REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (BSW)

These regulations apply to students admitted to BSW curriculum in the academic year 2026-2027 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

Definitions

BSW 1[(1)] In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of BSW, unless the context otherwise requires -
'Core departments' means the Departments of Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work and Social Administration, and Sociology.
'Course' means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.
'Credits' means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total study load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.
'Prerequisite' means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

Admission to the degree

BSW 2 To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Social Work candidates shall

(a) comply with the General Regulations;
(b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
(c) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.

Period of study

BSW 3 The curriculum shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

Completion of the curriculum

BSW 4

(a) Candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[(2)].

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(1) This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.
(2) Specific requirements are spelt out in the syllabuses.

(b) Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits of courses.
(c) Candidates shall follow the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses, including a Professional Core of 150 credits, comprising 138 credits of required courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration and two 6-credit introductory courses, one each offered by the Department of Sociology and the Department of Psychology.
(d) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the final semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.
(e) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in BSW3, save as provided for under BSW4(f).
(f) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in BSW3.
(g) Candidates shall normally enrol in not more than 108 credits of introductory courses in the first three years of study.
(h) Candidates shall not enrol in any introductory courses in the final year of study (except Common Core courses and Chinese Language Enhancement course).

Selection of courses

BSW 5 Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Faculty Board. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

Assessment

BSW 6 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. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

BSW 7 Candidates are required to make up for failed courses 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.

BSW 8 Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

Discontinuation of studies

BSW 9 Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

(a) failed to complete 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
(b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
(c) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in BSW3.

Absence from examination

BSW 10 Candidates who are unable, because of 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 first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the 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 provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

Advanced standing

BSW 11 Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Credits gained for advanced standing will not be included in the calculation of the GPA but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

Credit transfer

BSW 12 Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time 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 number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Award of the degree

BSW 13 To be eligible for award of the degree of BSW, candidates shall have:
(a) achieved a Graduation GPA of 1.00 or above;
(b) passed courses of a minimum of 240 credits; and
(c) satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

Honours classification

BSW14

(a) Honours classification shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA scores (GGPA), with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values[3]:

Class of honours	*GGPA range*
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

(b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in BSW14(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.

(c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

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[3] For students in the 2025-26 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six 6-credit Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five 6-credit Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all five Areas of Inquiry), or all six 6-credit courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of one 6-credit Common Core course.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

These syllabuses apply to students admitted to BSW curriculum in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.

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1. Objectives

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration in the Faculty of Social Sciences offers an undergraduate curriculum of professional studies in Social Work, leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). The degree curriculum has the following objectives:

- To graduate social workers committed to pursue academic and professional excellence to advance social justice;
- To develop fully the competence in leadership and advocacy of students for them to improve the human condition through service provision and research;
- To develop a stimulating and supportive learning environment that cultivates students' ability to implement ethical and reflective practice based on analysis of theories and evidence;
- To promote students' awareness of the social inclusion perspective and develop their competence for working with people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds in building local and global communities;
- To apply inter-disciplinary knowledge to tackle ever-changing situations and problems through collaboration with the community, NGOs, service users and other social institutions;
- To equip social work graduates with essential knowledge, values and skills of becoming effective team players and responsive leaders to enhance collaboration for productive engagement and social action.

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2. Curriculum requirements

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BSW degree curriculum. For the fulfilment of Regulation UG5 "Requirements for Graduation" of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, candidates shall complete successfully the non-credit bearing course(s) as required, the language enhancement courses, artificial intelligence literacy courses and Common Core Courses from different Areas of Inquiry.

The curriculum of the degree of Bachelor of Social Work normally extends over a period of four academic years. Candidates are required to follow instruction through the medium of lectures, workshops, laboratory work, small group tutorials and field instruction etc.

Candidates may opt for a minor, which is defined as completing not fewer than 36 credits of courses in a particular programme including all pre-requisites unless specified. Candidates may opt for a minor offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences or other Faculties.

(For the detailed requirements and course descriptions of minors, please refer to the syllabuses of the respective programmes)

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3. Course registration

Course registration will take place before the commencement of each semester. Candidates are advised to consult relevant teachers or Heads of Departments on the suitable combinations of courses and to adhere closely to the normal study pattern. Less suitable combinations of courses may not be permitted because of timetabling difficulties. Courses listed in the syllabuses may not necessarily be offered every year; depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered.

Candidates may change their course selection during the two-week add/drop period which is scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons acceptable by the Faculty Board. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

In course registration, candidates should pay special attention to the pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements of courses as specified in the syllabuses. A prerequisite is a course which candidates must have successfully completed in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Head of Department before being permitted to take a course in question. A co-requisite is a course which candidates must take at the same time as the course in question.

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4. Coursework and examination ratio

Unless otherwise specified, the examination for each 6-credit course consists of a two-hour written examination paper. The final grading will be determined by performance in the examination and an assessment of coursework in the ratio of 60:40, unless otherwise specified.

Required Courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration

Course		Credits	Prerequisite
SOWK1002.	Introduction to social work	6	Nil
SOWK1004.	Human behaviour and the social environment (I)	6	Nil
SOWK1008.	Social welfare system and social policy	6	Nil
SOWK1009.	The reflective practitioner	6	Nil
SOWK2008.	Human behaviour and the social environment (II)	6	SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I).
SOWK2015.	Research on social work practice I	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work and SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy
SOWK2107.	Foundation of social work practice I	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK3010.	Research on social work practice II	6	SOWK2015. Research on social work practice I
SOWK3015.	Social work practice laboratory I	6	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II
SOWK3016.	Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment	6	SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I
SOWK3030.	Law and social administration	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy
SOWK3108.	Foundation of social work practice II	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK3109.	Foundation of social work practice III	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK4002.	Advanced social work practice I	6	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
SOWK4003.	Advanced social work practice II	6	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
SOWK4006.	Fieldwork placement I	15	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment and SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III

SOWK4007. Fieldwork placement II	15	SOWK4006. Fieldwork placement I
SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations	6	Nil
Disciplinary Electives	12	Subject to individual requirements set out in the course description prescribed in the syllabus
Total number of credits	138	

Recommended sequence of required courses

Semesters I & II	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy SOWK1009. The reflective practitioner PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology or SOCI1003. Introduction to anthropology or SOCI1004. Introduction to sociology: the world's on fire (and other problems) CAES1001. Academic Communication in English AILT1001. Artificial Intelligence Literacy I 18 credits of Common Core Courses Remaining credits are for free electives
Semesters III & IV	SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II) SOWK2015. Research on social work practice I SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III CAES9925. Academic and professional literacies in social work Chinese language enhancement course 3 credits of Artificial Intelligence Literacy course 12 to 18 credits of Common Core Courses Remaining credits are for disciplinary or free electives
Semesters V & VI	SOWK3010. Research on social work practice II SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment SOWK3030. Law and social administration* SOWK4006. Fieldwork placement I Zero to 6 credits of Common Core courses Remaining credits are for disciplinary or free electives
Semesters VII & VIII	SOWK4002. Advanced social work practice I SOWK4003. Advanced social work practice II SOWK4007. Fieldwork placement II SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations* Remaining credits are for free electives

** Students are recommended to take these courses within semester V to VIII according to their learning progress.*

University requirements (Regulation UG 5)

1. Candidates are required to successfully complete a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing course(s) as may be required from time to time.

