2025-26

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Work in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.

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.

Admission requirements

MSW 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

(b) shall hold

  (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or

  (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;

(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and

(d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSW 2. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

MSW 3. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MSW 4.

(a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or the candidate's ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.

(b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

MSW 5. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates shall

(a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and

(b) complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.

Period of study

MSW 6. The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years of full-time study or four academic year of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Advanced Standing

MSW 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

(a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
(b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

Exemption

MSW 8. Candidates may be granted exemption from not more than one compulsory course in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. The exempted course should be replaced by an additional elective course to meet the degree requirements.

Progression in curriculum

MSW 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Completion of curriculum

MSW 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, and follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed assignments and assessments of:

(a) 10 compulsory courses;
(b) 2 elective courses;
(c) 2 additional elective courses or a dissertation in accordance with MSW11;
(d) 100 hours of pre-placement workshop; and
(e) 900 hours of field placement

as prescribed in the syllabuses.

Dissertation

MSW 11. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW10(c), candidates may choose to complete a dissertation in the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit the title of dissertation for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and shall submit the dissertation by not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. The dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MSW 12. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MSW 13. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSW 14. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in any course(s), not including the dissertation, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSW 15. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW11, candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within an approved specified period.

MSW 16. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSW 17. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MSW 18. Candidates who

(a) have failed in half or more of the number of courses taken in any academic year; or
(b) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat any failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSW14; or
(c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
(d) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSW 15; or
(e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration

may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading system

MSW 19. Individual courses should be graded according to the following grading system:

Grade	*Standard*	*Grade Point*
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

Classification of awards

MSW 20. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

A. PURPOSE

The degree is designed to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive professional training in the theory and practice of social work for those who intend to make this their career or who are already in the profession.

B. CURRICULUM

(a) The curriculum is offered in full-time and part-time mode, and extends over two and three academic years respectively.

(b) Candidates are required to complete 123 credits, including 10 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 100 hours of pre-placement workshop (9 credits), 900 hours of supervised field placement (total 30 credits), plus 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits).
Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under Master of Social

Sciences (Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes. The selection of cross-listed courses shall be subject to the approval of the Programme Director/Chairman of the two respective programmes.

For exemption from courses or completing alternative assignments from a dissertation, formal approval shall be obtained from the Department in accordance with the conditions set out in the Degree Regulations.

(c) The 10 compulsory courses shall include:

SOWK6002. Social policy and administration (6 credits)
SOWK6003. Social work research (6 credits)
SOWK6243. Social services management (6 credits)
SOWK6303. Human behaviour and the social environment I (6 credits)
SOWK6304. Human behaviour and the social environment II (6 credits)
SOWK6305. The Law, ethics and social work (6 credits)
SOWK6306. Theory and practice of social work – Casework (6 credits)
SOWK6307. Theory and practice of social work – Group work (6 credits)
SOWK6308. Theory and practice of social work – Community Development (6 credits)
SOWK7002. Social science theories for social work (6 credits)

(d) Two elective courses (6 credits each)

(e) Field placement *(capstone experience courses)*

SOWK6300. Pre-placement workshop (9 credits)
SOWK6225. Field placement I (15 credits)
SOWK6231. Field placement II (15 credits)

(f) Dissertation *(capstone experience course)*

A candidate shall be required to present a satisfactory dissertation (12 credits) or two additional elective courses (6 credits each) in accordance with MSW11.

SOWK6021. Dissertation (12 credits)

C. ASSESSMENT

Ongoing assessment based on coursework will be conducted to appraise the candidates' individual performance and will be designed according to learning objectives. They may include essays, portfolios, oral presentations, learning journals or others prepared individually or in groups. Written examination papers, tests, ongoing assessment, a dissertation or any combination of these shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.

D. SYLLABUSES

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6002. Social policy and administration (6 credits)

This course intends to enhance students' understanding of the functions of social policy in satisfying human needs, solving social problems, and strengthening families and communities. It increases students' competency in policy advocate and practice. It introduces key concepts and theoretical perspectives of social welfare, policy process and analytical framework of social policy. The course

outlines an overview of social policy development of Hong Kong and enhances the ability of students in policy critique and analytical skill through in-depth examination of current social policy issues of Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6003. Social work research (6 credits)

Emphasis is given to the need for, and practical application of, research in the social welfare field. To illustrate the major concepts, methods and goals of social work research, this course is designed to provide a basic grounding in research methodology. The course syllabus will include: measurement and explanation in social work research; problem definition and the formation of hypotheses; techniques of data collection; observation, interviews, use of service records and documentary materials; data analysis and report presentation. Evaluation of social work methods and social welfare programmes will also be discussed, using selected research studies in the field of social work, social policy and social administration.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6243. Social services management (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to enable candidates to understand the management concepts, theories and practice in managing services and people in human service organizations. It discusses the dynamics of quality improvements, strategic planning, monitoring and control, management information system, performance appraisal, supervision, stress management, teamwork, financial management and change. Special reference is made to the recent reforms in social service sector and its management implications.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6303. Human behaviour and the social environment I (6 credits)

