

## **EPC 30-Day Clock Memo**

TO: All Faculty  
FROM: Educational Policies Committee  
SUBJECT: Notice of Curriculum Changes  
DATE: October 2, 2023

**The 30-day review period begins October 2, 2023 and ends November 1, 2023**

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This notice of Curriculum Changes is published as required by the EPC Manual, which is located in the Faculty Handbook. The following paragraph may be found in Section III, Part VI, Section 3, "Procedures Governing Revision of Curriculum and Degree Requirements":

F: Faculty members must submit objections to proposals in writing to the Chair of EPC via [facgov@plu.edu](mailto:facgov@plu.edu) within 30 days from the date listed on the 30-day Notice of Curriculum Changes distributed by the EPC. Objections received within this 30-day period will suspend approval, pending resolution of the objections. In the event a dispute cannot be resolved, the EPC will make its recommendation to the faculty for action at the next regular faculty meeting.

Complete copies of the proposals may be obtained from the Provost's Office or from Jessica Schwinck, Chair of the Educational Policies Committee for the 2023-24 academic year. In addition, some proposals may be found online in the EPC section of the Office of the Provost Sakai site, to which all PLU faculty should have access.

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### **Curriculum Changes for Review – Summary**

- **Religion** – delete GenEd course

### **Curriculum Changes for Information Only – Summary**

- **Social Work** – new graduate program\*

## Curriculum Changes for Review

Deletions are indicated by ~~blue strikethrough~~ | Additions are indicated in **blue bold**  
For conciseness, courses and catalog language sections that are not being changed, are not listed.

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### RELIGION

*Fall 2024*

Type 2 – delete GenEd course

Course

#### **~~RELI 391 : Sociology of Religion – RG~~**

~~An investigation of the American religious scene with particular emphasis on the new religious movements, along with attention to social settings and processes which these new religions reflect and produce. Cross-listed with SOCI 391. RELI 391 has no prerequisites. See listing for SOCI 391 for prerequisites. (4)~~

## Curriculum Changes for Information Only

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For conciseness, courses and catalog language sections that are not being changed, are not listed.

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### SOCIAL WORK

*Fall 2024*

Type 3 – new graduate program\*

\*Type 3 proposal—approved March 10, 2023 Faculty Assembly.

NOTE: The Master of Social Work proposal was approved by the Faculty Assembly on March 10, 2023. This new clock outlines word for word what was approved to make adjustments to the existing catalog language.

[Link to proposal](#)

### Catalog

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program has a focus on health and is designed to help students prepare for a career in a variety of settings related to physical and behavioral health. The MSW Program is designed to meet the needs of a variety of students who may have multiple demands. There are two pathways to enter the MSW program, the regular option or the advanced standing option. The regular option is a **28-month, 60 credit program** ~~21-month, 57 credit, full-time program~~ for students who do not have an undergraduate degree in social work. The advanced standing option is a **14 month, 40 credit program** ~~12-month, 34-credit program~~ for students who have an undergraduate degree in social work.

#### Admissions

Admission to the MSW program is based on a holistic review of the applicant's academic preparation, work and volunteer experiences, and potential contributions to the classroom experience, the social work profession, and social justice. Review of applications and acceptance into the MSW program is determined by faculty evaluation by the MSW Graduate Admissions Committee. Review of MSW applications ~~are on the basis of~~ **based on** the following requirements:

- Regular Standing
  - o Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
  - o Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

- Advanced Standing
  - o Bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program
  - o GPA in social work courses of 3.0 or higher and cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

**Applicants with a GPA below a 3.0 may also be considered. Applicants with less than a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to provide additional information related to the context of their GPA in the application.**

#### Admission Materials:

- Official transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended.
- A personal essay
- A resume or vita
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal interview (optional)
- Application fee

~~Applicants who are accepted for admission will be required to complete a Washington State Patrol Criminal History clearance, and a signed agreement to comply with the NASW Code of Ethics.~~

Fast track application: Current PLU ~~BASW students~~**BA social work majors** with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in social work courses may apply to the MSW program (advanced standing) by submitting only a resume and a personal essay. Current PLU, social work minors with a cumulative 3.0 GPA may apply to the MSW program (regular standing) by submitting a resume and personal essay. Fast track applicants are not guaranteed admission.

Transfer Credits: With the approval of the MSW coordinator, a maximum of 9 graduate credits may be transferred from other universities. The courses must fulfill PLU MSW course requirements and learning outcomes.