2. Candidates should complete the following courses by the end of the second semester:

   CAES1001. Academic Communication in English* –

** Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from taking this non-credit bearing course.*

3. Candidates should complete the following course by the end of the sixth semester:

   a) 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits. — 36 credits

   b) 6 credits of artificial intelligence literacy, comprising **two** 3-credit microcredential courses: — 6 credits

      AILT1001. Artificial Intelligence Literacy I
      AILT9017. Digital Literacy Through a Social Sciences Lens*

      ** Candidates may opt to take other AILT courses (Level 900) offered by other Faculties/Schools that are open to all undergraduate students.*

   c) English in the Discipline course: — 6 credits

      CAES9925. Academic and professional literacies in social work

   d) Chinese language enhancement course: — 6 credits

      CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for social sciences students
      or
      CUND9001. Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers
      (*for Putonghua-speaking students*)
      or
      CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (*for Putonghua-speaking students*)
      or
      CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese speaking students (*for Putonghua-speaking students*)
      or
      CUND9004. Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students (*for Putonghua-speaking students*)

      Candidates who did not study the Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency level for the Chinese language enhancement course specified for the degree curriculum may take **one** of the following courses in either Chinese language or Chinese culture in lieu:

      CHIN9501. Chinese as a Foreign Language I
      CHIN9502. Chinese as a Foreign Language II
      CHIN9503. Chinese as a Foreign Language III
      CHIN9504. Chinese as a Foreign Language IV
      CHIN9505. Chinese as a Foreign Language V
      CHIN9506. Chinese as a Foreign Language VI

CHIN9507. Chinese as a Foreign Language VII
CHIN9508. Chinese as a foreign language VIII
CHIN9511. Cantonese as a Foreign Language I
CHIN9512. Cantonese as a Foreign Language II
CHIN9513. Cantonese as a Foreign Language III
CHIN9521. The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters
CHIN9522. Exploration of Major Cultural Themes across Chinese History

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INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Artificial Intelligence Literacy Courses

AILT9017. Digital Literacy Through a Social Sciences Lens (3 credits)

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) inevitably brings anxiety or unease about potential negative impacts on our lives (e.g., displacement of workers, invasion of privacy, plagiarism normalized, and social isolation). How to be digitally literate to keep AI as our good servant instead of mastering over us? Additionally, since AI is planned to mimic human behaviours, what are the roles social sciences play in motivating the development of AI algorithms. In this course, we will search for answers within the realm of social sciences in a five-step friendly learning progression: (1) Anticipate, (2) Approach, (3) Appreciate, (4) Apply, and (5) Amplify. By studying use cases where AI algorithms are used to solve problems in social sciences, students can scrutinize the AI-suggested solutions, evaluate the effectiveness of the algorithms, and assess the impact these algorithms have on us.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Language Enhancement Courses

CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students (6 credits)

Featuring problem-based learning (PBL) and collaborative learning approaches, this course aims to help students, through seminars and cases-based workshops, develop the ability to use the Chinese language effectively in the workplace. A key focus is on the use of Putonghua in presenting information for audiences. Essential techniques for producing office documents as well as reports will be discussed. Training in reading and writing the correct forms of traditional and simplified Chinese characters will also be provided.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

CUND9001. Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This intensive Cantonese language course is designed for Mandarin (Putonghua) speakers who have no prior knowledge of Cantonese. The course aims to assist students in mastering Jyutping, the Cantonese romanization system, while simultaneously cultivating students' ability to communicate effectively in Cantonese, both orally and in written form, across a variety of situational conversations. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to practical sentence structures and a wide range of useful vocabulary related to various aspects of daily life. Furthermore, the curriculum allows students to gain insight into Hong Kong culture.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With Putonghua as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. In the "Chinese Characters" component, drilling practices provide ample opportunity for the students to learn to convert simplified characters into their traditional forms. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course enables students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong Chinese, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, to strengthen their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

CUND9004. Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This course aims to cultivate non-local Mandarin-speaking students' logical thinking and critical thinking skills. Through the exploration of various interdisciplinary knowledge topics, students are encouraged to analyze and evaluate information, such as a variety of the essays mainly focusing on the important social and economic issues, as well as the movies released between 1995 and the present. The students will also be provided with opportunities to engage in writing, group discussions and presentation, allowing them to practice their critical thinking skills and develop their ability to express their thoughts effectively using Mandarin. This course will construct a coherent, sustainable, and in-depth content to help students build strong arguments, enhance their lexical and syntactic knowledge, as well as enhance their ability to analyze information, construct well-reasoned arguments, and make informed decisions.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

CAES1001. Academic Communication in English (non-credit bearing)

The course is designed to equip first-year undergraduate students with a solid foundation in academic English literacy to succeed in their university studies. The course is dedicated to nurturing students' competencies in an English-medium university environment and fostering their confidence in effective oral, written, and visual communication. This is achieved by

cultivating students' critical reading skills, information literacy skills, and digital literacy skills for academic English learning. The course also provides students with a comprehensive understanding of academic rhetoric across different mediums, including written, spoken, and visual tasks. By familiarizing students with the key genres and communication conventions in university education, the course empowers students to apply the acquired knowledge and skills to Common Core Courses.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Core Courses

SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (6 credits)

The course introduces the basic principles and concepts of social work. Students will obtain an understanding of the philosophy, knowledge and values which form the base for social work practice, social work as a profession, and the role of the social worker in modern society.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6 credits)

This course introduces a holistic approach to an exploration of typical patterns of development from infancy to old age. Social and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life-cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy (6 credits)

This course introduces the basic concepts and function of social welfare and social services, and the principles and methods of social policy and social planning. Analysis will be undertaken on a range of social services in Hong Kong such as housing, health, labour, education, social security and social welfare services including family, children and youth, community development, rehabilitation, elderly and other relevant services. Students taking the course will also acquire an understanding of the philosophy, mechanism and processes of policy making and planning, the methods of analysing and evaluating social policy.