This course provides a framework for understanding human behaviour in relation to the social environment. The life-span development of human beings and the interactions between individuals, systems and the environment will be emphasized. Core contents of the course cover: normal patterns of growth and psycho-social development; healthy personality and adjustment; life stresses and coping failures; psychological and socio-cultural influences in human behaviour; and the implications for social workers.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6304. Human behaviour and the social environment II (6 credits)

The course equips students with an integrative and multi-dimensional understanding, classification and management of abnormal behaviors and mental disorders in the environmental and cultural context. The students will be familiar with the key issues in mental health service and research, and be able to discuss their relevance in ethical and evidence-informed social work practice and service planning.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6305. The Law, ethics and social work (6 credits)

The course intends to develop a critical awareness of the interaction between law and ethics in social work practice. Students will be able to examine how law can be used a framework of protection for both service users and practitioners and apply notions of ethics to their day-to-day practice. More specifically, it introduces the legal principles, institutions and processes that underpin the Hong Kong legal system.

An emphasis is placed on understanding the impact of laws on social work practice in various settings such as child welfare, criminal justice, domestic violence, guardianship, mental health, and anti-discrimination. It also explores personal values and beliefs, and introduces ethical theories and frameworks that can be used to assist decision making. Ethical issues and dilemmas in relation to work in social service organizations, and relationships with colleagues and managers will be studied. Social workers' legal duties and obligations such as negligence, duty of care, confidentiality and informed consent will be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6306. Theory and practice of social work – Casework (6 credits)

This course aims to provide students with foundations of social work concepts, models and theories in social work practice, especially in case work methods. Students are expected to relate theoretical knowledge with practice situations. Students have to perform a functional analysis of human needs and plan basic intervention steps accordingly.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6307. Theory and practice of social work – Groupwork (6 credits)

This course aims to develop a critical understanding of group work theory and practice with application to social work practice. The course will focus on group theory, ethics and the type of groups that social workers may encounter. It is designed to help students understand group dynamics and develop skills in group leadership, analysis and evaluation.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6308. Theory and practice of social work – Community Development (6 credits)

This course equips students with awareness and understanding on developing a theoretical framework for macro practice. Students develop knowledge and skills for practice in communities, organizations and other social systems; learn how to identify and analyze problems and issues; conduct needs assessments and policy research; plan strategies and skills needed for direct action organizing work including building campaigns, establishing and soliciting community network and resources, planning actions, engaging media.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7002. Social science theories for social work (6 credits)

Social workers confront multiple social problems experienced in the lives of their clients and the larger society. Social work axiomatically embraces both structure and agency, and conceptualizes problems as having both individual and social etiologies. This course covers multiple socio-theoretic approaches to understanding the problems social work clients experience. Prejudice, discrimination, and understanding individual choices are a fundamental concern. The knowledge base of social work 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 theories we use to understand social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into social work practice.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses

SOWK6300. Pre-placement workshop (9 credits)

This course is designed to fulfill the registration requirement of the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB). Before undertaking the 900 fieldwork placement hours, students are required to attend 100 hours of placement preparation workshop. This course will be conducted throughout the whole academic year, composed of different briefing sessions and training workshops. After taking this course, students will be equipped to understand the NGO social services and the expectation from NGOs on placement students; to write up different proposals and recordings for placement activities; to make well use of supervision and to learn different skills to work with different clienteles and etc.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6225. Field placement I (15 credits)

Fieldwork practice is an integral part of social work education with the emphasis on learning through practicum. In this course, students are placed in real life work situations to deliver services commensurate with social work professional requirement under the guidance of Field Instructors. Students have to acquaint with social work values and assumptions, develop continuous self-reflection on learning, and demonstrate the application of basic social work service skills in practice. For professional accreditation, the Social Workers' Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 800 placement hours plus 100 hours for placement preparation. Students taking this course have to fulfill at least 450 placement hours.
Prerequisites: SOWK6300. Pre-placement workshop and
SOWK6306. Theory and practice of social work - Casework and
SOWK6307. Theory and practice of social work - Groupwork and
SOWK6308. Theory and practice of social work – Community Development
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6231. Field placement II (15 credits)

Field work placement II serves as a transition practicum for student social workers to move towards becoming a full-fledged social worker. Students are trained to be responsible, able to cope with pressure and crisis, as well as to work independently. They should be aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and be ready to make continuous efforts to further develop in professional competence after graduation. For professional accreditation, the Social Workers' Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 800 placement hours plus 100 hours for placement preparation. Students taking this course have to fulfill at least 450 placement hours.
Prerequisite: SOWK6225. Field placement I
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6021. Dissertation (12 credits)

Candidates shall present a dissertation on an approved topic which shall be either an account of empirical research or a critical exposition of existing knowledge. The title of the dissertation shall be presented for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and the dissertation shall be presented not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The length of their dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Electives Courses

SOWK6022. Emotionally Focused Therapy (6 credits)

Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) is an attachment based approach that utilizes the power of empathic attunement and experiential interventions to facilitate a felt sense of security with oneself and others. In EFT, the therapist tunes into the emotion processes of the client and facilitates corrective emotional experiences. These new, healing emotional experiences build capacities in regulating emotions and more secure emotional bonding with oneself and others.