Master of Social Work

Degree Requirements

Regular Standing – ~~57~~60 semester hours

SOCW 505 ~~Social Work Theory & Practice (3)~~ **Human Behavior & the Social Environment (4)**

SOCW 510 ~~Social Work Skills Lab (3)~~ **Social Work Theory & Practice I (4)**

**SOCW 515 Social Work Theory & Practice II (4)**

SOCW 525 ~~Culturally Responsive Social Work Practice (3)~~ **Anti-Racism, Diversity & Equity in SW Practice (4)**

SOCW 532 Social Work Research Methods (~~4~~3)

~~SOCW 538 Theory & Practice in Health (3)~~

~~SOCW 542 Research in Health Settings (3)~~

~~SOCW 550 Social & Health Policy History (3)~~

SOCW 555 ~~Advanced Policy in Health (3)~~ **Policy Practice & Advocacy in Health Care (4)**

SOCW 560 Mental Health Assessment (~~3~~) **& Intervention (4)**

SOCW 565 ~~Advanced Clinical (3)~~ **SUD Assessment & Intervention (4)**

**SOCW 570 Social Work in Health Care (4)**

**SOCW 573 Comparative Health Care (4)**

SOCW 575 **Foundational** Field Experience I (3)

SOCW 576 **Foundational** Field Seminar I-(~~2~~1)

~~SOCW 580 Social Determinants of Health (3)~~

SOCW 585 **Advanced** Field Experience II (3)

SOCW 586 **Advanced** Field Seminar II (~~2~~1)

SOCW 595 **Advanced** Field Experience III (3)

SOCW 596 **Advanced** Field Seminar III (**21**)

SOCW 500+ electives (**98**)

Advanced Standing – **3440** semester hours

~~SOCW 538 Theory & Practice in Health (3)~~

**SOCW 525 Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Equity in SW Practice (4)**

~~SOCW 542 Research in Health Settings (3)~~

**SOCW 535 Advanced Social Work Foundations (4)**

SOCW 555 ~~Advanced Policy in Health (3)~~ **Policy Practice & Advocacy in Health Care (4)**

SOCW 560 Mental Health Assessment **& Intervention** (**34**)

SOCW 565 ~~Advanced Clinical (3)~~ **SUD Assessment & Intervention (4)**

~~SOCW 580 Social Determinants of Health (3)~~

**SOCW 570 Social Work in Health Care (4)**

**SOCW 573 Comparative Health Care (4)**

SOCW 585 **Advanced** Field Experience II (3)

SOCW 586 **Advanced** Field Seminar II (**21**)

SOCW 595 **Advanced** Field Experience III (3)

SOCW 596 **Advanced** Field Seminar III (**21**)

SOCW 500+ electives (**64**)

## Courses

### SOCW 505: ~~Social Work Theory & Practice (3)~~ **Human Behavior & the Social Environment (4)**

This course is designed to introduce students to human behavior in the social environment through a critical race lens as students begin to explore theory and practice with diverse clients in healthcare settings. Students will explore the concepts of privilege, oppression, social justice in their work with diverse clients. This course will emphasize the impact discrimination and oppression by individuals and society on the developmental experience for people from culturally diverse backgrounds and orientations. **Students will develop an understanding of the ecological systems perspective and how it is utilized in social work.** Issues of power and oppression will be explored at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work practice.

SOCW 510: ~~Social Work Skills Lab (3)~~ **Social Work Theory & Practice I (4)**  
~~Content on working with diverse populations will be integrated at all practice levels (micro, mezzo, macro)~~ **This course provides a foundation and background to the field of social work practice. Students will be introduced to the history of social welfare and the development of the social work profession in the United States. They will learn about foundational theories that apply to generalist social work practice as well as a more focused exploration of work with individuals and families. Content on working with diverse populations will be integrated** to assist students in developing social work practice skills using various theoretical constructs (i.e. strengths perspective, problem-solving, empowerment) and evidence-informed practices. Additional focus will be to assist students in developing a professional self with an integration of social work values and ethics throughout the course. Skill building will be practiced using role plays, videos, and written assignments in preparing students for their field experience in the spring semester.

### **SOCW 515: Social Work Theory & Practice II (4)**

**Students will build on the foundation provided in SOCW 510 to explore work with groups, organizations, and communities. Content on working with diverse populations will be incorporated and students will be encouraged to use an anti-racist lens to look at social work theories that underlie mezzo and macro level practice.**

SOCW 525: ~~Culturally Responsive Social Work Practice (3)~~**Anti-Racism, Diversity & Equity in SW Practice (4)**

In this course, human diversity is broadly explored and defined to include race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and ability. The course content looks critically at privilege and the ways in which a society's cultural practices and structure may oppress, marginalize, and alienate some while enhancing power and privilege of others. Students will explore **their own intersecting identities** and how awareness of these factors influences delivery of social work practice in healthcare and mental healthcare settings.