The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only enrol in either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1009. The reflective practitioner (6 credits)

Social work practice is carried out through interactions between social workers and individuals, families, organizations and society. Social workers are inevitably shaped by their own experiences, beliefs, upbringing and culture, which might affect their interactions with these systems. This course encourages the students to start the reflective journey in visiting issues of self in relation to the perceived identity, intimacy, loss, family, and society. Through reflective exercises, discussions, and assigned readings, the students will develop a deeper understanding of their values, philosophy of life and behaviours, and how these in turn impact social work

practice. The course adopts an active-learning and experiential approach.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)

Discussion of basic concepts in psychology and a preliminary survey of representative work carried out in various areas of psychological investigation, together with an investigation at some length of one such area.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the nature of sociological enquiry and the basic concepts used in sociological analysis. After some reference to the influence of inheritance and environment on human social behaviour, the course will focus on key concepts used in the analysis of cultures, social structures, social processes and social change. The relationship between research, concepts and contemporary theory will be explored at an introductory level.
Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

SOCI1003. Introduction to anthropology (6 credits)

This course will explore, through cross-cultural comparison, key social and cultural issues, such as marriage and the family, caste and class, ethnicity and identity, language and culture, state formation, economic values, gender and religion. The course will draw on studies of the peoples and cultures of Asia.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOCI1004. Introduction to sociology: The world's on fire (and other problems) (6 credits)

Sociology is a tricky subject because it is so diverse – and indeed what Sociologists can (and do!) study is absolutely ubiquitous, from what we eat or wear to the predictors of revolution. Given this diversity, the goal of our course is foremost to get you acquainted with a sociological way of thinking, and to help you apply this way of thinking to the social issues that interest you.

The course will help you acquire these tools by introducing you to some of the core sociological themes. In lectures, we will also systematically investigate and apply these themes to the issue of climate change – thereby demonstrating how the sociological imagination can be used to understand an important social problem. In tutorials and in your assignments, you will then be invited to apply your new sociological imagination to issues of your own choosing.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

ADVANCED COURSES

Language Enhancement Courses

CAES9925. Academic and Professional Literacies in Social Work (6 credits)

This 6-credit course aims to help students learn about the writing style and language demands of professional writing in the social work settings. The course involves discussion of the principles and practice of writing social work documents such as summaries, reports, and proposals. Students will analyse the writing style and linguistic features of a range of sample social work documents, and learn the skills of organising and presenting information effectively using appropriate rhetorical devices and professional vocabulary.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Core courses

SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II) (6 credits)

This course studies a spectrum of disturbed behaviours, from concepts of normality, abnormality, classification and assessment, to the clinical syndromes: neuroses, psychoses, personality disorders, psycho-physiologic disorders, organic brain syndromes, and mental retardation; sociopathy, sexual deviations and drug abuses; and behavioural disorders of childhood and adolescence.
Prerequisite: SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2015. Research on social work practice I (6 credits)

This course aims to give students a basic grounding in social work research methodology. Focused on the field of social work, rationale of doing research, major research concepts, data collection methods, and analytical strategies of scientific research will be illustrated. Upon the completion of this course, students will enhance their reasoning abilities in research and obtain fundamental statistical knowledge and hands-on experiences in analysing quantitative data, all of which will equip students to design and carry out social work research.
Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I (6 credits)

The course aims to critically deliberate the nature of casework in the context of social work practice. The major models of casework practice will be examined, and the dynamic interface between casework and counselling/psychotherapy will be discussed. Through various experiential learning activities, students will master the essential knowledge and skills in relation to the process of casework, starting from initial engagement/assessment to the termination of a professional working relationship.
Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3010. Research on social work practice II (6 credits)

Through this course, students will gain substantive knowledge about qualitative research methods, practice critically appraising research reports, and make intelligent use of research findings for the purposes of social policy planning and administration. Aside from lectures and tutorials, students will be guided to analyse data collected from their research project. The course will conclude with a series of student-led seminars to present study findings.
Prerequisite: SOWK2015. Research on social work practice I
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I (6 credits)

Students can learn and practice social work skills through in-house role plays, video demonstrations and workshops. In-house skills teaching and demonstration are structured to help students gain mastery of basic communication and social work practice skills. It serves as a preparatory course for the students to acquire intervention skills in case work, group work and community work; to critically reflect the social work values and to enhance their self-understanding for the preparation to the course of Social Work Practice Laboratory II (Field Attachment) and their first block fieldwork placement.
Prerequisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to foster social work students' competence in practice knowledge, skills and attitudes via an action-learning approach. It also serves as the placement preparation for the students as well as to fulfil the necessary requirement of Social Workers' Registration Board. Students will conduct field projects in a variety of social service settings through which they can apply the knowledge and skills learnt in Social Work Practice Laboratory I in the field projects. Students are required to participate actively in the design and implementation of the field projects, and to reflect on their practice. On-site supervision is provided to facilitate students' reflection and integration of knowledge, skills and values required for professional practice.
Prerequisite: SOWK3015 Social work practice laboratory I
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3030. Law and social administration (6 credits)

Family disputes, juvenile delinquency, child abuse, mental disorder, different forms of discrimination, and industrial accidents are some of the common problems faced by the clients of social workers. These issues interface with various aspects of the legal system. This course equips students with the legal analytic skills and knowledge that are relevant to social work practice. It introduces the legal principles, institutions and processes that underpin the Hong Kong legal system. In particular the law relating to children, families and vulnerable adults is illustrated. It examines the nexus relationship between law and social work practice.
Prerequisites: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or
SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II (6 credits)

The course aims to critically deliberate the nature of group work in the context of social work practice. The major models of group work and their underpinning theories will be examined. Different natures of group will be thoroughly discussed, which include developmental, psychoeducational and therapeutic groups; and time-limited and open-ended groups. Through various experiential learning activities, students will master the essential knowledge and skills in running a group, starting from initial formulation of common goals, to termination of the group or if the group intends to become an open-ended one, withdrawal of the formal leader from the group.
Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III (6 credits)