This course provides a theoretical overview of the EFT approach with an emphasis on the experiential practice of empathic attunement and EFT interventions. Attachment Theory and Polyvagal Theory are integrated into EFT to help students attune to and engage in emotional distress cycles with self and others. Students will learn the roadmap of EFT, apply practical interventions on how to attune to the here-and-now emotions, and facilitate processes that promote emotional bonding with significant others and more secure and flexible models of self and others. Neuroscience is introduced to help students to understand its role played in emotional changes.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6025. Family social work (6 credits)

This course helps the students to evolve a frame of reference for work within family situations. The basic concepts and historical development of family therapy will be introduced. The differences and intervention implications between individual framework and the systemic family framework will be examined. Various schools of thought for working in areas of parent-child, marital, and intergenerational exchanges are critically examined for their applicability to the local setting. The focus is on family structure and transactional processes.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6035. Oncology, palliative and hospice care (6 credits)

Professionals in the field of medical and health settings are expected to be competent in oncology care, palliative and hospice care. The candidates will learn about 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 candidate projects.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6055. Special topics in social work - A (6 credits)

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6056. Special topics in social work - B (6 credits)

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6057. Special topics in social work – C (6 credits)

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6058. Special topics in social work - D (6 credits)

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6059. Special topics in social work - E (6 credits)

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6062. The Satir model and family reconstruction (6 credits)

Human behaviour is heavily influenced by family upbringing and socialization. This course, based on a marathon experiential training mode, aims to help students to achieve an understanding of their family. Virginia Satir's concepts of family rules, communication patterns, family mapping and self-esteem will be used to guide students through a process of self-discovery. Active participation will be essential.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships (6 credits)

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 violent behavior are taught. How to assess violence, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies, and how to apply such related skills are examined. A particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioural interventions (6 credits)

The course introduces students to the Beck's cognitive-behaviour therapy model in working with people with depression and anxieties. A case process approach will be adopted to provide a stage-by-stage and step-by-step understanding of the theory and practice of Beck's CBT. Other CBT models for working with people with psychosis, OCD, pathological gambling, substance abuse and etc. will also be discussed in class. Invited speakers will share their local experiences in using CBT for working with Chinese clients in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)

Adventure-Based Counselling (ABC) is a popular contemporary approach employed to work with 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. Although it is especially

popular among working with young people, it can also be used in working with different age groups, families and couples. This course aims to introduce the basic theories and practices of ABC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of ABC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions will be introduced. Last, but not least, the quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for candidates to participate and experience the process.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6145. Marital counselling (6 credits)

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.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for human service organizations (6 credits)

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.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting (6 credits)

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.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods (6 credits)

This course is designed for candidates with an interest in understanding all aspects of social life and social relations especially those who will undertake a dissertation study. Starting with the question "what is reality?", the course begins with an introduction to different perspectives on approaching reality, followed by an assessment of the general strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research in comparison with other conventions such as quantitative surveys. The lectures will focus on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including ethnography, grounded theory, observation, interviewing, focus groups and narrative analysis, etc. Various cases will be used to demonstrate how qualitative research helps make meaningful policy and social work practice. Seminars will be organized around practical methodological issues with the objective of helping candidates proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6193. Social gerontology (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive, holistic view of ageing that considers the implications for an older person's interactions with their social and physical environments, including the immediate environment of family, friends, and home, as well as the larger social structure of community, organizations, and society. It also aims to impart knowledge to students about the most important social theories on ageing and the time dimension in the ageing process and its relation to the evolution of larger society.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age (6 credits)

This course explores the types of mental illnesses among the elderly in Hong Kong. Attention will be put towards the understanding of the causes and treatments of mental illness in the elderly population. A critical review of medical, psychological and social services for the elderly with mental illness will be conducted.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6206. Play therapy (6 credits)

The objective of the module is to introduce the student to the principles and practice of play therapy and its application to the counseling and psychotherapy for children, adolescents and families. At the end of the course, the students will have an introduction of the history and development of play therapy, an understanding of various theoretical models of play therapy, rationale for the use of play in therapy, and phrase of the client's progress in play therapy. Practice material will be provided including how to development therapeutic rapport, conduct a play based assessment, setting up of a playroom and the selection of therapeutic play materials. Best practice tips on engaging the client, recording keeping and other ethical issues will be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing (6 credits)

