

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (MSocSc)

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (M.Soc.Sc.) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Clinical Psychology; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Mental Health; Social Service Management and Social Work. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 2. 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 in the fields as prescribed in the syllabuses if he demonstrates adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3.

- (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 degree

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences a candidate

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

Length of curriculum

MSS 5. The curriculum shall extend over not less than one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work and shall include a written examination comprising not less than four written papers to be held in the manner prescribed in the syllabuses.

Completion of curriculum

MSS 6. To complete the curriculum, a candidate

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
 - (b) where so provided in the syllabuses, shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation in lieu of one or two papers in the examination;
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Title of dissertation

MSS 7. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 6(b), the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; the candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

Examinations

MSS 8.

- (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) An assessment of the candidate's coursework during his studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidate's result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS 9. A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners at his first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present himself for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum; or
- (b) to repeat a year of the curriculum and present himself for examination in the courses prescribed for the repeated year.

MSS 10. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 6(b), a candidate who has failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within a specified period.

MSS 11. A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work or practical work may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in field work or practical work within a specified period.

MSS 12. A candidate who is unable because of his illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination other than that held in his final academic year of study may apply for permission to present himself at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from the examination.

MSS 13. A candidate who

- (a) is not permitted to present himself for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or in field work or practical work in which he has failed to satisfy the examiners and is not permitted to repeat a year of the curriculum under Regulation MSS 9; or
- (b) has failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or field work or practical work at a second attempt; or
- (c) is not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSS 10; or
- (d) has failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSS 10

may be required to discontinue his studies.

Examination results

MSS 14. At the conclusion of the examination and, if applicable, after presentation of the dissertations, a pass list 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 degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology. The programme aims to train competent and professional clinical psychologists and has an emphasis on science-based practices.

The curriculum shall extend over two years and the intervening vacations, or its part-time equivalent. A candidate shall complete satisfactorily 14 formal courses, each given 3 credit-units (Courses 1 - 9 in the first year and Courses 10 - 14 in the second year), a dissertation (6 credit-units) and practicum (12 credit-units). Thus, the curriculum consists of a total of 60 credit-units. Each credit-unit is roughly equivalent to one hour of teaching per week. Whereas the first year of the curriculum shall focus on the theoretical foundations and basis skills training in Clinical Psychology, the second year shall extend to include the application of the theories and assessment and treatment models to special populations in various clinical settings.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the regulations for the degree of Master of Social Sciences;
- (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with Honours in Psychology or a recognized equivalent qualification; and
- (c) pass a qualifying examination prior to admission, if required; and take other tests as may be prescribed, such as the Graduate Record Examination (General Test and Psychology) and have the score reports of such tests sent to the Programme Admissions Advisor.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in January or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

First year

PSYC6001.	Practicum
PSYC7001.	Assessment of intellectual abilities
PSYC7002.	Assessment of personality and psychopathology
PSYC7003.	Individual psychotherapy I
PSYC7004.	Individual psychotherapy II
PSYC7005.	Psychopathology I
PSYC7006.	Psychopathology II
PSYC7007.	Research methods I
PSYC7008.	Research methods II
PSYC7009.	Clinical seminar I

Second year

PSYC6001.	Practicum
PSYC8001.	Clinical seminar II
PSYC8002.	Community and health psychology
PSYC8003.	Family and group therapy
PSYC8004.	Clinical neuropsychology
PSYC8005.	Ethics and professional issues
PSYC8006.	Dissertation

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC6001. Practicum (12 credits)

Students complete at least 220 days of clinical placements. The practical experience consists of working with a variety of client groups with different problems, and at different settings such as hospitals, social work agencies, and other relevant government departments. Practical training includes supervised practice in assessment techniques, case formulation, and treatment planning/procedures, as well as training obtained through case conferences, workshops and seminars. The practical work of students are under continuous assessment by supervisors of each placement.

PSYC7001. Assessment of intellectual abilities (3 credits)

This course is designed to address psychological assessment from a largely clinical perspective. Emphasis will be upon the clinical utility of some widely used instruments and assessment methods. The basic principles of measurement, the code of professional conduct, as well as local and cross-cultural issues relating to psychological assessment will also be discussed.

PSYC7002. Assessment of personality and psychopathology (3 credits)

This course is designed to address the assessment of personality and psychopathology from a largely clinical perspective. Emphasis will be upon the clinical utility of major objective and projective assessment instruments and methods. In addition, theoretical and cross-cultural issues relating to personality assessment will be discussed.

PSYC7003. Individual psychotherapy I (3 credits)

This course focuses on the common principles and elements of psychotherapies, with a special emphasis on the cognitive and behavioral therapeutic approaches and techniques. Essential elements in psychotherapy are covered, such as problem assessment, goal setting, agenda negotiation, structuring of the session, etc. In addition to reviewing the theoretical rationale and recent research and clinical literature, this course also focuses on the application of the cognitive and behavioral techniques to clinical and special populations in the Eastern and Western contexts.

PSYC7004. Individual psychotherapy II (3 credits)

The course covers various current approaches in individual psychotherapy, such as person-centred, psychodynamic, and existential. There will also be continuous coverage of the application of cognitive-behavioral techniques to the treatment of different disorders. Cultural issues and Asian approaches to psychotherapy will be discussed. In addition, new developments and current research in psychotherapy will be included.

