

**REGULATIONS FOR THE  
ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK  
(AdvDip[SocWk])**

*(See also General Regulations)*

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**Admission requirements**

SW 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Advanced Diploma in Social Work a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) hold a B.Soc.Sc. degree with honours in social work, or a B.S.W. degree with honours, of this University or a first degree with honours in social work from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) normally have a minimum of two years of post qualification professional practice in social work; and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

SW 1A. A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he demonstrates adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination.

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**Qualifying examination**

SW 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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**Award of diploma**

SW 3. To be eligible for the award of the Advanced Diploma in Social Work, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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**Length of curriculum**

SW 4. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years of part-time study.

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**Completion of curriculum**

SW 5. To complete the curriculum a candidate shall

- (a) follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (b) satisfy the examiners in the written presentations required for assignments and/or in written examinations on all the prescribed courses.

SW 6. The examiners shall take into account continuous assessment of the candidate's performance in completing all the requirements of the curriculum.

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### **Examinations**

SW 7.

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any one course may be permitted to repeat the course and to present himself for re-examination when the examination is next held. A candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt after being permitted to present himself for re-examination may be required to discontinue his studies.
  - (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in two or more courses may be required to discontinue his studies.
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### **Examination results**

SW 8. A list of successful candidates shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's diploma.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK**

### **CURRICULUM**

The curriculum is composed of two components. These include (1) core courses and (2) elective courses

*Core courses* aim to enhance students with advanced knowledge in social science theories; knowledge in research and evaluation and advanced knowledge in management and supervision. These courses are compulsory.

*Elective courses* provide students with a choice of courses that cover, on the macro level, subject matters such as policies, administration and management issues; and on the micro level, issues and practices that are pertinent to selected target groups. A student should take **three** courses in his/her first and second year of study.

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### **COURSES DESCRIPTIONS**

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#### *Core Courses*

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#### **SOWK6006. Social policy and planning**

This course covers two semesters and introduces a variety of conceptual frameworks for the analysis and formulation of social policies. Students will also become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in the formulation and implementation of public policy and legislation.

**SOWK6137. Management and supervision in human service organizations**

This course introduces a broad framework for staff development: an assessment of an organization's internal and external environment as it relates to staff development; and the relationship between organizational structure and staff development. Five critical areas will also be considered: personnel administration; conflict resolution; team building; workforce diversity; and supervision. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding and acquisition of skills in conducting clinical supervision, and on the importance of in-service training in human service agencies.

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**SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices**

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

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**SOWK6141. Human service/practice research and evaluation I & II**

This will be a year course on human service research and evaluation. The objective is to enable students to apply research methodologies and various methods of data analysis for studies contributing to the development, implementation, and evaluation of human services. Emphasis will be given to such evaluation techniques as: assessing a programme's evaluability, designing meaningful goals and objectives, choosing an evaluation approach and developing process and outcome measures. Through the course materials, students come to understand the methodological and practical issues that arise while implementing a research and using research results.

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*Elective Courses (Select Three only)\**

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**SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice**

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and psychotherapy. Commonly encountered emotions in casework and groupwork practice like anger, fear, guilt, shame, sadness and grief will be examined. Moreover, the course aims to enhance students' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

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**SOWK6032. Legal issues and legislative processes**

This course critically examines the legal system in Hong Kong and some of the legislation that applies particularly to social work practice in the fields such as mental health, family and rehabilitation. The social worker's role and advocacy on behalf of clients' rights, legislative changes and their implications will also be addressed.

**SOWK6048. Social welfare in China**

This course facilitates students to understand the nature and seriousness of current social problems in China such as aging population, widening income disparities, floating population, persistent poverty, women status, family breakdown, and unemployment, in the context of rapid market-oriented economic reforms. The course also provides an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing social welfare system.

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**SOWK6055. Organizational analysis and human resource management in human service organizations**

This course introduces concepts and principles in organizational theory for the understanding of organizational behaviors. Emphasis will be given to the application of these concepts in human resources. Topics include motivation, leadership, social competence, group dynamics, morale, communication, control and organizational climate.

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**SOWK6078. Family as a resource: an intellectual and a personal examination**

Socrates said “know thyself”, we say “know thy family”. Based on theories of family systems and social studies on family roles and gender politics, this course examines the powerful forces of family and society in shaping our personality, values orientations, life goals, expectations about interpersonal relationships, and aspirations about future families. Through intellectual understanding of these dynamics and personal reflections, students will reexamine the impact of their families on them, to shape and reshape their current and future family life to their greater satisfaction, and to unlock the treasure of this great resource, which has become the first and last emotional refuge in modern living.