The course introduces the nature of community in contemporary context and its evolution from past to present, including the different types of communities that provide the context for community practice. It introduces the historical evolution of 'community practice' in overseas and local contexts. Core values and principles underlying community practice are covered, and students are encouraged to have self-reflection upon such values. It also covers the wide variety of models, methods and intervention strategies that can be employed by community practitioners. The two major trends–consensus and conflict strategies—will be discussed to provide a balanced perspective to students.
Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4002. Advanced social work practice I (6 credits)

This advanced course builds on the students' previous knowledge of social work theories and practice and their fieldwork placement experiences. Adopting a student-directed learning approach, it consolidates and integrates different theoretical approaches in facilitating changes in clients and related social systems. Students' mastery of case, group and community work will be enhanced through various experiential learning activities.
Prerequisites: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and
SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4003. Advanced social work practice II (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of SOWK4002 Advanced Social Work Practice I. Adopting a student-directed learning approach, it consolidates and integrates different theoretical approaches in facilitating changes in clients and related social systems. Students' mastery of case, group and community work will be enhanced through various experiential learning activities.
Prerequisites: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and

SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4006. Fieldwork 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 themselves 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: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and
SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment and
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and
SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4007. Fieldwork placement II (15 credits)

Fieldwork 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 and independent and to cope with pressurizing and crisis situations. Conscious application of theories in the intervention process is expected. Students are expected to be aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and be willing to make continuous efforts to further develop their 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: SOWK4006. Fieldwork placement I
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations (6 credits)

This course enables students to understand the recent business-oriented reforms in human service organizations. Human service organizations provide welfare, education and medical services to their users. The dynamics of quality improvements, strategic planning, monitoring and control, management information system, performance appraisal, supervision, stress management, teamwork, financial management and change are included.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Courses in Macro Application

SOWK2023. Social policy issues in Hong Kong (6 credits)

In this course, various current social policy issues in the areas of welfare, labour, education, health and housing will be examined in the light of the on-going debate in the community with reference to international and Mainland experience whenever applicable. Relevant empirical

evidence, theories and value dimensions will also be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2029. Comparative social administration (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the comparative study of social policy in selected countries, including Mainland China, and examines the provision of social development programmes and social services through the analysis and evaluation of cross-country case studies.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2050. Government and politics of social services in Hong Kong (6 credits)

This course explores the evolution of social policy in Hong Kong. Alternative approaches to understanding the political, economic, and social dynamics that influence social policy and the implications of these dynamics for social reform will be considered. The formation of political responses to human problems and the impact of such responses on social policy will be discussed with reference to the constitution, the legislature, the Chief Executive and the Executive Council, political parties, pressure groups and the electoral system.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2051. Information and communication technology in human services (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the utilization of information and communication technology in human service settings. The major areas are (a) a review of the trends in the human service agencies' use of information and communication technology; (b) an exploration of software frequently used in the human services; and (c) the ethics of IT usage in the human services.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2062. Special topics in policy study (6 credits)

This course examines special topics in policy study that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2084. Theoretical foundations in social policy and planning (6 credits)

This course examines various models for the analysis of social policy, as well as basic concepts of social planning, programme design and implementation. Selected social policy issues in Hong Kong and neighbouring countries will be critically analysed to enhance students' understanding of the subject.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2122. Community building and the civil society (6 credits)

This course examines the various theories related to community building and the development of civil society. It also highlights the development of civil society organizations (CSOs) in

Hong Kong and internationally, and their growing importance both in the international and global scene. Relevant public policies including urban development, housing, social welfare, home affairs, sustainable development, etc., that are both relevant and important to community building will also be examined. The role played by the CSOs in various public policies in Hong Kong will also be discussed.

Prerequisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or
SOWK1015. Introduction to social policy and social development

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2128. 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 the health care and social welfare sector. Medical education and social work education however has 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 understand the perspectives of medical practitioners and enhance their communication with the medical team.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2129. Special topics in social administration (6 credits)

With rapid social changes, there are new issues arising in social policy and administration, such as new tensions in the interface between the State and civil society, the formulation and implementation of social policies, the management of human, financial, informational and other resources in the social service sector, and the like. This course examines selected emergent issues with the aim of equipping students with relevant knowledge and skillsets to develop appropriate strategies which will help tackle such issues within an ever-changing social context.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2130. Social policy and public opinion (6 credits)

In open societies, public opinion is a key factor affecting the formulation and success of social policies. To some extent it also affects the survival of many non-governmental organizations. This course introduces the basic concepts of public opinion as applied in areas of social and public policies like housing, social security, public health surveillance, public discontent management, corporate social responsibility, sexuality and gender identity, through the study of local applications. Students will also learn how to conduct a simple opinion research, how to interpret findings from sophisticated policy consultation studies, and how to using existing datasets for secondary analysis.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2131. Behavioural economics for social change (6 credits)

This course will examine the relationship between behavioural economics and social change. Individuals frequently make decisions that systematically depart from the predictions of standard economic models based on a purely rational model. Behavioural economics attempts

to integrate the understanding of the psychology of human behaviour into economic and policy analysis. The course will review the major themes of behavioural economics and address the implications for social policy and social change in a wide variety of domains, including social security, health care, labour, education and social welfare programmes.

Prerequisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or
SOWK1015. Introduction to social policy and social development

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2132. International comparative social policy (6 credits)

This course examines international social policy in comparative perspective. The aim is to help you understand not only the varying ways in which nations have addressed social issues, but also the political and social forces that have shaped these responses. The course will introduce students to conceptual thinking on a range of social policies –including employment, family policy, child protection and education – drawing on case studies from global regions including North America, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. A particular focus is given to understanding the social policy of East Asia through the international comparative lens. It will emphasize alternative program designs and implications to introduce students to the potential and limitations of different alternatives. After completing the module, students will be knowledgeable about a variety of social policies in major regions of the world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2133. Population aging and the controversies (6 credits)

This course studies the ways in which social and cultural factors enter into the aging process. The practical and immediate effects of aging on society are examined. This course provides a comprehensive description of the dimensions of aging. The goal is to provide a holistic view of aging and to point to the ways in which the personal, social and structural levels of the process interact to shape the daily life of the elderly. With these understandings, the ways to deliver appropriate services to the elderly will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2134. Social development in modern China (6 credits)

