Florida A & M University provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, ethnicity, culture, class, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or political orientation, except where such distinction is required by law.
SOCIAL WORK COURSE LISTINGS

Graduate Course Descriptions: MSW Foundation Year

SOW 5106: Human Behavior and the Social Environment I. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor. This course lays the theoretical groundwork for social work practice with individuals and families. It provides the conceptual framework for the analysis of individuals and families using systems, developmental, cultural, and interactional frameworks in considering healthy and problematic functioning. Offered only in the Fall semester.

SOW 5107: Human Behavior and the Social Environment II. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5106 or the permission of the instructor. This course focuses on macro social work practice with an emphasis on social systems theories and the person-in-environment perspectives as frameworks for understanding how larger systems such as groups, organizations, and communities behave. Organizational and institutional responsiveness to the needs of oppressed populations are examined. Offered only in Spring semester.

SOW 5620: Dynamics of Oppression. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor. Theories of racism and oppression and how they relate to issues of social and economic justice are examined. Attention is specifically given to the various ways in which historically oppressed populations are impacted by discrimination in America. Offered in Fall and Summer semesters.

SOW 5235: Social Welfare Policies & Programs I. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or the permission of the instructor. The course introduces students to the historical development of social welfare policies and programs. The course also examines the historical development, mission, values, and ethics of the social work profession in addressing social problems. Offered only in the Fall semester.

SOW 5236: Social Welfare Policies & Programs II. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5235 or the permission of the instructor. This course provides content on social welfare policy formulation, frameworks for policy analysis, and the current status and accessibility of social welfare programs and its impact on historically oppressed populations. Examines the intended and unintended consequences of public and organizational policies on such major social problems of poverty, racism, and gender inequality. Offered only in the Spring semester.

SOW 5341: Social Work Practice I. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW Program and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5106. Focuses on social work practice with individuals and families. Emphasis is placed on generalist practice models of intervention, including case management, advocacy, brokering, brief counseling, education, solution-focused issue management, and crisis/trauma management within a diverse and multicultural society. Issues of social justice, social policy, ethical responsibilities, assessment and evaluation are integrated into practice models. Offered only in the Fall semester.
SOW 5343: Social Work Practice II. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW Program, SOW 5341, and completion or concurrent enrollment in SOW 5107. Fundamentals of macro social work practice aimed at eliminating barriers to enhanced social functioning. Examines principles, theories, and skills of social work practice in groups, communities, organizations and large systems. Principles of social planning, community development, and social action are incorporated. Offered only in Spring.

SOW 5404: Social Work Research I. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school or consent of the instructor. This course focuses on the basic concepts and methods of scientific inquiry as utilized in building knowledge for social work practice. The course is intended to reinforce the objectives of the foundation curriculum by preparing students to follow the beginning steps of the generalist research process, including the development of a research question, conducting an exhaustive literature review, defining variables and their interrelatedness, problem formulation, and report writing. Offered only in the Fall semester.

SOW 5425: Social Work Research II. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5404. This course focuses on introducing the student to statistics commonly used by social workers in their practice, analyzing how statistical procedures can be used for decisions that are directly relevant to effective social work practice, policy, and research. Offered only in Spring.

SOW 5534: Field Practicum I. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, successful completion of or concurrent enrollment in first year foundation coursework, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. MSW-supervised field experience in an approved social work setting at the foundation-year level. The field practicum must be taken concurrently with Field Seminar I [225 clock hours].

SOW 5545: Field Seminar I. Cr. 1. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, successful completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, first year foundation coursework and Field Practicum I, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Focus on integrating knowledge, values, and skills in relation to the field experience.

SOW 5535: Field Practicum II. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5534 and the written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Continuation of the foundation-year MSW-supervised field experience in an approved social work setting. The field practicum must be taken concurrently with Field Seminar II [225 clock hours].

SOW 5546: Field Seminar II. Cr. 1. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, successful completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, first year foundation coursework and Field Practicum II, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Focus on integrating knowledge, values and skills in relation to field experience.
Graduate Course Descriptions: MSW Advanced Concentration Year

SOW 5534: Advanced Theories of Communities and Organizations. Cr. 3.
Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework or the consent of the instructor. Examination of economic, social and political contexts in which social work is practiced in organization and communities, including the analysis of community and organizational functioning, its capacity to change, its bases of power, the enhancement of community and organizational effectiveness, and the building of organized efforts aimed at bringing about social and economic justice. **Offered only in the Fall semester.**

SOW 5344: Community Development in Social Work Practice. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework, admission into the MSW program, and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5334. Focus on the utilization of community strengths in rebuilding at-risk urban and rural neighborhoods and communities. Students learn how to combine and mobilize community strengths in building stronger, more self-reliant and economically powerful communities. The course also focuses on how to incorporate public and private sectors in social and economic community development strategies in urban and rural areas. **Offered only in the Fall.**

SOW 5386: Program Design and Development. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework, admission to the MSW program, and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5334. Examines program design and development of social service agencies and organizations. The course addresses the components of designing an effective program in a human service organization, conducting a needs assessment, planning, designing and tracking the intervention, and calculating the costs and values of the intervention. **Offered only in the Fall semester.**

