



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

School-Based Social Work Practice Certificate

The School of Social Work offers MSSW students the opportunity to graduate with a certificate in School-Based Social Work Practice. This certificate program prepares both Clinical and APP students to be school-based social work practitioners. School-based social workers are an integral link between school, home, and community in helping students achieve academic success. They work directly with school administrations as well as with students and families, providing leadership in forming school discipline policies, mental health interventions, crisis management, and support services. As part of an interdisciplinary team to help students succeed, social workers also facilitate community involvement in the schools while advocating for student success.

Certificate Requirements

The School-Based Social Work Practice certificate program is composed of one anchor course, Social Work Practice in Schools, elective and selective coursework, 20 hours of professional development and an approved practicum placement. All coursework counted toward earning a certificate must be taken at the graduate level at the 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. Throughout enrollment in the certificate program, the program coordinator will provide ongoing support, including guidance on course selection, practicum alignment, and progress tracking to ensure students stay on track toward completion.

Approved Practicum Placement

Certificate students may complete their practicum in settings that serve or engage with their population of interest, including specialized agencies, schools, or broader organizations offering relevant services. School-Based Social Work Practice certificate students will complete one official practicum focused on school-based social work practice. Students will interact with school administrators, students, and families to varying degrees, depending on the site. 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 practicum experience. Securing a final practicum placement is a competitive process. Students must confirm with the certificate coordinator that their placement meets the requirements of the certificate program. Because of external factors, such as funding, placement is competitive and not guaranteed at any specific agency. Regardless of placement, all students gain valuable experience through specialized coursework, practicum opportunities, and faculty mentorship, preparing them for effective practice across various social work environments.

Additional Proposed Coursework

All students in the School Social Work Certificate program must take the Anchor Course: Social Work Practice in Schools, as well as three additional course options listed on page two. Other courses may be approved through consultation with the certificate coordinator.

Professional Development

Certificate students are required to 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 School-Based Social Work



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Practice. Professional development hours must be approved by the certificate coordinator prior to the certificate being awarded and may not count toward the fulfillment of requirements of another course or program at the School.

Process

Students will fill out an application for the certificate program, which can be found at <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/academics/mssw/certificate-programs/>.

Certificate Coordinator

For more information, please contact Clinical Assistant Professor Michael D. Romero: MichaelDavidRomero@utexas.edu.

From here, Michael will answer any questions you have and add you to the School Social Work Certificate Canvas page. There, you will find and submit the application and professional development hours documents.

Social Work Coursework		
Anchor course: Social Work Practice in Schools		
APP Selectives*	Clinical Selectives*	Electives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Evaluation• Grant Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment of Children & Adolescents• Motivational Interviewing• Solution Focused Brief Therapy• Crisis Intervention• Attachment• Theory and Methods of Family Intervention• Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Populations,• Neurobiology and Social Work Practice• Cognitive Behavior Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Interventions• Methods of Play Intervention• Social Work Practice with Abused & Neglected Children & Their Families• Loss and Grief• Mindfulness and Social Work Practice• Juvenile Justice• Restorative Justice, Social Construction of Disability• Spanish for Social Workers• Making Systems Work for People with Disabilities• Developmental Disabilities and Self-Advocacy
* These are not exhaustive lists. Additional courses, including out-of-department 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.		