Over three decades, China has substantially developed in various social areas. The course offers an overview of social development in modern China. The major areas of social development, such as public policy, socio-economic status, urbanization, social welfare, population mobility and migrant workers, family, aging, and health care are presented. The major issues of social development in contemporary China are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2139. Human-centered approach for social innovation: Design thinking (6 credits)

Design Thinking is a very useful tool for social innovation. It helps re-framing problems that are ill-defined or unknown, and facilitates generation of new ideas and solutions for social problems. This course helps students develop a good understanding about the human-centered

approach and equip them with the essential skills of design thinking to create innovative solutions for identified social issues. Students will form into teams and work collaboratively to design solutions for specific social problems.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2141. Social entrepreneurship and social innovation
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2140. Diversity and social inclusion (6 credits)

Students will critically examine how cultural diversity, social inclusion and exclusion operate within and shape Hong Kong and contemporary societies. The course takes a multi-level approach to analysing cultural diversity at micro (identity and interpersonal relations), meso (institutional) and macro (structural) levels, with focus on education, work and participation in social life. The first part of the course provides students a theoretical foundation to explore and analyse cultural diversity and social inclusion. This includes: theories of equality equity, equal opportunities, anti-discrimination, oppression and marginalization. The second part of the course emphasizes the experiences of specific marginalized populations, including: refugees and immigrants (incl. cross-boundary students); ethnic minorities; LGB and T/GNC communities; persons with disabilities; older adults; and people living in poverty. The third part of the course considers intersectionality, intersectionality-based policy analysis (IBPA) and critical reflection on the complexity of analysing multiple, identity-based realities in a globalizing world.

Through in-class participation, individual assignments, intercultural dialogue and teamwork, students will develop important knowledge and skills related to cultural diversity and social inclusion, and their applications in the areas of social policy, social development and/or social work.
Pre-requisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or
SOWK1015. Introduction to social policy and social development
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3058. Managing people in human services (6 credits)

This course introduces concepts which will aid in the understanding of organizational behaviour and emphasizes the application of these concepts and skills in managing people in non-profit making organizations. This course is particularly suitable for students who have not taken any management courses before but will be soon required to take up people management responsibility as a team leader or supervisor in the course of their own professional career development. The topics include basic concepts on management functions, purposes of a managerial position and the roles of a manger; and skills in managing subordinates including motivation, morale, leadership, coaching, performance management and disciplinary actions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3061. Financial development and management for social service organizations (6 credits)

This course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial management of social service organizations. The focus is on preparing students to understand the financial activities and reports essential to management, to mobilize financial resources for the

organization and to analyse and use financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3090. Human behaviour and emerging technology (6 credits)

Our understanding of human behaviour is largely based on theories and evidence developed in an era before the emergence of technologies in the world around us today. In this course, we will explore the interactions between technology on human behaviours in the life-course, and critically examine their implications for social institutions including health and social care services, education, employment, family, community, and society.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3092. Migration and mobility (6 credits)

Population mobility bridges the local and global across the 21st century world. This course covers topics of specifically relevant to the HK context such as cross-border migration of new arrivals from China, topics relevant to HK and the wider world such as the integration of ethnic minority migrants, and different types of migrant populations, including low-wage/skill, high-wage/professionals, voluntary (labour) and forced (refugee, humanitarian, trafficking) migration. Theories of globalization, modernization, multiculturalism and social inclusion will be examined to enable students to appreciate and apply relevant concepts to their future practice in various positions locally and globally.
Prerequisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or
SOWK1015. Introduction to social policy and social development
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3098. Community partnership, public engagement and political dynamics (6 credits)

The development of social policy, social programmes and projects involves various stakeholders in the community including political groups, local organizations, NGOs, professional bodies and the general public. Public engagement and community partnership become the core process and relationship that underline the formulation of policy, programmes and projects and the provision of human services in the community including health, education, labour, and welfare services involves the development of strategic partners within the community. This course enables the students to develop in-depth understanding of the social, political and administrative structures in both the district and societal levels, the political and inter-group dynamics in the community, and the theory and practice in promoting community partnership and public engagement.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3099. Population and development (6 credits)

This course introduces you to population issues, concepts, theories and methods by encompassing the entire field of demography, including principle and practice. It offers an overview of various aspects of demographic growth and transition relating to changes in health

and mortality, fertility, migration, age structure, urbanization, family and household structure. This course also examines the relations between population and development and their potential consequences from a sociological, economic and geographical perspective. Other topics include global variation in population size and growth, various demographic perspectives and their modern implications, environmental impacts, and population policy. Special emphasis on demographic transition in Hong Kong and its neighbourhood region will be highlighted in the course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3133. Policy advocacy practice (6 credits)

This advanced level course will deepen students understanding of policy advocacy and social change. Students will learn theoretical and conceptual information about policy advocacy and social change including topics such as the policy process, influencing social change, building coalitions, stakeholder theory, social activism and social movements. In addition, the course will focus on the application of policy advocacy theory to practice, offering students the opportunity to learn through participation in the policy process, and from guest speakers working in diverse policy advocacy roles. Course format will include lectures, case studies, interactive seminar and debate.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3135. Doing good and doing well: Business model for social enterprises (6 credits)

Social entrepreneurs make use of social business or social enterprise for the creation and sustainability of social values. Yet, many social enterprises fail as a result of unsound business models or poor management. To sustain social values, it is important to ensure "doing good and doing well". This course equips students with the basic concept and knowledge about the different business models and strategies for social business and social enterprise. Different challenges of operating and managing social enterprises will be examined and students will have the opportunity to learn how to deal with these challenges, and how to evaluate the performance of the social enterprise. Learning will be based on lecture, tutorial, case studies, intensive in class discussion as well as project work.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2141. Social entrepreneurship and social innovation
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3139. Policy and programme evaluation (6 credits)

This course builds on the content covered in research methods and is an advanced level course designed to give students the knowledge base and core skills (quantitative and qualitative) to carry out programme and policy evaluation. This course therefore focuses on types of evaluation, evaluation design, causal inference methodology, data collection, data analysis, and utilization of findings. Students are expected to identify and critique the state of the empirical evidence related to the policies and programmes.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2015. Research on social work practice I or
SOWK2141. Social research methods
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK4087. Social service research project (6 credits)

In this course, students will conduct a selected group research project of their interest. Under the guidance of the teacher, students can learn and experience the whole research process including: defining research objectives, identifying research questions, designing research methodology and instrumentation, collecting data, analysing data, writing up research report and disseminating the research results.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Courses in Micro Application

SOWK2020. 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 students 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 student projects.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2028. Selected topics in social work practice (6 credits)

This course develops knowledge and skills relevant to the understanding and helping of focused target populations, the selection of which will be based on the special nature of specific client groups, problem areas or service settings.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2034. Youth crime and juvenile justice issues (6 credits)

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

SOWK2037. Human sexuality (6 credits)

This course tells you everything you always wanted to know about sex but are too afraid to ask: Whom you want to have sex with and why? What would you do in sex and where and when would you do it? Who's on your mind when you think about sex, Leon Lai or Shu Kei? Which is more pleasurable, heterosexual sex or homosexual sex? What is the best sex that you've ever had? Why are having sex with yourself and masturbation acts of revolution? What is pornography – a stimulant to or substitute for sex? Who has a better claim to authority on sex, your family doctor, your lecturer, the host of a radio phone-in program on sex or a sex worker in the street?
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2048. 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.