PSYC7005. Psychopathology I (3 credits)

In this course, students begin to learn basic theoretical concepts in the definition and classification of mental disorders, then they study specific disorders of childhood and adulthood. Students consider clinically relevant issues in the diagnosis, etiology, conceptualization, and treatment of specific disorders.

PSYC7006. Psychopathology II (3 credits)

This course aims to enhance the diagnostic skills of trainees through the continuing study of adult and childhood disorders. The second course also considers general theoretical approaches to psychopathology conceptualization and research, including general theories of normal development and developmental psychopathology. Attention is also given to particular issues of concern in conceptualizing, researching, and treating psychopathologic conditions in the Eastern and Western contexts.

PSYC7007. Research methods I (3 credits)

This course is designed to further students' knowledge in research design and methodology. Through assignments, readings, and discussions, students will have the opportunity to foster critical thinking and enhance their skills in research design. Topics covered include both qualitative and quantitative research designs, ethics in conducting psychological research, measurement issues, and writing psychological research.

PSYC7008. Research methods II (3 credits)

This course is designed to enhance students' skills in data and statistical analyses as well as the evaluation and presentation of psychological research. This course also aims to assist students in formulating their dissertation proposals and becoming better consumers of research.

PSYC7009. Clinical seminar I (3 credits)

A series of skills-training workshops is offered. The workshops are designed to prepare trainees for practical training in clinical placements. Each workshop provides supervised training on clinical assessment skills and intervention.

PSYC8001. Clinical seminar II (3 credits)

The seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussion related to special topics in clinical psychology. Special emphasis will be placed on case formulation, planning and treatment.

PSYC8002. Community and health psychology (3 credits)

This course overviews key theoretical concepts in community and health psychology. In addition to reviewing recent literature, one objective is for students to become familiar with the design and evaluation of interventions which improve competence and prevent disorders in the population at large and/or groups at particular risk for dysfunction. The course also examines the role of psychologists in medical and health settings and psychological aspects of medical problems. Psychological theories and practices relating to health and illness are also explored.

PSYC8003. Family and group therapy (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of family and group therapy. Applications include working with families, children, the elderly and medical/psychiatric patients. Cultural issues, current research and developments in family and group therapy will also be discussed.

PSYC8004. Clinical neuropsychology (3 credits)

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed.

PSYC8005. Ethics and professional issues (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the process of ethical decision making in the professional practice of clinical psychology. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by the Hong Kong Psychological Society, a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

PSYC8006. Dissertation (6 credits)

While in residence, each student proposes and completes a substantive, scholarly work relevant to clinical psychology. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the last semester of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by August 31 of last academic year of the curriculum.

COUNSELLING

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a self-funded postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Counselling for professionals in the human services, such as social workers, teachers, managers, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other related professionals who are interested in counselling as a career. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours in a field related to human services, such as psychology, social work, nursing, management, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a qualifying examination. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may, in exceptional circumstances, be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination. Candidates will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification experience in the relevant fields.

EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of prescribed courses in the curriculum and a practice-based project report. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either by continuous coursework assessment, or by written examinations, or by a combination of both.

CURRICULUM

Students shall take five foundation courses that orientate them to the practice of counselling. Students shall also choose three elective courses. These elective courses are so designed that they can provide a focused study in one of three service settings: welfare, education, and health care. By selecting a particular combination of courses, students may specialize in one concentration from these three service settings, or they may choose a more broad-based curriculum. This provides students with opportunities

to select and construct their own learning program in terms of theory and practice according to different service needs. Apart from lectures, students shall take a skills training laboratory and shall complete a practice-based project.

(A) Core courses (required foundation courses)

- SOWK6040. Practice research in the human services
- SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development
- SOWK6159. Abnormal psychology
- SOWK6160. Assessment and testing
- SOWK6161. Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

(B) Elective courses (choose *three* elective courses)

- SOWK6035. Oncology, palliative and hospice care
- SOWK6053. Social work with children and families
- SOWK6065. Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders
- SOWK6073. Career skills training
- SOWK6098. Spirituality in counselling
- SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships
- SOWK6162. Counselling in the welfare setting
- SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting
- SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting
- SOWK6165. Psychopathology
- SOWK6166. Substance abuse counselling
- SOWK6167. Community mental health
- SOWK6168. Group counselling
- SOWK6169. Principles and practice of art therapy

Guidelines for individual curriculum design:

I. The "setting" approach:

Concentration 1: Welfare System. Suggested courses: Counselling in the welfare setting, Social work with children & families, Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders, Violence in intimate relationships, Community mental health.

Concentration 2: Health Care. Suggested courses: Counselling in the health care setting, Oncology, palliative and hospice care, Psychopathology, Spirituality in counselling, Substance abuse counselling.

Concentration 3: Education System. Suggested courses: Counselling in the educational setting, Social work with children and families, Group counselling, Career skills training.

II. The "generalist" approach:

To allow for greater flexibility, choose one of these three setting-based courses: Counselling in the welfare setting, Counselling in the health care setting, Counselling in the educational setting. Choose one of these six population-based courses: Social work with children & families, Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders, Psychopathology, Substance abuse counselling, Violence in intimate relationships, Oncology, palliative and hospice care. Choose one of these five skills-based courses: Group counselling, Career skills training, Spirituality in counselling, Principles and practice of art therapy, Community mental health.