SOCW 532: Social Work Research Methods (~~3~~**4**)

Social work relies on careful collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data to answer theoretical, empirical, and applied research questions. This course will introduce students to methods of data collection and analysis in social work and provide students with the tools to engage in this central component of scientific inquiry. This course lays the foundation for social research, including an introduction to the scientific method and ethics. Students will learn about several of the most ~~commonly~~ used methods of research in ~~criminal justice, sociology and~~ social work, including experiments, surveys, interviews, field research, single subject design, content analysis, and analysis of secondary data. ~~Following an introduction into these research methodologies, research~~**Research** design, conceptualization, and sampling will be covered. Students will apply methods in course assignments and will demonstrate their cumulative learning through preparation of a research proposal using one of the methods.

**SOCW 535: Advanced Social Work Foundations (4)**

**This course is provided for incoming students into the advanced standing program. The course provides a review of the central social work theories, values, and skills that enhance the understanding of social work assessment and intervention at multiple system levels. Students will also review research methods as well as history and policy underlying the social work profession and social work practice.**

~~SOCW 538: Social Work Theory and Practice in Healthcare Settings (3)~~

~~This advanced social work theory and practice in healthcare settings is designed to situate practice in healthcare settings within a biopsychosocial-spiritual perspective. Health behavior theory, practice, and research relevant to healthcare settings in work with individuals, families, groups, and communities will be addressed. Relevant theories and practice issues associated with patient-centered care, interdisciplinary teams along with the significance of values and ethics in social work will be explored. Skill development in all phases of the helping process,~~



~~including termination with clients will be covered. Prerequisite: SOCW 505, or acceptance into the MSW program in advanced standing status.~~

~~SOCW 542: Social Work Research in Health Settings (3)~~

~~This course builds on basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods of Research Methods in Social Work (SOCW 532) and is designed and provides students with strategies for evaluating social work practice at multiple practice and system levels. Students will learn to assess and apply evaluation methods to address prevention, treatment, and programmatic services in health and mental health settings. This course also serves as the capstone course in the MSW program and is taken in the student's final semester. Prerequisite: SOCW 532, or acceptance into the MSW program in advanced standing status.~~

~~SOCW 550: History of Social Welfare & Healthcare Policy (3)~~

~~This course reviews the history of the social work profession, social welfare programs, and healthcare policy in the U.S. The influence of values, politics, and economic forces on social welfare and healthcare policy are explored. An overview of the U.S. healthcare system (including behavioral and physical health), and the role of social work, historically and contemporarily, in the large variety of private and public healthcare settings is presented. The course content reflects the values of the profession of social work and emphasizes the role of the policy-informed social work practitioner in the delivery of health and mental health services with diverse individuals, families, and communities.~~

SOCW 555: ~~Advanced Policy in Health (3)~~ **Policy Practice & Advocacy in Health Care (4)**

The course builds on policy content ~~offered~~**provided** in the foundation ~~policy~~ courses. The course provides students with knowledge, skills, and abilities for understanding the interrelationship between developments in health policy, the health care delivery system and social work practice. Diversity, inequality, social and economic justice are continuing themes of study in the advanced concentration year. **Students learn about policy practice as well as how they can use advocacy skills at micro, mezzo, and macro levels in healthcare settings.**

Prerequisite: ~~SOCW 550, SOCW 505, SOCW 510~~, or acceptance into the MSW program in advanced standing status.

SOCW 560: Mental Health Assessment ~~and~~**&** Intervention (~~3~~**4**)

This foundational course helps students develop a multi-dimensional assessment and intervention framework for clinical social work practice. This course builds on Social Work Theory and Practice from a Racial Justice Perspective and focuses on bio, psych, social, and spiritual assessment, and intervention at the individual and family level, and includes children, youth, adults, and older adults. The DSM-5

classification system is discussed within the context of social work values and ethics. Several empirically based assessment tools and intervention techniques that are grounded in social work practice **are** explored to meet the needs of clients and families from diverse backgrounds. Prerequisite: **SOCW 505**, SOCW 510 or acceptance into the MSW program in advanced standing status.

**SOCW 565: ~~Advanced Clinical (3)~~ SUD Assessment & Intervention (4)**

This course ~~builds on generalist social work theory and practice with~~ **provides** a ~~look at advanced assessment and~~ **broad understanding of the stages, processes, and effects of substance use disorders, the social and psychological dynamics of substance use disorders, and the social worker's role in prevention,** intervention ~~skills in healthcare settings across micro, mezzo, and macro practice settings. Theory,~~ and aftercare, including recovery and relapse prevention. Students will ~~guide assessment and intervention selection~~ **also learn specific interventions** for substance abuse treatment, such as motivational interviewing (MI) and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).

