What Is Social Work?

- Diverse and vast profession
- Profession that is often misunderstood
- Is found in every country in the world
- Based on a strengths based perspective
- Rooted in values
- Rewarding profession
Social Work Definition

• According to NASW (2009), social work is defined as assisting individuals, groups, or communities to restore or enhance their capacity for social functioning, while creating societal conditions favorable to their goals.

Systems of Social Work

• Microsystem
  – Involves working with individuals themselves to find solutions

• Mezzosystem
  – Involves working with environmental systems that can assist the individual (i.e. family, friends)

• Macrosystem
  – Systems involving the community and/or social institutions that impact both the individuals and environmental systems (i.e. homelessness)

Systems Perspective

• Person – In – Environment

Adapted from MAWMedia Group, 2009.
Person – In – Environment

• Connects theory to practice
• Provides a framework for assessing a client comprehensively, connecting the individual to his/her environment (social, political, familial, spiritual, economic, and physical) and developing appropriate strategies
• Social workers work from a strengths based perspective in working with a client

NASW Code of Ethics

The following core values guide the social work profession.

- service
- social justice
- dignity and worth of the person
- importance of human relationships
- integrity
- competence

Types of Careers in Social Work

- School Social Work
- Hospital Social Work
- Corrections
- Politics
- Gerontology
- Domestic Violence
- Advocacy & Organizing
- International
Where Can Social Workers be Found?

EVERYWHERE

• Nursing Homes
• Elected Offices
• Clinics
• Schools
• Corporations
• Courts
• Hospitals
• Military
• Higher Education Institutions and many more places…..
UConn SSW Community
# MSW Curriculum Requirements Credit Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic foundation courses</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes foundation field &amp; seminar)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced method concentration courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other required course (RSCH 5340)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced year field education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced field education seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method Based Program

When you apply to the program you will have to select one of the five method concentrations:

• Administration
• Casework
• Community Organization
• Group Work
• Policy Practice

"Please note: The School of Social Work is undergoing a process of curriculum review and revision. Some changes to the curriculum are anticipated starting in the 2017-2018 Academic Year, with the possibility that currently offered method concentrations may be restructured.

Before then, all required courses for each method concentration will be offered regularly, with the exception of any courses that do not have the required minimum student enrollment. In that case, alternative curriculum options will be provided so that affected students can complete their degrees on time."
Field

• Students are to complete two different internships. Each internship is 560 hrs. each. Options to complete hours include:
  – 20 hours a week for 28 weeks
  – 15 hours a week for 37 weeks

• Foundation (1\textsuperscript{st} year) internship is designed to provide a generalist perspective of social work practice through a wide range of field assignments.

• Advanced (2\textsuperscript{nd}) internship focuses primarily on the student’s method concentration.

• One of the two placements may be in your place of employment if certain conditions are met. See the Employed Social Work (ESW) program option.
Electives

Nine credits will fulfill your elective requirements. You may choose one of the following options:

– To enroll in an elective of interest when it is offered.
– To organize your electives in a Focused Area of Study (FAS), which focuses on a specific population or issue. This is an option and not required of students.

FAS Requirements:

– Take 9 elective credits in which one 3 credit course contains core knowledge deemed to be essential,
– A year-long field placement in a field of practice relevant to the Focused Area of Study,
– 6 of the elective credits can be chosen from selected list of Focused Area of Study electives or from approved independent study or other graduate courses.
Courses

• Class size – 20 to 25 and consist of matriculated and non-degree students
• Classes are offered in the morning, afternoon, evening and on some Saturdays
• 2 credit courses meet weekly for equivalent of 28 hours or by special schedule
• 3 credit courses meet weekly for equivalent of 35 hours or by special schedule
• Pre-assignment - Classes with # sign listed on class schedule has assignment due 1st class.
  – assignments will be posted on Husky CT 2 weeks prior to the first class meeting or will be emailed by the professor
  – Please email the Professor if the assignment is not received
Options to Consider

- MSW can be completed in 2, 3 or 4 years
  - Minimum requirement a semester – 2 courses
  - 2 year program - full-time unless courses were taken through Non-Degree Program
- You are prepared to go into field if:
  - you can handle taking four or five courses a semester,
  - change your schedule to accommodate a 15 or 20 hour a week field placement, and/or
  - if you have taken non-degree courses

Financial Aid

Full-time is 9 credits or more a semester
Part-time is 5 to 8 credits a semester
## Plan of Study – Fall Semester