(C) Skills training

(D) Field practicum and a practice-based project

COURSES DESCRIPTIONS

Core Courses

SOWK6040. Practice research in the human services

Social workers, teachers, nurses and counsellors are guided by theories, research and practice wisdom in their work. It is important for students to be able to utilize, and participate and contribute to research. In order to build indigenous practice knowledge appropriate to the local setting, this course will offer students a range of research methodologies in developing research from a practitioner's perspective. Approaches to intervention research, social research and development, clinical research with individuals and groups, single-subject design, case study, qualitative approaches, use of narratives, and process studies will be explored. Students will be required to plan and present a practice research project.

SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development

This course examines factors affecting human development through an exploration of the normal patterns of growth from infancy to old age. Individual, social, and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment, with particular foci on current thinking in the field of developmental psychology.

SOWK6159. Abnormal psychology

This course provides a broad exposure to both theory and practice in the understanding of mental disorders. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behaviour from normal behaviour to mental illness, issues in diagnosis and classification, and the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models of abnormal behaviour.

SOWK6160. Assessment and testing

This course surveys the major concepts and techniques in the field of psychometrics and provides students with some hands-on experience with commonly used tests. Topics covered include: the context of testing and measurement, the testing process, test standardization, reliability and validity, the nature of intelligence and its appraisal, personality assessment, special domain testing, occupational applications, and ethics in testing.

SOWK6161. Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

This course provides a theoretical foundation for the practice of counselling. Topics covered include the major approaches in counselling, counsellor dimensions, working with various clinical and non-clinical populations, professional ethics and limitations of counselling.

Elective Courses (Select Three Only)*

SOWK6035. Oncology, palliative and hospice care

Professionals in the field of medical and health settings are expected to be competent in oncology care, palliative and hospice care. Students will learn of the medical, psychological, social, spiritual and policy aspects of care for cancer patients and persons with terminal illness. Cultural, sociological and traditional approaches to death and dying as well as bereavement will be explored through student projects.

SOWK6053. Social work with children and families

This course uses a systems perspective in understanding children and families and managing problems commonly faced by them. Prominent models in working with children in the family context will be presented in lectures and discussed in student projects.

SOWK6065. Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders

This course will focus on social work practice with delinquents and other young people experiencing emotional or behavioural problems. It is assumed that students already have a sound knowledge of the major theoretical models of case, group and community work. Therefore the course will focus on the application and modification of these theories to match the specific problems of young people in indigenous context. In order to facilitate skill development, much emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated exercises, games and role-plays. Throughout the course, case and group examples will be drawn from a variety of local practice settings-probation, residential facilities for juvenile offenders, correctional services, outreach and school social work.

SOWK6073. Career skills training

Success in one's career is one of the most important life tasks for most people. Besides teaching students the necessary knowledge and practice of core career skills, this course also trains students to design and conduct career skills programmes. Through participation in this course, students will be able to master the theories and skills of career planning, understand the relationship between labour market dynamics and job searching, analyze the effect of social, economic and political changes on the job market. Through understanding the social psychology of career aspects, students will become more sensitive to human dynamics in the work setting.

SOWK6098. Spirituality in counselling

This course examines the basic foundation of the helping process in the form of exploring the impact of religious faiths and beliefs of various kinds on human behaviour. It examines the question of how belief systems grow and develop, and the role they play in the understanding of one's own behaviour, whether as a counsellor, or as an individual in the quest of 'knowing oneself'. In the counselling process when helper and client meet, the issue of how human interactions is seen to be influenced by different understandings of the world, and how beliefs affect the healing of disturbed behaviour will be studied.

SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships

The issue of violence in intimate relationships (e.g. domestic violence & violence in dating) is examined through multi-lenses. The course introduces the nature of the different kinds of violence in intimate relationships. The knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of different kinds of violence are taught. How to assess the violent issues, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies and how to apply the related skills in the working situation are introduced. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.

SOWK6162. Counselling in the welfare setting

This course introduces the various macro and micro intervention approaches in working with disadvantaged individuals who are users of social services in Hong Kong. Through a systems perspective, students will have the opportunity to examine various intervention approaches in helping disadvantaged groups, such as new arrivals, elderly people, at-risk youth, and mentally and physically handicapped persons to deal with their intra-personal, interpersonal and environmentally-induced difficulties. The course emphasizes the integration of micro and macro intervention approaches.

SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting

Counselling approaches used in health care, such as crisis intervention, grief work, cognitive behavioural intervention, support groups, art therapy, psycho-education skills, bereavement counselling, pastoral care and peer counselling, will be examined. Students will be provided with experiential training on skills/ techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting

This course offers an understanding of the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students in schools (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are the main foci, such that students may be helped to cope better with their school life.

SOWK6165. Psychopathology

This is an advanced course in understanding mental disorders, and aims to enhance the psycho-diagnostic and counselling skills in practitioners through a series of case analyses. A particular emphasis is placed on the psychosocial aspects of mental disorders, such as the role of family and community in the development and treatment of disordered behaviours.

SOWK6166. Substance abuse counselling

This course examines the drug scene in Hong Kong and gives an overview of the problem of substance abuse in society. The different theoretical conceptualizations of substance abuse and theories of addiction are then reviewed as a prelude to devising intervention approaches to help drug-addicted persons.

SOWK6167. Community mental health

This course gives an overview of the key theoretical concepts in community and health psychology. In addition to reviewing the recent literature, one objective is for students to become familiar with the design, implementation and evaluation of community mental health intervention programmes.