The course is designed to examine the concepts of social policy and ageing, and the various models available for the analysis of social policy. By analyzing local and foreign services and policy regarding the elderly people, students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing public policies. This should further the understanding of the development of social services to meet the needs of the elderly in the context of economic and social change. Basic concepts of social planning, problem identification and programme implementation will be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6214. Youth mental health and neurodiversity (6 credits)

This course focuses on an understanding of the mental health issues found among children and youth in Hong Kong. While it will introduce the developmental perspectives on child and adolescent development, it will also provide an overview of the prevalence and general features of different childhood and adolescent mental health problems. The course will also bear a practice focus and introduce to students the assessment, treatment and skills in engaging neurodivergent children and youth while appreciating their strength and embracing their uniqueness.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues (6 credits)

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current social welfare policy issues including social welfare planning mechanisms, welfare blue print, strategic framework for social welfare, district planning, and other relevant issues will be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6237. Use of creative arts in social work practice (6 credits)

The course will introduce the theories of creative arts as healing and illustrate the use of creative arts in local social work contexts, including individual or group counselling setting and community development setting. It is a practical course with hands-on experience to the use of creative arts in expression, communication and healing. Creative arts are action-oriented and process-focused. The development of skills and use of creative arts for self-exploration go simultaneously in this course. Students will have opportunity to experiment with the use of arts for creative exploration and self-understanding. Different arts media will be introduced, including visual art, craft work, music, sounds, dramatic exercises, spontaneous movement and writing. The students will synthesize their personal experience with conceptual learning through experiential activities, live demonstration, listening exercise, case studies, video analysis and sharing. The course is not a formal creative arts therapy training, but offers opportunities for exploring the resources of creative arts in social work context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6246. Working with people with disabilities (6 credits)

Social workers who work with people with disabilities nowadays should have critical mind and self-reflective attitudes to meet the challenges from the changing field of disabilities. To enhance quality of life of people with disabilities, social workers should have sensitivity to understand situations of individuals with disabilities, and have substantial knowledge of intervening in different levels of environments. Providing candidates an insightful learning process, this course uses interactive and experiential activities besides traditional one-way lectures. Guests, including friends with intellectual disabilities, friends with physical handicap, their carers and social workers, will be invited to come to the class to share their life experience. This course introduces candidates the paradigm shift in the field, the evolution of services affecting people with disabilities, and contemporary approaches to provide services to people with disabilities.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6248. Addictive behaviour (6 credits)

This course introduces the growing body of knowledge on pathological addictive behaviours. Topics to be covered include drug abuse, alcoholism, computer addiction, and compulsive buying. Various models on the biological, psychological, and social factors related to the course of addiction will be explored. Assessment, treatment, and prevention strategies will also be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6252. Conflict resolution and mediation (6 credits)

This course will examine the nature of interpersonal conflicts and the strategies of conflict resolution.

The course reviews key elements of negotiation and mediation from different perspectives. The essence of mediation is to achieve a 'win-win' situation of concerned parties. Students will be able to master the basic skills of negotiation and mediation. The course is designed for intended practitioners who are interested in undertaking mediation in various settings.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course offers a basic orientation to the knowledge and intervention approaches in working with death-related situations, including end of life care and bereavement counseling. Major theories and models related to death, dying and bereavement would be introduced. Corresponding clinical implications and practical work approaches would also be highlighted. Apart from the knowledge and skills, the course also emphasizes on personal exploration and review on one's attitudes toward life and death issues. It is hoped that students are better equipped with knowledge competence, practice competence as well as self competence in working with death, dying and bereavement.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6261. Social work in school settings (6 credits)

The objective of school counselling is to enhance students' whole person development through the provision of remedial, preventive and developmental services in school settings. Phenomena such as students' suicide, physical and sexual abuse, mental health issues, study problems and school violence pose great challenges to a school counsellor. Adopting the ecological perspective, this course will examine: the service provision of school guidance and counselling service in Hong Kong, the multiple roles of a school counsellor, the establishment of collaborative relationship with school personnel, the application of practice theories and intervention strategies to individual and school-based family counselling, and the implementation of comprehensive school guidance and counselling programmes. By participating in this course, social work students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be a competent school counsellor.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6263. Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis (6 credits)

This course covers various statistical analyses that include single variable, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. Appropriate analyses for different types of data will be discussed and various techniques in scale development including reliability and factor analysis will be introduced. Apart from various multivariate linear modeling and path analysis, non-parametric analyses will also be introduced.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6269. Child maltreatment and protection (6 credits)