**SOCW 570: Social Work in Health Care (4)**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of social work practice in health care settings. Areas of emphasis will include social work practice in acute inpatient care settings, community health clinics, and agencies. Students will consider the historic context of medical social work, trends in both its development and theoretical orientations, present practice opportunities and characteristics, and ways in which professional practice differs across the health care spectrum. Skills required for effective social work practice in varied health care settings, factors impacting such practice, bioethical issues common to contemporary health care practice, and considerations and guidelines regarding the provision of care to diverse populations will be examined. The course will also address recent and anticipated changes in healthcare – and the role of the social worker within this dynamic context. Prerequisite: SOCW 505, SOCW 510, SOCW 515, or acceptance into the MSW program in advanced standing status.

**SOCW 573: Comparative Health Care (4)**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to visit and learn about health care in another country. They will explore different cultural meanings attached to health and well-being, see how healthcare policy is implemented in other countries, and learn about access to and quality of health care in another global context. Prerequisite: SOCW 570.

### SOCW 575: Foundation Field Experience I (3)

Students are assigned to a field experience setting (e.g., healthcare, mental healthcare, or social service agency) and participate under social work (practicing MSW degreed social worker) supervision and mentoring in the delivery of social work services. Students will have the opportunity to practice foundational social work skills including completing intakes, developing social histories, interviewing skills, developing intervention plans, analyzing policies relevant to practice, and other skills that the student, the field instructor, and faculty liaison mutually develop. The experience ~~is~~**requires** a minimum of ~~300~~**320** clock hours. Graded pass/fail. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 576. Prerequisite: **SOCW 505 and SOCW 510.**

### SOCW 576: Foundational Field Experience Seminar I (21)

This seminar provides students with the opportunity to integrate the content in their courses with their field experience learning activities. Students develop a plan to monitor and evaluate their practice in their field experience setting. The course provides students with an opportunity to explore, question, and process their experiences in **the** field. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 575.

### ~~SOCW 580: Social & Behavioral Determinants of Health (3)~~

~~In this course, the core concepts of social and behavioral determinants and how they influence the physical and mental health of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations is explored. Students will explore how awareness of these factors influences delivery of social work practice in healthcare and behavioral healthcare settings.~~

### SOCW 585: Advanced Field Experience II (3)

Students are assigned to a field experience setting (e.g., healthcare, mental healthcare, or social service agency) and participate under social work (practicing MSW degreed social worker) supervision and mentoring in the delivery of social work services. Building on their foundational skills, students will begin to practice advanced social work skills of assessing, intervening with research informed practices, and assessing interventions with individuals and families. The experience is a minimum of 360 hours. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 586. Prerequisites: SOCW 575; SOCW 576 or acceptance as advanced standing. Graded pass/fail.

### SOCW 586: Advanced Field Experience Seminar II (21)

This seminar provides students with the opportunity to integrate the content in their courses with their field experience learning activities. Students develop a plan to monitor and evaluate their advanced practice in their advanced field experience

setting. The course provides students with an opportunity to explore, question, and process their experiences in fields related to advanced social work practices. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 585. Prerequisites: SOCW 575; SOCW 576 or acceptance as advanced standing.

#### SOCW 595: Advanced Field Experience III (3)

Students, generally continue in the field experience I setting under social work (practicing MSW degreed social worker) supervision and mentoring in the delivery of social work services. Building on skills from the advanced field I, students will begin to demonstrate their advanced abilities by implementing evidence-based interventions with greater independence. The experience is a minimum of 360 hours and students. Graded pass/fail. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 595. Prerequisites: SOCW 585; SOCW 586.

#### SOCW 596: Advanced Field Experience Seminar III (21)

This seminar provides students with the opportunity to integrate the content in their courses with their field experience learning activities. Students develop a plan to monitor and evaluate their advanced practice in their advanced field experience setting. The course provides students with an opportunity to process and advance their field related experiences related to social work specific social work interventions. Students will develop a professional resume and explore the MSW job search process. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 596. Prerequisites: SOCW 585; SOCW 586.

#### SOCW 577: Trauma Informed Social Work Practice with Youth & Families (~~elective; 34~~) \*

Grounded in the framework of clinical social work practice, this course will provide students with additional knowledge on addressing the needs of clients with trauma exposure. In this course, students will examine trauma exposure, the impact trauma exposure has on children, adolescents, their families, and systems involved in the care of youth. The implications for improved cultural competence in trauma-informed assessment and interventions in youth and families will be discussed.

#### SOCW 578: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Social Work (~~elective; 34~~) \*—

As an advanced clinical elective, this course is designed to assist students to increase their cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) knowledge and skills. Students will learn the theoretical foundations and the CBT practice model. Students will learn the continuum of care using a CBT approach that includes evidence-based assessments, case conceptualization, treatment planning, and intervention as well as how to use other social work treatment theories (strengths based, problem focused interventions) in meeting the needs of diverse clients with complex presentations.