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**SOWK6109. Gerontology theories**

Provides a theoretical foundation to deepen students’ understanding in Gerontology. Prominent theories on aging such as the role theory, disengagement theory and modernization theory would be introduced. Students will learn how to critically evaluate, compare and contrast the major theories used in gerontology.

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**SOWK6110. Later life developmental physiology and psychology**

This course will help students to gain the requisite foundation in the physiological aspect of development at old age. Emphasis will be given to both normal aging as well as pathological aging. The course will also explore human behavior from adulthood to old age, with focus on perception, cognitive processes, personality, intergenerational relationships, sexuality, and life styles. Emphasis will be placed to psychosocial changes in later life.

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**SOWK6117. Service quality and performance monitoring system**

Introduces the 19 Service Quality Standards and Service Performance Assessment required by the Government with actual application in selected target groups. Concepts of Total Quality Management will be also explored.

**SOWK6119. Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health**

This course covers the various bio-medical models on the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. It will also critically examine the strengths and limitations of the bio-medical models in accounting for the causes and treatments of persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems.

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**SOWK6120. Psychosocial aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health**

Contrary to the bio-medical models, social scientists have identified an array of psychosocial factors that contribute to the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. This course will examine these various models critically. It will also investigate the social construction of mental health and mental illnesses, making particular reference to the socio-cultural context of Hong Kong.

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**SOWK6123. Community mental health practices**

Community care is a widely accepted principle and practice of care for persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems. This course will critically examine the theoretical and practical issues relating to mental health care in the community. Concepts and issues such as psychiatric rehabilitation, prevention in mental health and empowerment will be explored. The course will also review the strengths and limitations of some of the major community mental health services in Hong Kong.

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**SOWK6126. Group treatment**

This course will examine the use of small group to provide professional service to client populations manifesting various behavioral or relationship difficulties. Selected treatment approaches and their relevance will be examined in the context of students' work situations.

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**SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions**

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions.

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**SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare**

This course aims to help students examine the use of concepts and theories from the economics discipline in analyzing social policies. As working knowledge of economic concepts and theories is essential for most professional roles in social administration, this course seeks both to convey the framework and concepts with which economists approach issues and to increase the likelihood that students will incorporate these in their own thinking about policy. Topics discussed will include the relationship between economic growth and social development, the role of the public sector in human service, the financing of human services, and the economic effects of social spending. Current topics such as the economics of aging will also be examined.

**SOWK6140. Social work with family violence**

The issue of violence in intimate relationships is examined through multiple lenses. An introduction to the history of domestic violence, current theories and research on the causes of violence in intimate relationships, interventions and prevention models to addressing this worldwide problem will be discussed.

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**SOWK6143. Mental health issues and problems of selected target groups in Hong Kong**

This course examines the mental health issues and problems of selected target groups such as the elderly, youth, children, the poor and the unemployed. Special attention will be put to the understanding of the bio-psychosocial correlates of the mental health outcomes faced by these various groups. A critical review of medical, psychological and human services for these target groups will also be conducted.

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**SOWK6144. Family systems and family therapy**

The application and conceptual underpinnings of different family therapy approaches relevant to Hong Kong will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on interventions focusing on working with families with persons with mental health problems. Students who wish to work with families directly may refer families to the Department's Practice Centre, and participate in co-therapy and in life demonstration.

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**SOWK6145. Marital counselling**

This course will examine the various issues brought up by couples as they work towards conciliation or reconciliation in their marriage. The psychodynamic, social learning and system approaches will provide the basic foundation concepts. These will be examined for their assessment and intervention focus and strategies, for their contribution in work with marriage difficulties whether they arise from personal vulnerabilities, reciprocal and intergenerational concerns and clashes, communication impasses or intimacy issues.

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**SOWK6146. Care management in long term care**

Care management is one of the major practice strategies to promote effective service delivery to diverse target populations. Students will be taught to manage and to carry out needs assessment, care plan, service coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

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**SOWK6148. Body mind spirit approach to clinical intervention**

This course will introduce concepts of applying holistic healing on clients suffering from social, emotional, physical and spiritual issues in social work settings. Techniques of guided imagery, self-instruction, hypnosis, expressive art, body movement and exercises will be taught. Applications in brief therapy, group intervention, practice research, and innovations will be explored throughout the course. Videotapes of cases and groups with divorcees, mental patients, cancer patients, bereaved spouses, SLE patients will be shared in class.

**SOWK6149. Clinical supervision**

The purpose of this course is to facilitate students' exploration of different issues in clinical supervision as well as to increase their knowledge and skills in the subject area. A systems and strengths perspective will be utilized in the process. The course will cover such areas as knowledge base of the nature, objectives, tasks, and functions of clinical supervision from a systems and interactional perspective, relational dynamics of supervisor-supervisee dyads in terms of power, shared meaning, and trust as well as their impact on clinical supervision, etc.