Every child has the right to a life free from violence. Unfortunately, millions of children around the world are the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as global neglect. Child maltreatment is a serious public health problem with a negative impact on the victims, their families and societies as a whole. The prevalence and risk factors of child maltreatment will be examined in the course. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will be investigated.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6274. Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourished life, and strength-based interventions include counseling and therapy models that foster psychological well-being and reduce distress and symptoms in clients. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology, including the study of happiness, character strengths, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and psychotherapy, as well as strength-oriented interventions which include mindfulness-based, compassion-based and valued-based models. The cultural relevance of Positive Psychology and strength-based interventions will also be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6283. Social work with persons with mental illness (6 credits)

The course covers different theoretical orientations towards mental illness in relation to its definition, classification, etiology, treatment, management and rehabilitation; the relationships between mental illness and individual and environmental factors; the relevance of cultural factors in mental health practice; prevailing models of service provision for persons with mental illness; multidisciplinary teamwork approach in mental health service; and the professional roles and core competences of mental health social workers.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth (6 credits)

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with young people experiencing different issues in their development. To facilitate the skill development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated services, games and role-play. Advanced social work practice includes motivational interviewing, debriefing, youth development intervention protocol design, and multi-disciplinary cooperation for various youth problems.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies (6 credits)

This course will begin with a critical review of the current state of theory and research on child development, youth development and delinquency. It will then go on to evaluate existing policies and services directed at child, youth and youth at risk. Finally it will explore current issues in the field of youth policy. Special emphasis will be given to the relevance of these issues and programmes within the Hong Kong context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6289. Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management (6 credits)

This course aims at helping managers of human service organizations to be equipped with the knowledge in strategic management to deal with the current challenges arising from the rapidly changing public and social service scene. Topics may include strategic planning, quality management, risk management, change management, business process re-engineering, etc.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6290. Social innovation and enterprise (6 credits)

At the turn of the 21st Century, the ideas of social innovation and social entrepreneurship grow across the globe. New solutions, that are innovative, are needed to meet the growing challenges facing our rapidly changing society. Innovations that have a social purpose are new ideas that work to meet pressing unmet needs and improve peoples' lives. It takes social entrepreneurship to make such social innovation to work and sustainable, though social entrepreneurship does not necessarily entail innovation. This course aims at developing understanding and practices of social innovation and social entrepreneurship among graduate social work students. We aim at inspiring our students to become an active agent in addressing the pressing social issues and making social change.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6291. Advanced gerontological seminars (6 credits)

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6292. Ageing and health (6 credits)

According to the WHO, health is a "complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." As people age, they are increasingly facing challenges in their physical and mental health and in their social wellbeing. A better integrated health and social care system will help older people to better adjust to their aging processes and to minimize the negative impacts of aging to their wellbeing. This course is designed to help students from diverse academic backgrounds to understand the core values, conceptual models, intervention strategies, and service delivery systems of the integrated health and social care model. Building on the foundation values and knowledge of their own disciplines, students will learn how to effectively develop and implement a multi-disciplinary team in geriatric care settings.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6293. Ageing in global contexts (6 credits)

This course aims to help students understand the implications of population ageing and increasing life expectancy in both developed and developing countries although countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be our focus. Cross-national evidence-based programs will be selected from North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Specifically, we will illustrate how population ageing varies across the globe and how it affects family support, living arrangements, and intergenerational transfer and relationships. Moreover, the policy and practice implications of population ageing in social, political, and economic dimensions will be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6295. Working with couples (6 credits)

This course will examine the various issues involved as couples prepare for marriage, nurture their marital relationship, deal with marriage difficulties, resolve conflicts, work for

conciliation/reconciliation, handle possible divorce and post-divorce issues, and face the challenges of remarriage. Approaches in working with couples at the different stages of couple relationship development will be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6309. Mental health: policies and practices (6 credits)

As part of practice competence, mental health workers should be able to take a critical stance in understanding and analyzing the policy contexts that affect their practice. The first half of the course will provide a general understanding of selected social policies in Hong Kong. It will also offer students an understanding of certain policy analysis frameworks. The second half of the course focuses on critically examining policy issues relating to mental health care. Topics such as policy trends in mental health care, legal contexts of mental health care, stigma and discrimination, rights of persons with mental illness and etc. will be explored. Overseas examples in mental health policies will be used for comparison.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6310. Psychosocial approaches in mental health care (6 credits)

This course critically examines current models of prevention, rehabilitation and treatments for people with mental illness. Topics such as prevention and rehabilitation, hospital and community care, models of social and vocational rehabilitation, models of psychological intervention, culture and mental health, multidisciplinary teamwork in mental health service, core competences of mental health workers/social workers and etc. By comparing these to overseas models of psychosocial approaches in mental health care, students can appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the models that are at work in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6311. Cognitive-behaviour therapy skills training (6 credits)