SOWK2065. Understanding and working with young people (6 credits)

This course examines the developmental characteristics and needs of young people and their actualization in the local context. Special focus is put on understanding the contemporary local youth culture and how it reveals the needs of the young people. Major models and concepts in youth work are introduced. Working skills with young people implied from these models and concepts are also introduced. This course is especially suitable for students who intend to join the fields that work with young people, e.g. social work, teaching, church, entertainment, etc.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2068. Social skills training for human service personnel (6 credits)

This course offers the theoretical foundation of social skills training. The relevance of social skills training to different areas of human service practice including teamwork and staff training will be discussed. Skills in working with individuals and groups in human service settings will be practiced. This course will be run in form of lectures, demonstrations, class discussion and exercises.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2069. Counselling in health care settings (6 credits)

Counselling approaches used in health care such as crisis intervention, grief work, cognitive behavioural intervention, support groups, art therapy, psycho-education skills, bereavement counselling, pastoral care and peer counselling will be examined. Students will be provided with experiential training on skills/ techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2074. Teachers as counsellors (6 credits)

As many students might join the teaching profession when they graduate, a purpose of this course is to help course participants understand the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students (children and adolescents). Understanding the counselling process and acquiring necessary skills in offering counselling to students are also main focuses of this course. It is expected that through the course, students will be more equipped to be effective helpers in working with students to cope with their school life.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2075. 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. This course introduces the nature of the different kinds of violence in intimate relationships. The knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of different kinds of violence are taught. How to assess the violent issues, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies and how to apply the related skills in the working situation are introduced. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2092. 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 introduces the basic theories and practices of ABC and to provide training in some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions. The quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will also be discussed in this course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for students to participate and experience the process.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2098. 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 students 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 students 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.

SOWK2099. Separation, divorce and remarriage (6 credits)

This course enhances student's understanding of (1) the psychological and social implications of separation, divorce and remarriage; (2) the separation/ divorce/ remarriage decision making process and the considerations involved; (3) legal issues related to separation, divorce and remarriage (grounds for divorce, custody and maintenance, adoption, etc.); (4) the characteristics, dynamics and needs of single parent families and stepfamilies; and (5) intervention approaches relevant to working with divorced and remarried families.
Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or PSYC1001. Introduction to Psychology or SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2101. Bullying, aggression and resilience (6 credits)

The issue of bullying and aggression in adolescents and adulthood will be examined through multiple perspectives in this course. An introduction to the prevalence of bullying, current theories and research on the etiology of bullying and aggression in school and workplace will also be discussed. A model of resilience is adopted to rebuild the vocabulary of strengths and the culture of support. Students will be trained to equip risk assessment and management, crisis intervention, counselling skills, group therapy and institutional management in handling bullying. Particular emphasis is given to gender issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2102. 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. Phenomenon 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 examines 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 programs. By participating in this course, social work students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be a competent school counsellor.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I or
SOWK2137. Theories in counselling
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2109. Working with ethnically diverse communities in Hong Kong (6 credits)

Throughout Hong Kong's history it has been a cosmopolitan city where people arrived in the territory from across the globe as colonisers, merchants, soldiers, low paid manual workers, domestic workers, professionals or for family reunion thus starting at different rungs of the social ladder. This gave rise to its multicultural flavour and justifiably becoming 'Asia's world city'. However, not all migrants have benefited from this miraculous growth. Some were pushed to the margins, excluded or made invisible. This course benefits those who work with members of ethnic minority communities, intending to do so or who are curious about racial discrimination and multiculturalism in Hong Kong. Topics discussed include stigma, discrimination and prejudice in the context of history, gender, culture and religion of members of ethnic minority communities, new arrivals or immigrant families. Lectures, group and panel discussions as well as field visits will constitute the learning process.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2111. 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.

SOWK2112. Working with special target populations (6 credits)

With increasing complexity in the Hong Kong society and the attendant problems faced by various groups of people, there is need to devise specific approaches in alleviating their problems. This course covers selected topics that pertain to the understanding of the characteristics and needs of special populations, and introduces relevant working approaches for practitioners and social policy analysts.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2113. Special topics in social work practice (6 credits)

The Hong Kong society and the world at large have unfolded multifarious new social phenomena that pose new challenges to professional social work practice. The social work professional community has to develop new insights in understanding the nature of such problems and challenges, and accordingly devise timely and appropriate intervention to address these issues. This course covers selected topics that meet acute societal needs, or are of current interest or on the cutting edge of knowledge advancement in social work.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2114. Special interventions: Theories and techniques (6 credits)

In dealing with the increasing complexity of problems handled by the social work professionals, the social work community across the globe has developed new theories and techniques in practice. This course covers intervention models that are of current interest in social work. The key concepts and techniques of the models, and their development in terms of empirical base will also be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2118. 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. This course examines the prevalence and risk factors of child maltreatment. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will also be investigated.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2119. Mediation and negotiation (6 credits)

The nature of interpersonal conflicts and strategies of conflict resolution will be examined in this course. The key elements of negotiation and mediation will be reviewed from different

perspectives. Students will learn basic skills of negotiation and mediation. A win-win strategy in the conflict resolution process will be emphasized.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2120. Counselling in business setting (6 credits)

This course equips students with relevant knowledge and skills of counselling applicable to business settings. Some prominent approaches in helping people to change and/or solve their problems through the use of counselling strategies in the business settings will be introduced. An emphasis is placed on the application of counselling in helping people working in the business environments. Topics include the concepts of employee assistance, the needs of counselling in business settings, the applications of counselling in both profit-making and non-profit-making organizations, boundary and limitations.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2121. Counselling in human resource development and training (6 credits)

