur in the student's first or final field experience.

Additional Proposed Coursework for Certificate

Students in the Clinical concentration will select three of their five choices from the suggested course options on page two. Students in the APP concentration will select three of their four choices from the suggested course options on page two. Other courses may be approved as offered, through consultation with the certificate coordinator and the Assistant Dean for Master's Programs.

Professional Development

Students will engage in a minimum of 20 hours of professional development during the course of their graduate program, either through conference attendance, training participation and/or research project participation that relates to Health Care Social Work Practice. Professional development hours must be approved by the Certificate Coordinator prior to the certificate being awarded and may not count toward fulfillment of requirements of another course or program at the School.

Process

Students will complete an application for the certificate program. The application can be found here (PDF file): <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/mssw/certificate-program-application.pdf>

Social Work Coursework *

- Anchor Course: Social Work and Health Care
- APP Selectives: Program Evaluation, Grant Development
- Clinical Selectives: Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Coexisting Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders, Neurobiology and Social Work Practice, Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Populations, Grief Counseling, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, Crisis Intervention, Attachment
- Electives: Transformative Teams in Healthcare**, Loss and Grief, Community Participatory Research in Health Disparities, Transition of Youth with Special Healthcare Needs in Policy and Practice, Global Health, Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, Making Systems Work for People with Disabilities, Mindfulness and Social Work Practice, Psychosocial Oncology Practice and Research, Spanish for Social Workers, Communication Skills in Interdisciplinary Settings, Social Work Practice with Older Adults.

Possible out-of-department or cross-listed coursework options *

- Department of Sociology: Gender, Health, and Society, Human Mortality, Gender & Health, Gender, Family & Health over the Life Course, Education, Socioeconomic Status and Health, Social Psychology of Death and Dying
- Department of Kinesiology and Health Education: Adult Development, Aging and Health
- LBJ School of Public Affairs: Economics of Healthcare Policy, Community Care in Multi-Ethnic Austin
- School of Nursing: Socio-cultural Influences on Health
- School of Law: Business/Regulatory Aspects of Health Law

** These are not exhaustive lists. Additional courses may be presented to the Certificate Coordinator for approval. Additionally, not all courses may be offered in all semesters and seats are not guaranteed.*

**** Transformative Teams in strongly recommended as an elective choice.**