This course adopts a CBT case process model and provides a step-by-step intensive and hands-on training of cognitive-behaviour therapy skills for students who are interested in practicing CBT. Cognitive-oriented techniques such as thought stopping, cognitive restructuring, cognitive continuum and pie chart will be taught, while behavioural techniques such as activity ruler, activity chart, behavioural experiment and exposure will also be introduced to the students. It is expected that students would actively participate by practicing the various skills, engaging in role plays and other activities in class. Students who intend to enroll in this course must have taken SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioral interventions.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6312. Cognitive-behaviour therapy supervised practice (6 credits)

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with up to two clients using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through case discussions and group supervision, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions. Students who intend to enroll in this course must have taken SOWK6127 "Cognitive-behavioral interventions", and SOWK6311 "Cognitive-behaviour therapy skills training".
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6313. Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)

In light of increasing number of special educational needs (SEN) children in school settings, this course provides basic knowledge and intervention strategies for social workers working in family services, schools and integrated youth services settings. Attention is drawn to the assessments and the needs of these children, the needs of families, and the roles of different professionals with related multi-disciplinary collaboration. Students are expected to understand the social workers' roles in working with SEN children. More importantly, various types of interventions, such as applied behavioral analysis, social story and learning strategies are discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6329. Assessment in mental health: A bio-psychosocial approach (6 credits)

This course provides students with knowledge and skills in conducting psychiatric and psychosocial assessments on people with mental illness. Assessments on individual illnesses such as depression and psychosis will be taught using a bio-psychosocial perspective. The first 5 lectures cover the genetic and neurological bases of certain types of mental illness and the other 5 lectures will focus on the psychosocial factors in the etiology and development of certain types of mental illness. Students will be introduced to selected neurological, psychological and psychosocial assessment tools that are commonly used in measuring the mental health characteristics and statuses of a person with mental health concerns. Practical skills in using these assessment tools will be taught during classes.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6332. Principles of drama therapy (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to the field of drama therapy, a form of creative arts therapy with the concentration using drama and theatre elements, as well as the theories and principles involved in its practice through lectures and experiential activities. There will be an overview of the history, sources, rationale, philosophy, application, as well as ethical consideration for practitioners. Different approaches of drama therapy as well as psychotherapy such as Humanistic Approach, Existentialism Psychotherapy, Individual and Group Psychotherapy, Developmental Transformations Drama Therapy, Sesame Drama & Movement Therapy, Psychodrama Psychotherapy, Playback Theatre and Forum Theatre will be covered in the course. It provides students a picture for further academic development in this profession.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6333. Integrative Body-mind-spirit social work: An empirically based approach to assessment and treatment (6 credits)

Integrative therapy focuses on the body-mind-spirit relationship, recognizes spirituality as a fundamental domain of human existence, acknowledges and utilizes the mind's power as well as the body's, and reaches beyond self-actualization or symptom reduction to broaden a perception of self that connects individuals to a larger sense of themselves and to their communities. This course aims to introduce the Integrative Body-mind-spirit Intervention Approach, and its application to social work and professional counselling practice. The course will focus on the theoretical framework, assessment and treatment techniques that employ an integrative, holistic perspective. It is designed to help students integrate theories and practices through the application of an evidence-based psychosocial intervention. By the end of the course, students will increase their intellectual and professional competency in the facilitation and implementation of integrative social work practices.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6334. Applying comprehensive geriatric assessment for quality long-term care (6 credits)

This course provides students with competence, including values knowledge and skills in conducting comprehensive assessment on frail older people for psychogeriatric care. A government adopted assessment tool interRAI Home Care will be introduced to illustrate four interrelated area of assessment, consisting of functional well-being, cognitive and mental well-being, social well-being, and clinical well-being, together with popularly used clinical assessment in corresponding areas. Students will be introduced to understand rational, contents, assessment procedures, and comprehension of assessment results for clinical intervention.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6335. A care management approach in support family carers (6 credits)

Family carers provide continuous care support to older adults with acute, transitional, and chronic impairments. However, family carers are twice as likely to suffer ill-health, both physically and mentally, compared to non-carers. Moreover, family carers with ill-health are more likely to be abusive, leading to family tragedy. Better support for family carers is associated with better health outcomes for frail older adults, family functioning, and the well-being of carers. This course examines profile, well-being, and needs of family carers globally and in Hong Kong. A critical evaluation of carer support services will be conducted. A clinical care management approach in supporting family carers will be introduced including assessment, ethics, care planning and intervention, and evaluation.
Prerequisite: SOWK6193 Social gerontology
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6336. Clinical consultation in psychogeriatric care (6 credits)

The course provides opportunities to students to integrate knowledge gained over the course of the program and apply various psychotherapy models learned in working with clients under psychogeriatric care. Through case presentations by students, clinical feedbacks will be given in terms of case conceptualization, treatment direction, and actual application of psychotherapeutic techniques. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures, case illustrations, role plays exercises and/or demonstrations.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6337. Evidence-based interventions and care for people with dementia (6 credits)