SOWK6168. Group counselling

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of group counselling approaches. Applications include working with families, children, the elderly people, and medical/psychiatric patients. Cultural issues, current research and developments in group counselling will also be discussed.

SOWK6169. Principles and practice of art therapy

This course introduces students to the philosophy and practice of Art Therapy, and how Art Therapy activities can be modified and used with potential clients under careful working guidelines. Students will also experience different art activities/philosophies, which are designed according to the various needs of potential clients. Lectures, participation in group workshops, and video and case presentations will form a part of this course.

Skill training**SOWK6170. Skills training laboratory**

This laboratory provides training on basic relationship building strategies and methods. Counselling relies on an establishment of therapeutic relationship. Characteristics and dimensions related to such counsellor-client relationship will be introduced, and strategies and methods for building rapport will be practiced in the laboratory setting. Further, the course will also cover basic skills related to case and group counselling. Teaching is done via an experiential learning approach. Students have to actively participate in class and complete practice assignments.

Practicum**SOWK6171. Practicum and practice-based project report**

All students will have to engage in a total of **50 hours** of clinical work, and to complete a practice-based project report of no more than **10,000 words**. A practice teacher will be assigned to supervise the student's clinical work and to facilitate his/her completion of the practice-based project report. The report should essentially be an evaluation of the clinical work performed by the student. Group supervision will be provided.

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

CRIMINOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to a Master of Social Sciences degree in Criminology.

The degree programme extends over two years of part-time study. The first year curriculum provides candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of crime and deviance. The second year, building upon that foundation, introduces the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in criminology and related social policy issues.

In the first year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by written examination and coursework in each of the following:

SOCI7001	Criminal justice: process and politics
SOCI7002	Methods of research for criminology
SOCI7003	Social theory and criminology
SOCI7004	Theoretical criminology

and in the second year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by coursework in four of the following*:

SOCI8001	Criminal behaviour
SOCI8002	Economic and organized crime
SOCI8003	Law and society
SOCI8004	Punishment and society
SOCI8005	Women, crime and social control
SOCI8006	Youth and delinquency

or two of the above courses and to complete:

SOCI8007	Dissertation
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Students can, subject to consultation and approval by the course coordinator and relevant dissertation supervisors of the programme, complete and present a satisfactory dissertation in lieu of the coursework in two of the four courses in the second year. Candidates are also required to present and participate in a Dissertation Seminar Series in the final semester.

* *second year courses are offered depending on student interest and staff availability*

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any given year.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the M.Soc.Sc. (Criminology) syllabus with a course or courses offered by another Department in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the M.Soc.Sc. (Criminology) syllabus. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than two courses from another Department in the University and not more than one course if undertaking the degree by coursework and dissertation. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates' overall course of study. Permission shall not be granted to substitute any other course for a required course in the M.Soc.Sc. (Criminology) syllabus.

A candidate is assessed for each course in the first year by way of a 3-hour written examination that accounts for 50% of total marks and 50% by coursework assignments. In the second year courses students are assessed by 100% coursework and may include written tests.

In addition to the admission requirements specified in Regulation SS 13 it would be to the candidate's advantage either (a) to have majored in the social sciences or humanities, or (b) to have some experience of working in the criminal justice system or social welfare agencies, or (c) to have done other work with offenders.

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 subject to satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

SOCI7001. Criminal justice: process and politics

This course critically reviews the process of law enforcement from initial contact with suspects through to prosecution and the sentencing decision. The focus is on the ways criminal justice policies are developed and the problems and issues arising from the implementation of different approaches to crime control. Topics include: policing models (including private policing and crime prevention strategies); the effectiveness of policing; discretion and bias; due process and legal constraints in law enforcement; adjudication and sentencing; and policies toward victims.

SOCI7002. Methods of research for criminology

This course introduces candidates to research methods in criminology and criminal justice. The first part of the course covers: sampling methods; survey design; experimental designs; qualitative methods; problems of measurement; prediction and inference, and alternative research strategies. The second part of the course focuses on evaluation research and includes such topics as: the goals and objectives of evaluation research; strategies of programme development; and measurement of programme implementation. As part of this course, candidates may produce a research proposal linked to their dissertations.

SOCI7003. Social theory and criminology

What is meant by social order? How is it maintained? What is the nature of the relationship between individuals? And their society? Sociologists have had a long standing interest in these questions. The purpose of this course is to examine these questions from the standpoint of the major social theorists ranging from classical works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim to the contemporary thoughts in feminism and postmodernism. These social theories are critically examined as they relate to the development of criminological theories.

SOCI7004. Theoretical criminology

This course comprises an introduction to major historical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. The course covers: classical and positivist theories of crime; biological and psychological influences; social structural and social process theories of crime; Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations of crime and law; the emergence of neoclassic theories of crime (e.g., rational choice and routine activities); postmodern and restorative approaches to crime control.

Optional Courses

SOCI8001. Criminal behaviour

The course focuses on the psychology of criminal conduct and social psychological explanations of individual and group offending. Topics covered include: the classification of offenders; mental disorder and crime; biological, psycho-physiological and attribute correlates of anti-social behaviour; 'dangerous' offenders; sex offenders; serial crime; and problems of treatment and intervention. The course also critically examines applied issues or practices such as offender 'profiling', the psychology of interrogations and the role of therapeutic prisons.