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**SOWK6150. Information and communication technology for human service organizations**

Information and communication technology is becoming an indispensable machinery in any organization. This course examines the utilization of information technology and computers in human service agencies. Major areas of study include (1) a review of the trends in the human service agencies' use of computerized information; (2) an exploration of software frequently used in the human services; and (3) the ethics of using information technology and computers in the human services.

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**SOWK6151. Administration and system management in programmes for service users: proposal writing and project management**

Examines management skills employed by social workers in the management and administration of services for service users. Students will learn to develop knowledge in the planning, allocation, and control processes of resources in human service agencies and procedures and techniques of developing and receiving grants and or contract support. The course will also prepare students to write project proposals accurately and effectively.

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**SOWK6154. Marketing social welfare programs and promoting community relations**

As social welfare organizations increasingly adopt the business model of practice, they have to significantly promote their relationship and communication with their "customers" or service users through marketing their "products" and improving the community relations. This course provides students with some basic techniques in marketing and community relations with special emphasis on the human service sector.

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**SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for human service organizations**

The course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial planning and management. The objective is to enable students to learn skills and strategies for budgeting. Emphasis will be given to the understanding of the financial activities and reports essential to management, as well as analysis and use of financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals.

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**SOWK6175. Theory and practice of Adventure Counselling**

Adventure Counselling (AC) is a popular contemporary approach employed to work with people, especially young people, in order to assist their building and/or promoting of a positive self-concept, improve their interpersonal relationship and enhance their problem-solving abilities. This course aims to introduce the theories and practices of AC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of AC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting AC sessions

will be introduced. The quality of an AC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing AC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and workshops for students to participate and experience the process. This course is co-organized with the Hong Kong Institute of Adventure Counselling. (Student quota: 30)

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### **SOWK6176. Issues and intervention in school context**

It is believed that if the education function of schools is actualized, youth problems will be reduced and their well-being will be assured to a great extent. The overall objective of this course is to help students acquire knowledge on the issues and practice in youth work from the perspectives of various helping agents in the school context. The main emphasis is to examine current theories and practice in dealing with students' needs, such as study motivation, peer relationship, career guidance as well as whole person development.

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### **SOWK6177. Working with natural groups of high-risk youth**

The forming of natural groups of peers is quite normal especially for young people for fulfilling their identification and sense-of-belonging needs. But this kind of groups among high-risk youth can subject the young people to commit delinquency. In this course, the nature of natural groups of high-risk youth will be introduced. Besides introducing theories accounting for the occurrence of this kind of groups, different intervention approaches that can be adopted to work with these groups of young people will be taught.

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### **SOWK6178. Integrative practice with juvenile offenders**

This course will focus on developing micro counselling and groupwork skills to challenge and confront juvenile offenders on their delinquent attitude and behaviours. Special attention will be placed on analysis of the problems and development of intervention techniques from an integrative perspective.

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### **SOWK6179. Working with young people in a family context**

This course will strengthen students' understanding and management of youth problems from a family perspective. Young people's relationship with family members will be examined in the context of family beliefs, communication patterns, problem-solving and conflict resolutions skills, as well as family structure. Intervention strategies ranging from family social work to different models of family therapy will be introduced and reviewed critically.

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### **SOWK6180. Contemporary youth issues**

There are several contemporary youth issues that have elicited heated debates. These include education, employment, rave parties, drug taking, night drifting, etc. This course will examine some chosen issues. Their causes, phenomena, impacts on young people, etc. will be investigated. Relevant guest speakers on different topics will be invited. Students will also form groups to conduct studies on different chosen issues and present in class for sharing with other classmates.



**SOWK6181. Models of working with young people**

The practices of youth work are governed by different models with different beliefs and assumptions on young people. Examples of these models are deficit model, positive development model, resilient model and integrated model, etc. This course will examine the beliefs and value base of these different models. The practices of youth work under these models will be studied. A main focus of this course will be on investigating youth work practice under the integrated model which is a popular and favoured model in delivering youth services in contemporary Hong Kong. Strengths and limitations in adopting this model will be critically examined.

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**SOWK6182. Psychosocial intervention for adolescent development**

Young people face many developmental challenges when they are getting mature into adulthood. Employing a psychosocial and developmental approach, this course will address issues such as body image, self-esteem, sexuality, illness, high-risk behaviour and mental health commonly encountered by young people. Some approaches of experiential intervention will be employed to enhance students' self-awareness and sensitivity. Exploration of a range of creative interventions, such as experiential games, meditation, psychodrama, encounter group and art therapy, in working with young people will be carried out.

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**\*Not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.**