Dementia care and interventions can improve cognition, behavioural and psychological symptoms, and other outcomes in people with dementia and wellbeing of carers. This course equips current and future practitioners with the fundamental understanding and skills in delivering evidence-based non-pharmacological interventions in dementia, covering the entire course of illness from mild to severe, including Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), Tailored Activity Program (TAP), multicomponent carer support programmes, and dementia care management; as well as case identification and evaluation of intervention outcomes.
Prerequisite: SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6338. Programme evaluation (6 credits)

This course is designed to equip you with knowledge and skills necessary to systematically develop, implement, and evaluate social policies and programs. Social program funders, providers, consumers, policymakers, and the general public are increasingly focused on assessing the costs, quality, and outcomes of social services. At the same time, social service systems are becoming more complex, serving increasingly diverse populations, and facing multiple and conflicting demands from various stakeholders. Calls for "empirically-based practice" are becoming strong determinants of the types of services that will, or will no longer, be provided as part of the delivery of human services in the world. Thus, evidence-based program development is potentially powerful in helping to legitimize and advance psychosocial practice and program in health and social services. This course will enhance students' ability to provide leadership in advancing these issues in the practice communities where they may find themselves working. It will be imperative for them to be able to (1) conduct needs assessment, (2) plan and develop evidence-based intervention programs, (3) monitor the implementation of intervention programs, (4) evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of intervention programs, and (5) analyse research results as a basis in advocating for programs delivered by human service practitioners.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6339. Human resources management and development in social service organizations (6 credits)

The course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in managing and developing human resources in social service organizations, and examining related current issues, and to stimulate applications in local context. Issues related to the human resources management and development including recruitment, selection, performance management, training and development, and succession planning will be covered, and topics on personal efficacy as a leader will also be examined with practical examples. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to master the basic principles of HR management and development and apply them in social service context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6340. Marketing strategies and applications for social service organizations (6 credits)

Social service organisations operate in an environment with various stakeholders, like service users, service purchasers, volunteers, donors, funders, neighbours, policymakers and press, etc., who have different exchange relationships with them. Marketing is about the effective management of an organisation's exchange relationships with its various markets and publics. This course provides students with the theoretical concepts and skills in marketing that are applicable in the social service sector with an emphasis both on using traditional and digital techniques. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to master the basic and latest principles of marketing and apply them in social service context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6341. Fundraising and resources development: effective strategies and practice (6 credits)

Resource is necessary for an NGO to support its means and services in actualizing the mission. Securing funds have become more and more competitive and NGOs have attempted to diversify sources of funding. Raising funds, writing proposals and developing innovative ways to generate resources have become regular activities of NGOs. This course covers topics such as understanding of giving behaviour and the current trend of philanthropy, cost-effectiveness of various fundraising activities, effective strategies including building a prospective relationship, essential elements in a grant proposal and pitching, presentation of results and impacts, accountability and report, handling of ethical issues and risk management etc.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6342. Corporate governance and leadership for future leaders in social service (6 credits)

This course introduces concepts, system and practice of corporate governance for better understanding of social service organization receiving public funding. It emphasizes, under this system, particularly on the leadership of board and senior management/social work professionals for effective service and achievement of mission of the organization. It takes reference to real life cases and issues. It stimulates development of a framework to understand perspectives of different stakeholders and for ongoing application and developing effective intervention.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6343. Case management and clinical supervision: child and youth cases (6 credits)

The case nature of children and youth cases is more diversified and social workers need to handle cases related to special educational needs, family problems, study motivation and career planning, emotional and behavioral issues. This course aims at providing the most hands-on skills and knowledge for cases. Students are divided into active participants and observers. Active participants bring their own cases for clinical supervision. The clinical supervisors are experienced clinical social workers, counselors or experts in clinical practice. The supervision areas include the clinical skills related to the particular domains and related case management.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6344. Interdisciplinary cooperation in services for children and youth (6 credits)

Children and youth cases are getting more complicated nowadays. Social workers working with children and youth have to work with multiple professionals, namely educational psychologists, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nurses, teachers, audiologists, psychiatrists, and police. This course aims at facilitating students to understand the underlying working paradigms of various professionals, the skills and related knowledge in working with these professionals. Social workers at the best position to mediate the various professionals for the sake of the welfare of the child, youth and their families.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6345. Mental health economics and policy (6 credits)

Mental health is closely associated with our rapidly changing society. This course will introduce students to mental health topics and issues in our contemporary society – including public policy; causes and prevention; treatment and support; resource allocation challenges; discrimination and stigma; and inequalities. These issues will be covered at different points across the life-course, with examples covering topics such as maternal mental health; child and adolescent mental illness and its adulthood consequences; recovery; workplace issues; family impacts and roles; suicide; and dementia. Students will gain in-depth understanding about mental health challenges and policy responses, especially from an economic perspective; risk factors for mental illness; economic evaluation of mental health interventions and policies, including methods and applications of cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses; policy analysis. Illustrative real-world examples will be used throughout the course, such as mental health policy in England today, economic evaluation of medication and nonpharmacological interventions for common mental disorders and severe mental illnesses, projection and other modelling to inform national dementia care policy.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6348. Information and communication technology in human service organizations (6 credits)