This course introduces concepts and strategies in human resource development and training. Students will be equipped with the techniques in conducting need assessment, team building, effective communication, problem solving and decision making, crisis management and customer relationship management. Experiential approach is emphasized in this course to enhance students' experience and competence in implementing human resource development and training.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2127. Theory and practice of employment assistance services (6 credits)

Employment assistance service (EAS) has become one of the major social work interventions in Hong Kong. Billions of resources have been invested in enhancing the work capacity as well as employability of Hong Kong's workforce every year through various departments (e.g. Vocational Training Council, and Employees Retraining Board) and NGOs. A significant portion of social workers are actively engaging in employment related services such as development of a return to work action plan for the CSSA recipients, sharing labour market information and improving job search skills for the trainees of ERB's placement-tile programmes and so on. This course provides basic training in theory and practice to social work students so that they will be equipped to become a competent social worker in providing employment assistance services soon after they are recruited into the employment related departments or agencies.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2135. Theory and practice in family counselling (6 credits)

This course examines family counselling issues relating to intimacy, dependency, parenthood, attachment, power and conflict. The emphasis is on clinical relevance and practice wisdom, guided by the culturally relevant knowledge of the Chinese family system. Students will participate in clinical demonstrations, experiential learning and role plays so as to develop practice competence on assessment, formulation of intervention strategies, and direct intervention in working with the issues arising from personal vulnerabilities, societal pressures,

communication impasses, intimacy problems, or inter-generational clashes.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2137. Theories in counselling or
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2136. Fathering and fatherhood: Social work with fathers (6 credits)

The issue of gender-based social work intervention, with the emphasis of working with fathers, is examined through multiple lenses. A critical analysis of the current theories and literature on gender socialization, the development of fatherhood, the etiology of physical health, mental health, and emotion of men who are in the role of a father will be conducted. The course will identify effective intervention and prevention strategies in working with fathers. The purpose of this course is for social work students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of fathering and fatherhood, to conduct gender-sensitive clinical assessments, and to identify appropriate intervention strategies.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2209. Issues and interventions in mental health settings (6 credits)

This course enhances the students' basic understanding of mental illness by focusing on alternative definitions of mental illness, cross-cultural considerations, etiology, and intervention strategies. The diversity of roles of the professionals in team work with the mentally ill within the Hong Kong context will also be examined.
Prerequisite: SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK2213. Social work practice with selected target groups or in specific settings (6 credits)

This course focuses on the practice of social work with selected target groups such as children, youth and delinquents, alcoholics and drug addicts, or in specific settings such as school, hospital, youth centres and correctional facilities. For each group or setting, attention will be focused on gaining a comprehensive understanding of the nature of the problems encountered and the role of social work in solving such problems.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3142. Compassionate mind and practice: Paths to healing and growth (6 credits)

Pain and suffering are universal experiences that often lead individuals to seek counselling. How can practitioners effectively attend to and endure suffering, while fostering growth and flourishing in the face of distress? Compassion may offer a guiding light. In this experiential course, students will learn about the compassion-oriented approach that centers on the evolutionary perspective of our emotion systems and the flows of compassion. They will explore the fear of compassion and practice some evidence-based strategies for developing a compassionate mind to support growth and wellbeing in daily life and counselling contexts. The learning experience will enable students to engage in compassion through awareness, practices and in-depth reflection for applying it meaningfully in their personal and professional lives.

Pre-requisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I or
SOWK2138. Theories in counselling
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3033. Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders (6 credits)

This course focuses on the various approaches in working with delinquents and young people experiencing emotional or behavioural problems. To facilitate skills development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated exercises, games and role-play. Throughout the course, case and group examples will be drawn from a variety of local practice settings-probation, residential facilities for juvenile offenders, correctional services, outreach and school social work.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3060. Career skills training (6 credits)

Success in one's career is one of the most important life tasks for most people. Besides teaching students the necessary knowledge and practice of core career skills, this course also trains students to design and conduct career skills programmes. Through participation in this course, students will be able to master the theories and skills of career planning, understand the relationship between labour market dynamics and job searching, analyse the effect of social, economic and political changes on the job market. Through understanding the social psychology of career aspects, students will become more sensitive to human dynamics in the work setting.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3066. Care management (6 credits)

Care management is a major practice strategy to promote effective service delivery to diverse target populations. It is based on the notion that human service practitioners often work with people who have multiple needs. The major outcomes of care management are better integration of services provided by a cluster of organizations and community of care. This course covers the role of care management in the human services; the method and functions of care management in both direct and indirect services; and the monitoring and evaluation functions of care management practice.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3087. Counselling for emotional and relational competence (6 credits)

This course is for all who want to be emotionally and relationally competent in human interaction, be it in the family, at work, with friends, or with neighbours. Training on enhancing capability to be present here and now as well as developing mutually satisfying and meaningful relationships. This course is primarily experiential and practice oriented, integrating the philosophy, science and art of intra and interpersonal competence into real life applications. Recent thinking in philosophy, psychology, group work, and neuroscience will be applied to working with intense emotions, inner blocks and inconsistencies, dilemmas and relational conflicts that haunt human encounters. Through class demonstrations, paired and small group practice, students will come to acquire concepts and skills that will guide them in facing the

daily test of human interaction, help them advance their listening skills, increase self-understanding, gain confidence in decision-making, achieve relational transformation, connect with their deeper spiritual self, and affirm a more attuned, grounded, steady, and creative presence.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3089. Integrative counselling methods in action: Theories, practices and research (6 credits)

It is all too common for people to experience difficulty obtaining counselling that is integrative, culturally competent, and responsive to their complex needs. This course introduces students to the principles and direct practice of integrated counselling methods, based on the integration of Western counselling principles and wisdoms from traditional Eastern philosophies. This course also introduces students to the essential knowledge to effectively address the spectrum of psychological and behavioural problems they will face in their daily life. Students will become knowledgeable of the principles of integrative counselling methods, cross-cultural health issues, and the application of evidence-based complementary and alternative medicine practices across a range of health-related conditions and across different workplace settings. This course also emphasizes the development of integrative counselling skill sets, which are practical, easy-to-learn, and highly transferrable to different people in different settings. Through the use of case vignettes, small group discussions, and experiential learning activities, students will develop essential integrative counselling skills which can be applied in their daily life as ways of stress coping, health enhancement, and to achieve personal growth.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3091. Mental health sciences and society (6 credits)