SOCI8002. Economic and organized crime

The course focuses on a range of criminal activities that occurs within an organizational setting or is in accordance with established organizational goals, and which harms individuals or society at large. More specifically, the course will devote attention to such topics as economic and organized crime and discuss the ways in which they are interrelated and frequently overlap with political crime. Special consideration will be given to the ways in which the state may organize crime.

SOCI8003. Law and society

This course will examine the relationship between law and society. It looks at the history and development of law in different cultures, examining the form and content of 'law' found in pre-industrial society, capitalist society and socialist society. Particular legal concepts such as the law of contract and the public/private distinction are placed in their socio-historic setting. Specific topics (e.g. law and domestic relations, rape in marriage, child abuse, homosexuality, artificial reproduction, and restrictions on pornography) are examined insofar as they are related to the application of these concepts.

SOCI8004. Punishment and society

This course will include an examination of such issues as: the aims of punishment, recidivism and the concept of dangerousness, the history of punishment and the aims of the modern prison, and the effectiveness of prisons in controlling crime. It will include an evaluation of alternative policies in probation; institutional, parole and offender management; and the rights of prisoners and their protection under law.

SOCI8005. Women, crime and social control

This course provides students with an in-depth look at the crimes and punishments of women. The first part of the course will be devoted to a critical examination of theories about female crime. The assumptions, images, tenets, and explanations of traditional explanations are explored in relation to gender. These theoretical frameworks are then compared with feminist theories of crime. The second half of the course explores the treatment of women under the law from the point of policing through to imprisonment. This will also include a historical and contemporary analysis of the criminalization of behaviours particular to women.

SOCI8006. Youth and delinquency

The problem of juvenile delinquency has influenced the formation of law and social policy in many societies. This course will use a wide variety of historical and contemporary materials to analyze the response of social service agencies and the criminal justice system to juvenile delinquency. It will also examine various theoretical approaches that have been used in studying juvenile delinquency.

SOCI8007. Dissertation

The dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster independent research. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing six taught courses, candidates can elect to write a dissertation not exceeding 20,000 words on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the second semester in the first year. Dissertations are prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the second academic year of study and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same year. Candidates are also required to present and participate in a Dissertation Seminar Series in the second semester of the second year.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology. The programme is designed to provide instruction and training in the theory and practice of educational psychology. To this end, emphasis will be placed on both academic studies and related practical experience in the field.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the programme a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the regulations for the degree of Master of Social Sciences;
- (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with honours in Psychology or a recognized equivalent qualification; and
- (c) normally have at least two years of experience in an educational setting, or relevant experience with children and youth.

If necessary, a candidate may be required to pass a qualifying examination prior to admission.

STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

The period of study extends over two years full-time or three years part-time, commencing in September and including the intervening vacations. Throughout the programme, in both its theoretical and practical aspects, special attention will be paid to the needs and issues concerning educational psychology in the local setting.

The full-time curriculum consists of a total of 60 credits. The quantitative value of a credit is equivalent to 15 hours of formal course or 120 hours of practicum, under supervision of an experienced psychologist. There are 14 formal courses each given three units of credit (a total of 42 credits), four practicum courses with a total 12 credits (see 17-20) and two dissertation research courses given 6 credits (see 15-16). Nine of the formal courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five in the second year. Duration of each formal course is one semester and consists of three hours of weekly lectures, discussions, seminars or workshops. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

- Courses 1 - 2: Psychoeducational assessment I & II
- Courses 3 - 4: Children with special needs I & II
- Courses 5 - 6: Psychoeducational intervention I & II
- Courses 7 - 8: Research methods & statistics I & II
- Course 9 : Skills training seminar
- Courses 17-18: Practicum I & II

Second year courses

- Course 10 : Applied developmental psychology
- Course 11 : Motivation and learning
- Course 12 : Curriculum and instruction
- Course 13 : Advances and issues in educational psychology
- Course 14 : Professionalism, ethics and laws related to the practice of psychology
- Courses 15-16: Dissertation research I & II
- Courses 19-20: Practicum III & IV

The part-time curriculum consists of the same 14 formal courses, four practicum and two dissertation research courses. Of the formal courses, seven are normally taken in the first year, four in the second and three in the third year. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

- Courses 1 - 2: Psychoeducational assessment I & II
- Courses 3 - 4: Children with special needs I & II
- Courses 5 - 6: Psychoeducational intervention I & II
- Course 9 : Skills training seminar
- Course 17 : Practicum I

Second year courses

- Courses 7 - 8: Research methods & statistics I & II
- Course 10 : Applied developmental psychology
- Course 11 : Motivation and learning
- Courses 18-19: Practicum II & III

Third year courses

- Course 12 : Curriculum and instruction
- Course 13 : Advances and issues in educational psychology
- Course 14 : Professionalism, ethics and laws related to the practice of psychology
- Courses 15-16: Dissertation research I & II
- Course 20 : Practicum IV

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in January or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

A candidate's performance in the programme, whether full-time or part-time, is evaluated in three parts: (1) formal courses on the basis of written examination and/or continuous assessment of all written and practical work carried out during the year; (2) dissertation research and (3) practical training as set out below. Candidates must pass all three components of the programme.

COURSES

PSYC7010. 1. Psychoeducational assessment I (3 credits)

This course provides students with theoretical foundations of psychoeducational assessment and basic concepts in measurement. Starting with standards related to professional conduct and ethics in assessment, the course introduces students to formal and informal techniques and instruments used most frequently in the local setting. Focus will be put on the assessment of intellectual abilities and adaptive behavior. The assessment of infants and young children is a special topic. The integration of assessment data into a comprehensive psychological report with associated recommendations for intervention is an essential component of this course.