This course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in handling and utilizing information and communication technology in managing social service organizations and service delivery. The course content includes: Trends and issues of technological development in society and human services, process of developing and managing IT projects, use of ICT and social media in direct services, Assistive technology and gerontechnology, Security and ethical use of ICT and social media, and Emerging trends and its future use in human services.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6349. Mental health recovery: Narrative and strengths-based practices (6 credits)

Recovery is "A deeply personal, unique process of changing one's attitudes, values, feelings, goals, skills and roles. It is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful and contributing life even with the limitation caused by illness." (Anthony, 1993). Recovery-oriented practices are empowering approaches that embrace person-centered alternatives for promoting hope, self-determination, self-management, wellbeing and social inclusion of people in face of mental distress. Such humanistic approaches have been gaining international credence among mental health service users, service providers, professionals and policy makers in recent years.

Grounding on the recovery paradigm, this course aims to walk you through the re-authoring elements of recovery, and the latest knowledge on recovery-oriented practices for mental health counselling and the promotion of wellbeing. It will provide you with the evidence- and experienced-based knowledge of non-pharmacological approaches and postmodern practices including story-telling, narrative therapy, the strengths model assessment and intervention, Wellness Recovery Action Plan etc. You will be guided to see how these practices are not only applicable to counseling in mental health context but also to working with people coping with other issues and challenges in life. You will also have the opportunities to learn and practise the various conversation maps of narrative therapy through experiential exercises during the course.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6350. Social Work and Health Care (6 credits)

This course introduces the evolving development of an empowering social work practice in healthcare. It is an integral learning of psychosocial assessments, empowerment skills, and evidence-based approaches for working with the Chinese and local population to cope with a range of health challenges. The course covers multi-level methods of holistic care from diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation to palliative phase. Major methods at individual, family and community levels include case management, patient education, health promotion, body-mind-spirit model, healing arts, mindfulness-based practice, trauma-informed care, end-of-life care, bereavement support, self-help, mutual support and care for the care-givers.
The course emphasized the importance of experiential learning and sharing of clinical experience. Interactive exercises, live demonstration, video illustration, case studies and readings will be provided to build up the knowledge, skills, sensitivity, collaborative capacity, professional ethics and personal strengths of the students.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7003. Basic medical knowledge for social work students (6 credits)

Medical Social Work is a very important component in our health care system. It is a crucial interface between health care and social welfare sector. Medical education and social work education however

have not been developed from the same vein historically. Their fundamental outlooks and values are often different. There is a need to bridge the two. This course is designed to help social work students to understand the perspectives of medical practitioners and enhance their communication with the medical team.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7009. Online counselling and psychosocial interventions for digital generations (6 credits)

This course brings together cutting-edge knowledge and discussions related to the online world, its impact on digital generations' health and mental health, and the use of technology in psychosocial services both in the unique local and international contexts. Students will learn essential theories and research of cyberpsychology and online counselling. The content includes basic principles, assessment and evidence-based practices of professional counselling and psychosocial interventions for individuals and groups over the Internet, focusing on understanding and practising online counselling and crisis intervention with high-risk groups. Ethical practices are highly emphasized throughout the entire course. Our goal is to help students with background training in "human services (e.g., counselling, social work, academic advising, support for caregivers) to be capable of helping people with various psychosocial needs or mental health conditions and distress through both synchronous and asynchronous e-platforms.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7011. Narrative therapy: A post-structuralist approach to life challenges (6 credits)

The course introduces students to the philosophical foundations and practice of narrative therapy for working with individuals, families, groups and communities. Students will have a chance to be engaged with narrative ideas and its application in counselling and human services contexts.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7017. Family Violence – Prevention and Practice (6 credits)

Domestic and family violence is a critical social and health issue with profound implications for individuals, couples, families, and communities. This course provides an overview of various forms of domestic and family violence, with a particular emphasis on intimate partner violence, child abuse and maltreatment. Students will gain an understanding of the prevalence, risk factors, theoretical frameworks, and intervention approaches related to family violence. The course objectives are designed to equip students with the essential knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary for effective practice in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK7018. Smart ageing (6 credits)

This course focuses on the latest and innovative technologies and strategies to promote healthy and active ageing. It delves into the intersection of ageing and technology, examining how advancements such as smart devices, digital health tools, and artificial intelligence can enhance the quality of life for older adults. It also addresses the complex societal, ethical, and economic challenges associated with these technologies.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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