SOW 5387: Resource Development and Management. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework, admission to the MSW program, and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5334. Application of theories related to writing and procuring grants, managing fiscal resources, budget evaluation, and fund-raising methods. Particular attention is given to developing and applying resources to underserved urban and rural populations, particularly women, people of color and other historically oppressed groups, in an empowering manner. **Offered only in the Spring semester.**

SOW 5241: Advanced Social Welfare Policies & Programs. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Completion of all foundation year coursework or consent of instructor. This seminar course is designed to provide students with advance knowledge of policy development, implementation, and evaluation in social service administration. Special attention is directed to the role of the social service administrator as an advocate of policy change at the agency level. As developing administrators, students learn how to initiate and manage the process of planned change, working with stakeholders inside and outside of the organizational environment.
**SOW 5433: Program Evaluation.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Successful completion of all foundation year coursework or consent of the instructor. Provides students with the knowledge, values and skills required to measure and monitor the outcomes of social service programs and organizations. Students learn how to generate reports that can be effectively used by administrators and funding sources to determine the program’s efficiency and effectiveness, as well as ways to enhance its performance. *Offered only in the Fall semester.*

**SOW 5538: Field Practicum III.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5535 and SOW 5546, completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5334, SOW 5344, SOW 5386, and SOW 5433, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Students are placed in approved MSW-supervised placement where they are engaged in a wide range of community development and administrative tasks where their advanced knowledge, values and skills may be applied [225 clock hours].

**SOW 5547: Field Seminar III.** Cr. 1. Prerequisites: SOW 5535 and SOW 5546, successful completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5334, SOW 5344, SOW 5386, and SOW 5433, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Integration of advanced knowledge and skills applied in the field placement.

**SOW 5539: Field Practicum IV.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: SOW 5538 and SOW 5547, completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, SOW 5433, and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. Students continue with their advanced MSW-supervised placement where they engage in community development and administration tasks [225 clock hours].

**Graduate Course Description of MSW Program Electives**

**SOW 5123: Psychopathology.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. A course designed to prepare social workers to understand and apply the various models of mental health practice (e.g., medical, biopsychosocial, ecological and strengths-based, etc.) to aid in mental health diagnoses and treatment. Reviews of several theories and concepts of psychopathology help students develop a frame of reference for critically analyzing mental health practice with diverse cultural groups and addressing the mental health needs of oppressed populations.

**SOW 5372: Supervision, Staff Development and Consultation.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. Emphasis on the supervisory, consultation and staff development theories and skills necessary to nurture staff so they can function creatively, productively, independently and effectively. Comparative study of supervisory techniques with professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteers is undertaken.

**SOW 5335: Empowerment.** Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. Theory, methods and skills necessary for building collaborative
alliances with consumer/community systems in order to increase access to, and control of, needed individual, family, group, community, and organizational resources. Emancipatory interventions and multicultural practice methods at the micro, mezzo and macro levels are emphasized.

SOW 5621: Women, Power and Change. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. Designed to provide students with knowledge and understanding of women’s issues in relation to changing roles, sexism, racism, and empowerment at the individual, family, group, community, and organizational levels.

SOW 5349: Case Management. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. Provides knowledge regarding the historical development, processes and models for case management in the social services. Examines the comprehensive enhancement practice model of case management, establishment of case management programs in social service systems, and methods for evaluation of case management program designs.

SOW 5336: Rural Social Work. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program or consent of instructor. An overview of theory and practice issues related to disadvantaged individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in rural settings. Particular attention is given to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations living in small and rural areas.

SOW 5540: Field Practicum Elective I. Cr. 1. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. A one-credit practicum elective in which the MSW student is given the opportunity to extend, advance, and concentrate learning beyond the tasks required in the MSW field sequence. Requires 75 clock hours of field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting.

SOW 5541: Field Practicum Elective II. Cr. 2. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. A two-credit practicum elective in which the MSW student is given the opportunity to extend, advance, and concentrate learning beyond the tasks required in the MSW field sequence. Requires 150 clock hours of field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting.

SOW 5542: Field Practicum Elective III. Cr. 3. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and written consent of the MSW Field Coordinator. A three-credit practicum elective in which the MSW student is given the opportunity to extend, advance, and concentrate learning beyond the tasks required in the MSW field sequence. Requires 225 clock hours of field work in an approved MSW-supervised social work setting.

SOW 5906: Directed Independent Study. Cr. 1-6. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program, written consent of the sponsoring faculty member, and written consent of the MSW Program Director. An individualized research study of a social work issues
conducted under the direction and supervision of graduate faculty. Requires a carefully laid out contract between the student and the sponsoring faculty member showing what will be studied, how the study will be carried out, the expected outcomes of the study, and the timetable for completion of the study.

**SOW 5550: Special Topics in Social Work.** Cr. 1-6. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSW program and consent of the instructor. A variable content graduate course focusing on selected topics in social work and social welfare.

**SOW 6428: The Professional Paper.** Cr. 1-6. Prerequisites: Written consent of a sponsoring faculty member and the approval of the MSW Program Director. A research paper involving the systematic investigation and critical analysis of a social work or social welfare-related issue. Requires a carefully laid out contract between the students and the sponsoring faculty member showing what specific topic is to be systematically investigated, the framework for analyzing the topic, the format for the research paper, and a timetable for completion of the investigation, analysis and paper.