PSYC7011. 2. Psychoeducational assessment II (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the assessment of learning and behavior difficulties in children. Using the problem-solving and systems approach as framework, students will be introduced to important concepts,

procedures and instruments associated with educational and psychological assessment in the school context, including assessment of academic achievement and special abilities, alternative educational assessment procedures, as well as the assessment of personality and social-emotional functioning. Other topics covered include language assessment, play assessment, assessment of perceptual-motor integration, and neuropsychological assessment.

PSYC7012. 3. Children with special needs I: basic concepts (3 credits)

This course will introduce students with problems and issues related to special needs children. The course will cover the following topics: Issues, definition and historical background. Provisions for children with special needs. Special education in Hong Kong. Attitudes and legal considerations. Issues concerning integration of special needs children into mainstream setting. Working within the context of a local education authority and other agencies. Consultation with other professionals. Effects of a handicapped child on family life. Parents' involvement and training. Intellectually different students: The gifted and the mentally handicapped. Communication, sensory, and physical problems. Pervasive developmental disorders (e.g. autistic disorder). Attention-deficit and disruptive behavior disorders. Tic disorders. Eating disorders. Psychotic disorders. Substance-related disorders.

PSYC7013. 4. Children with special needs II: diagnostic and remedial procedures (3 credits)

The main focus of this course is on diagnostic and remedial measures used with special needs children in the mainstream normal schools. However, many of these procedures also apply to children in special settings. Topics covered are: Psychoeducational and diagnostic procedures and related issues. The individualized education programmes. Remedial methods for reading, writing and mathematics problems. Behavior disorders: assessment and intervention.

PSYC7014. 5. Psychoeducational intervention I (3 credits)

The nature and basic principles of psychoeducational intervention are introduced. Students are expected to master both theories and practical skills. Topics include the fundamentals of counselling and guidance, therapeutic relationship, process and stages of counselling, basic counselling skills and techniques, humanistic-existential therapy and behavior therapy.

PSYC7015. 6. Psychoeducational intervention II (3 credits)

Major approaches and different levels of psychoeducational intervention are covered. The course emphasizes both direct and indirect intervention. Students are encouraged to go beyond the remedial model and are expected to work as an active agent with broader perspective in preventive intervention. Topics include cognitive-behavioural approaches, psychodynamic therapy, systems and ecological approaches, consultation, family therapy, play therapy, career and vocational counselling, and group therapy.

PSYC6002. 7. Research methods and statistics I (3 credits)

This course covers advanced concepts of measurement and psychometrics, research design, and data collection and analysis. Experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational and descriptive research methods are presented. The course uses empirical studies of educational and psychological issues based on quantitative and qualitative data to illustrate various research designs and statistical methods and to ensure that students become intelligent consumers of research results.

PSYC6003. 8. Research methods and statistics II (3 credits)

This course covers more advanced statistical techniques, including multivariate data analysis. Communicating about research both orally and in writing is stressed. At the end of the course, students will have developed a viable research proposal in preparation for their thesis according to standards of the American Psychological Association.

PSYC7016. 9. Skills training seminar (3 credits)

This course provides an initial orientation programme immersing students into settings related to roles and functions of educational psychologists. Subsequently more intensive discussion and hands-on practice of assessment skills and intervention programmes are provided. Students observe and practice skills related to consultation and interviewing, observational techniques, testing procedures, reporting test results and recommending interventions. They also engage in practice related to intervention techniques such as stress management.

PSYC8007. 10. Applied developmental psychology (3 credits)

This course focuses on an integrated study of human development across the life span with implications for educational psychology. It aims at familiarizing students with current state of knowledge and major theories of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. The interrelationship among biological, social psychological, and educational factors that influence human development will be examined. In particular the influence of Chinese culture and context on development during the childhood and adolescence will be discussed.

PSYC8008. 11. Motivation and learning (3 credits)

This course aims at familiarizing students with theories and research in the field of learning and motivation. It focuses on how the existing knowledge of student learning and motivation help teachers develop students' intrinsic interest in learning. Topics include theories of motivation and learning, their application in educational settings, biological basis of learning, effects of success and failure on motivation and learning, sex differences in achievement motivation, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, student motivation and learning as a function of teacher expectations and other environmental factors, and cultural and contextual influences on learning.

PSYC6004. 12. Curriculum and instruction (3 credits)

This course helps students understand and enact the principles of curriculum design, teaching, and assessment of learning, as they apply to the contexts and issues educational psychologists are likely to meet. A systemic view of children's learning problems will be emphasized. Curriculum and instructional issues for both mainstream and special schools in Hong Kong will be reviewed.

PSYC6005. 13. Advances and issues in educational psychology (3 credits)

This is a seminar on contemporary issues in educational psychology. The emphasis is on the application of educational psychology in the local context. Students are expected to analyze these issues and make appropriate suggestions in the capacity of educational psychologist. Topics are broad and diversified. They may include roles and functions of educational psychologists in Hong Kong, home-school collaboration, bilingual education, effective schools, new technology in education, civic education and related policies and legislation.