*Entering First Year Field minimum course load – 2 Year Full-time program example*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BASC 5360</td>
<td>HBSE: Macro Theories</td>
<td>2 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASC 5361</td>
<td>HBSE: Micro Theories</td>
<td>2 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASC 5390</td>
<td>Macro Foundation Practice</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASC 5391</td>
<td>Micro Foundation Practice</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FED 5351</td>
<td>Field Education Foundation</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FED 5301</td>
<td>Foundation Field Education Seminar</td>
<td>0 cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 14 crs.**
Block Placement

- A summer block second year placement is offered if there are enough qualified students.
  - Student spends 35 hours per week for 16 weeks in a field setting.
  - Students must apply for this option and be approved by their method - this arrangement is not guaranteed.
  - To be eligible for block placement, students must have completed all but the final method concentration courses, to be taken concurrently with second year field, have no “I” (incomplete) grades and completed 1st internship 20 hrs. weekly.
  - Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0, with greater weight given to method/practice courses, and demonstrate exceptional performance in the first year field placement.
  - Information for this option is made available in November.
Non-Degree Program Benefits

The Non-Degree Program enables you to register for graduate social work courses as a non-matriculated student. The program is ideal for:

• Enrolling in courses to lighten your course load before applying to the program
• Helping to make a career decision about social work
• Identifying career development courses for human service professionals
• Moving ahead with your social work career, but not immediately returning to school full-time

Taking non-degree courses does not guarantee admittance to the UConn School of Social Work program
Non-Degree Program: Things to Know

- Minimum criteria to register for a non-degree course is to have a Bachelor’s degree
- You may take up to 6 credits each semester
- Maximum of 15 credits can be taken in total
- You must be in good academic standing with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or better to continue to take courses in the program.
- All grades earned of B (not B-) or higher will be transferred to the student’s matriculated record.
- Requirement for completed courses to be counted toward graduation is limited to 6 years, counting back from the date of graduation. Plan accordingly with the 6-year limit in mind.
Non-Degree Fees

- Currently $724 a credit
- Additional fees – enrollment, infrastructure, parking, technology, late fee (if applicable)
- 2.75% fee for paying by credit card
- If paid online, detailed instructions on how to submit payment online through your personal student administration account will be sent. Continuing students will receive confirmation of enrollment via UConn email account.
Financial Aid

• Non-Degree students are not eligible for regular financial aid but can receive funding through alternative (private) loans – refer to website http://ssw.uconn.edu/CE-fees/

• Limited Non-Degree scholarships may be available – application available in mid-fall semester

• Matriculated students
  – Financial aid is available through grants, loans, work-study and scholarships
  – FAFSA and Financial Aid Application must be completed
Non-Degree Registration

• Please make sure you visit the following website http://ssw.uconn.edu/non-degree-program/ to carefully review all the information on the Non-Degree Program including the refund policy.

• Once reviewing all of the Non-Degree information complete the registration form and fax it or bring to the Undergraduate Building, room 201
Application Deadlines

MSW Application Deadline

- Advanced Standing: January 15th
- Regular MSW: February 1st
MSW Program Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college, university or equivalent.
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the entire undergraduate record, or 3.0 or higher during the last two years of undergraduate work.
- Evidence of a liberal arts background, as demonstrated in both the personal statement and official undergraduate transcript. Applicants with a strong liberal arts foundation will have creative, analytical, and dialectical thinking skills gained from their undergraduate education in literature, the arts, politics, economics, history, philosophy, and the human and natural sciences. Please see the website for more information.

There are no foreign language or entrance examination requirements.
Application Process

• Self-managed online process
  – Complete application
  – Provide 3 professional references
  – Provide transcripts
  – Submit resume or curriculum vitae
  – Submit personal statement
  – Complete residence affidavit
  – Complete financial aid

Visit [www.ssw.uconn.edu](http://www.ssw.uconn.edu) to view instructions and apply
Student email – Google Apps@UConn

- Official UConn student email system
- Every student is assigned an account
- Vital information is sent, therefore, regularly check your account and delete messages as necessary
Save the Dates

• MSW Application Workshop
  – Wednesday, October 19, 2016: 5:30 to 7:00 PM

• Open House
  – Monday, November 14, 2016: 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Please RSVP at http://ssw.uconn.edu/home/open-houses-information-sessions/
Why UConn School of Social Work?

- Renowned faculty
- Diverse areas of focus, institutes, projects and centers
- Value a sense of community
- New for Fall 2017 – The SSW will be relocating to 38 Prospect Street, downtown Hartford
Questions & Answer Period

Thank you for attending today’s session!
We look forward to you registering for a course in our Non-Degree Program and considering the UConn School of Social Work for your MSW degree!