

Certificate in Social Work Practice in Substance Use Disorders

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work offers MSSW students the opportunity to graduate with a certificate in Social Work Practice in Substance Use Disorders. This certificate program prepares both Clinical and APP students to be social work practitioners with people with substance use disorders and to impact the systems of care with which they interact. Course work emphasizes culturally appropriate direct practice, leadership, advocacy, policy, interprofessional collaboration.

Certificate Requirements

The Social Work Practice in Substance Use Disorders certificate program is composed of one anchor course, Substance Use and Social Work Practice, 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 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 addictions or includes substantial opportunity to engage in addiction-related social work practice. Examples of placements are programs, agencies, or organizations that emphasize substance use prevention, treatment, and/or harm reduction services, advocate on behalf of those with substance use disorders, or play a key role in substance use policy development. The placement is a key 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. Securing a final field placement is a competitive process and students must verify with the MSSW program that the placement meets the requirements of the certificate program.

Additional Proposed Coursework for Certificate

Students in the Clinical concentration would select three of their five choices from the suggested course options on page two. Students in the APP concentration would select three of their four choices from the suggested course options on page two. Other courses may be approved as offered, in 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 opportunities during the course of their graduate education through participation in university and community-sponsored lectures, seminars, conferences, interprofessional simulations, and/or research project participation that relates to Social Work Practice in Substance Use Disorders. 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 and will be notified if they are admitted to the certificate program. The application can be found here:

<https://socialwork.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Certificate-application.pdf>

Certificate Coordinator

For more information, please contact Prof. Robin Smith at robinsmith@austin.utexas.edu.

SOCIAL WORK COURSEWORK *

- Anchor Course: Substance Use and Social Work Practice
- APP Selectives: Program Evaluation, Grant Development, Advanced Policy Practice, Nonprofit Management
- Clinical Selectives: Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Coexisting Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders, Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, Neurobiology & Social Work Practice, Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Populations, Grief Counseling, Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, Crisis Intervention, Attachment
- Electives: Mindfulness and Social Work Practice, Social Work Practice with Older Adults, Loss and Grief, Transformative Teams in Healthcare

POSSIBLE OUT-OF-DEPARTMENT OR CROSS-LISTED COURSEWORK OPTIONS*

TBA

**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.*