PSYC6006. 14. Professionalism, ethics and laws related to the practice of psychology (3 credits)

This course prepares students for the practice of professional psychology in Hong Kong by examining the organization of professional services as well as ethical and legal considerations that govern the practice of psychology. Ethical and legal guidelines pertinent to the delivery of school psychological services will be introduced and students will be prepared to make well-informed choices in resolving professional problems and ethical dilemmas when they occur. Topics include: professional system in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Psychological Society, Code of Ethics, confidentiality, access to clients' files and conflict of interest, relationship with clients and other professionals, the role of psychologists, private practice, as well as laws and regulations concerning mediation, child psychology, adoption and child abuse.

PSYC6007. 15-16. Dissertation research I & II (6 credits)

The dissertation should be a critical study within the field, normally including an empirical element, and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. Where appropriate, studies involving qualitative methodology and other approaches may also be included. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the last semester of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by July 31 of last academic year of the curriculum. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

PSYC6008. 17-20. Practicum I-IV (12 credits)

The programme considers field work placement an important and indispensable part of the training and whenever possible tries to integrate theories discussed at the University with that of fieldwork practice. All students are required to do fieldwork placement for a total of 180 days in four different settings.

PSYC6012	17. Practicum I (3 credits)
PSYC6013	18. Practicum II (3 credits)
PSYC6014	19. Practicum III (3 credits)
PSYC6015	20. Practicum IV (3 credits)

The average duration of each practicum is 45 days. Adjustment of the length will be made according to the specific requirements of the settings. Each practicum aims at providing the students with:

- (a) exposures to a broad spectrum of work of an EP working in a particular setting;
- (b) adequate hands-on experiences at different levels (such as individual casework, group work, consultations to parents and teachers, in-service training for teachers, etc.) in the development of the necessary practical knowledge and skills;
- (c) knowledge of different types of provisions and systems accessible to children with special educational needs and referral procedures; and
- (d) opportunities for collaborative work with other professionals.

GERONTOLOGY

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Gerontology for social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other related professionals who are interested in aged care policies and practices. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacation for full-time study, or three academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, a candidate shall hold either a first degree with honours, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. He may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination. A candidate will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields. A candidate who holds the Advanced Diploma in Social Work awarded by this University may apply for admission direct to the third year of part-time study.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

In order to obtain the Master of Social Sciences (Gerontology) degree, a candidate must satisfy the examiners in the examination of the prescribed courses in the curriculum and a dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods. A candidate who has successfully completed all prescribed courses of the Advanced Diploma in Social Work and does not wish to proceed to the third year may be awarded an **Advanced Diploma in Social Work**.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is composed of three components. These include (1) core courses, (2) elective courses, and (3) dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis.

Core courses aim to enhance students with advanced knowledge in social science theories; specific knowledge and theories on aging, and physiological and psychological changes in old age; 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 gerontological studies and other areas. A student should take two courses in his/her second and third years of study.

Dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis In order to fulfill the requirements of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, a candidate must either conduct an independent research and write a dissertation under the supervision of an academic staff, or must take the weekly clinical practice seminars and carry out clinical work at the designated location. A student must also write an evaluation of the clinical work that has been carried out.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core Courses

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Elective Courses (Select Two Only)***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.

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.

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.

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.

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 other countries and in Hong Kong.

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.

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.

SOWK6143. Mental health issues and problems of selected 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOWK6183. Current policy and management issues in social welfare

The objective of the course is to facilitate students to apply learnt knowledge or to learn new knowledge in analyzing the current policy and management issues in social welfare. The relevant knowledge in social policy and human service management will be identified and utilized in the analysis of the issues.

Dissertation or Clinical Practice Seminars and a Clinical Practice Thesis**SOWK9002. Dissertation**

The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than **June 30** of the same year.

SOWK9006. Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis

This course aims to help students polish their clinical counselling skills. While some classes will be devoted to discussions of clinical issues that are of interests to the students, other classes will focus on clinical supervisions of cases and/or groups that students are working on in their agencies. Alternatively, they may take cases or run groups at our Practice Centre. However, students are fully responsible for finding cases and groups for themselves. Students are also required to conduct an evaluation of their clinical works and produce a clinical practice thesis of no more than 10,000 words by not later than **June 30** of the same year. This course extends over two semesters.

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

MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Mental Health for social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in mental health issues and practices. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacation for full-time study, or three academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, a candidate shall hold either a first degree with honours, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. He may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he or she satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination. A candidate will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields. A candidate who holds the Advanced Diploma in Social Work awarded by this University may apply for admission direct to the third year of part-time study.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

In order to obtain the Master of Social Sciences (Mental Health) degree, a candidate must satisfy the examiners in the examination of the prescribed courses in the curriculum and a dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods. A candidate who has successfully completed all prescribed courses of the Advanced Diploma in Social Work and does not wish to proceed to the third year may be awarded an **Advanced Diploma in Social Work**.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is composed of three components. These include (1) core courses, (2) elective courses, and (3) dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis.

Core courses aim to enhance students with advanced knowledge in social science theories; specific knowledge and theories in mental health and psychiatric rehabilitation; 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 mental health and other areas. A student should take two courses in his/her second and third years of study.

Dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis In order to fulfill the requirements of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, a candidate must either conduct an independent research and write a dissertation under the supervision of an academic staff, or must take the weekly clinical practice seminars and carry out clinical work at the designated location. A student must also write an evaluation of the clinical work that has been carried out.

COURSES DESCRIPTIONS

Core Courses

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Elective Courses (Select Two Only)***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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOWK6143. Mental health issues and problems of selected 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOWK6183. Current policy and management issues in social welfare

The objective of the course is to facilitate students to apply learnt knowledge or to learn new knowledge in analyzing the current policy and management issues in social welfare. The relevant knowledge in social policy and human service management will be identified and utilized in the analysis of the issues.

Dissertation or Clinical Practice Seminars and a Clinical Practice Thesis**SOWK9003. Dissertation**

The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than **June 30** of the same year.

SOWK9007. Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis

This course aims to help students polish their clinical counselling skills. While some classes will be devoted to discussions of clinical issues that are of interests to the students, other classes will focus on clinical supervisions of cases and/or groups that students are working on in their agencies. Alternatively, they may take cases or run groups at our Practice Centre. However, students are fully responsible for finding cases and groups for themselves. Students are also required to conduct an evaluation of their clinical works and produce a clinical practice thesis of no more than 10,000 words by not later than **June 30** of the same year. This course extends over two semesters.

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

SOCIAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social service Management. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacation for full-time study, or three academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, a candidate shall hold either a first degree with honours, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. He may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination. A candidate will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields. A candidate who holds the Advanced Diploma in Social Work awarded by this University may apply for admission direct to the third year of part-time study.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

In order to obtain a Master of Social Sciences (Social Service Management) degree, a candidate must satisfy the examiners in the examination of the prescribed courses in the curriculum and a dissertation. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods. A candidate who has successfully completed all prescribed courses of the Advanced Diploma in Social Work and does not wish to proceed to the third year may be awarded an **Advanced Diploma in Social Work**.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is composed of three components. These include (1) core courses, (2) elective courses, and (3) dissertation.

Core courses aim to enhance students with advanced knowledge in social science theories; specific knowledge and theories in human service management; and knowledge in research and evaluation. 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 human service management issues and other areas. A student should take two courses in his/her second and third year of study.

Dissertation In order to fulfill the requirements of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, a candidate must conduct an independent research and write a dissertation under the supervision of an academic staff.

COURSES DESCRIPTIONS

Core Courses

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.

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practice 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 practice.

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.

SOWK6155. 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.

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.

Elective Courses (Select Two Only)***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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 social 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.

SOWK6143. Mental health issues and problems of selected 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 social services for these target groups will also be conducted.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 social 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.

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.

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 social service sector.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOWK6183. Current policy and management issues in social welfare

The objective of the course is to facilitate students to apply learnt knowledge or to learn new knowledge in analyzing the current policy and management issues in social welfare. The relevant knowledge in social policy and human service management will be identified and utilized in the analysis of the issues.

Dissertation

SOWK9004. Dissertation

The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than **June 30** of the same year.

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

SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Work. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacation for full-time study, or three academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, a candidate shall hold either a first degree with honours, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. He may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination. A candidate will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields. A candidate who holds the Advanced Diploma in Social Work awarded by this University may apply for admission direct to the third year of part-time study.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

In order to obtain a Master of Social Sciences (Social Work) degree, a candidate must satisfy the examiners in the examination of the prescribed courses in the curriculum and a dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods. A candidate who has successfully completed all prescribed courses of the Advanced Diploma in Social Work and does not wish to proceed to the third year may be awarded an **Advanced Diploma in Social Work**.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is composed of three components. These include (1) core courses, (2) elective courses, and (3) dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis.

Core courses aim to enhance students with advanced knowledge in social science theories; specific knowledge and theories in family work and family therapy; knowledge in research and evaluation and advanced knowledge in management and supervision. These courses are compulsory. The core courses shall include:

- SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices;
- SOWK6006 Social policy and planning;
- SOWK6141 Human service/practice research and evaluation I & II;
- SOWK6137 Management and supervision in human service organizations; *Plus*

Either

- SOWK6138 Family systems and family therapy I & II;

Or

- SOWK6181 Models of working with young people; and
- SOWK6182 Psychosocial intervention for adolescent development.

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 family work, family therapy and other areas. A student should take two courses in his/her second and third years of study.

Dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis In order to fulfill the requirements of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, a candidate must either conduct an independent research and write a dissertation under the supervision of an academic staff, or must take the weekly clinical practice seminars and carry out clinical work at the designated location. A student must also write an evaluation of the clinical work that has been carried out.

COURSES DESCRIPTIONS

Core Courses

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.

SOWK6138. Family systems and family therapy I & II

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Elective Courses (Select Two Only)***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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOWK6183. Current policy and management issues in social welfare

The objective of the course is to facilitate students to apply learnt knowledge or to learn new knowledge in analyzing the current policy and management issues in social welfare. The relevant knowledge in social policy and human service management will be identified and utilized in the analysis of the issues.

Dissertation or Clinical Practice Seminars and a Clinical Practice Thesis

SOWK9001. Dissertation

The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than **June 30** of the same year.

SOWK9005. Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis

This course aims to help students polish their clinical counselling skills. While some classes will be devoted to discussions of clinical issues that are of interests to the students, other classes will focus on clinical supervisions of cases and/or groups that students are working on in their agencies. Alternatively, they may take cases or run groups at our Practice Centre. However, students are fully responsible for finding cases and groups for themselves. Students are also required to conduct an evaluation of their clinical works and produce a clinical practice thesis of no more than 10,000 words by not later than **June 30** of the same year. This course extends over two semesters.

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