This course brings together cutting-edge knowledge and discussions on mental health from diverse but related disciplines of philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, epidemiology, and social and healthcare services administration, both in the unique local context and in the international mental health scene. Students will be introduced to the critical examination of theories and practices in mental health with real-world examples. Throughout the course, conceptual explorations will be illustrated by case studies, including two complex syndromes affecting youth (i.e., psychotic disorders) and elderly (i.e., dementia), as well as other common mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and developmental disorders (e.g., autism spectrum disorder) where appropriate. Using the conventional disease/medical model as a starting point, students will be guided to understand mental health in the broader context of biological, psychological, social and cultural factors that operate in combination to affect mental health outcomes at individual and population levels.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3093. Play therapy (6 credits)

This course introduces the class to the use of play therapy in working with children, adolescents and families. The students will be presented with the essential elements and principles of play therapy, including historical development, theoretical modalities, basic techniques and applications.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I or
SOWK2137. Theories in counselling

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3096. Solution-focused therapy (6 credits)

"Judging by its popularity, solution-focused therapy may be the treatment for our times. Now one of the most widely used psychotherapy approaches in the world (Trepper, Dolan, McCollum, & Nelson, 2006) … Its pragmatic focus on coping, rather than curing, has made it applicable to almost any problem seen by therapist." (Nichols, & Schwartz, 2008, p.368) Solution-focused therapy advocates that the core role of a therapist is to help client to construct their solution instead of figure out what are the causes of the problem. Solution-focused therapists argue that it isn't necessary to know what causes problems in order to make things better. Their emphasis is on what works, not what doesn't work. Therefore, it is the solution talk, not problem talk, is the direction of solution focused therapists. The course will introduce the theoretical background, basic assumptions, core working principles, and hall mark techniques of the Solution-focused therapy.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3097. Trauma, resilience, and growth (6 credits)

From natural disaster to human inflicted violence - landslides, tsunami, earthquake, terrorist attacks, traffic accidents, witness a murder, assaults by a total stranger, domestic violence by a love one, bullying by a classmate… the list goes on and on. Increasingly, traumatic events and the resulting stress have become part of the reality of life. While some of us may have experienced a traumatic event personally, many more witnessed or heard about these events happening around them. Recognizing the impact of traumatic event on a person and understanding the person's post-traumatic reactions is important for both human service professionals and lay persons. This course provides an overview of the study of traumatic stress. Topics covered in this course include the historical development and major theoretical perspectives of trauma research, symptoms and presentation of trauma survivors, post-traumatic stress and growth, treatments available and their research evidence.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3106. Use of creative arts in social work practice (6 credits)

This course introduces the theories of creative arts as healing and illustrates 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 the 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. This 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.

SOWK3110. Counselling for older adults and their families (6 credits)

This is a practice course for students who are interested in gaining knowledge and skills of counselling older people and their families. A multidimensional framework including the bio-psychosocial, developmental, family, ecological and spiritual perspectives will be adopted for assessment and intervention. The challenges and coping of the individual older adults and their families in face of the common 3Ds – depression, dementia and death will be examined in the context of care giving. Concepts about intimacy and connectedness in the dynamics of aged couples and also those between the adult children and their aged parents will be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3115. Frontiers in interventions around death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)

There are more than a hundred deaths each day in Hong Kong, but death is a taboo for most for us. The unfamiliarity towards death induces a sense of anxiety when this topic is brought up to us. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients bring to counselling, but is often rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counsellors. This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding death, dying and bereavement. It offers a close examination on the challenges individuals, families and service providers face surrounding life-threatening illness and death. Theories and intervention strategies on end-of-life and bereavement care are reviewed. This course increases students' competence in working with clients facing death, dying, loss and trauma.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3131. Encounter with embodiment: Therapeutic use of drama in social work settings (6 credits)

This is an experiential learning course for students from different disciplines who would like to know more about drama therapy and the therapeutic use of dramatic elements in social work practice. Instead of traditional theatre performance, the course focuses on using different drama games, exercises and activities so students are not required to have any drama/theatre experience but an open and curious learning attitude. With the combination of lectures and intensive workshops, the course offers theoretical foundations, experiential opportunities as well as reflection and consolidation in the topic of Drama Therapy Basis, Drama Therapeutic Elements in Social Work, Developmental Transformations Drama Therapy, Role Theory of Drama Therapy, Psychodrama Psychotherapy, Playback Theatre and/or Forum Theatre. Although the course does not aim at training students to be therapists or specialists in any of the approaches, students can understand different therapeutic frames and elements so to integrate into their professions. It also provides students a picture for further academic development in these areas.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3134. Cognitive behavioural therapy for common mental health problems (6 credits)

This course provides an in-depth overview of cognitive behavioural therapy for common mental health problems, specifically on depression and anxiety. This aims to provide the foundation for aspiring clinicians to-be in the provision of effective cognitive behavioural

treatment. This course begins with a review of the fundamental theoretical concepts and assumption on cognitive behavioural therapy. Students are expected to learn how to conceptualize cases, apply a broad spectrum of cognitive and behavioural skills, and to assist clients to attain therapeutic changes. Case examples will be utilized, where students can engage in role-play and detailed class discussions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3141. Contemporary complementary and alternative psychosocial interventions for people with physical and mental health needs (6 credits)

As the society is aging and there are growing needs of different populations with various needs such as Special Educational Needs (SEN), dementia, and mixed mood disorders. In addition to the existing psychotherapeutic evidence-based methods, i.e., talk therapies, emerging complementary and alternative interventions (CAI) are of high demand nowadays for human services to those under-served or non-responsive individuals in the society. Animal assisted therapy, aromatherapy, ecotherapy, horticultural therapy, meditation, mindfulness and yoga etc. are some of the commonly sought CAIs. The proposed course aims at providing students with a broad range of knowledge in popular CAIs and their applications in the human service field.
Pre-requisite: SOWK2137. Theories in counselling or
SOWK2138. Foundation skills in counselling
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3301. Advanced group work (6 credits)

The small group as a mode of social work intervention will be considered as it relates to the treatment of a range of behavioural and interpersonal problems. Selected group work models, group development, and group dynamics will be reviewed in relation to the students' current fieldwork experiences.
Prerequisite: SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK3307. Working with families (6 credits)

This course examines the concept of a `family perspective´ and assists students in gaining an understanding of the major approaches to working with families. Theories on family, methods of assessment, and a range of strategies and techniques for effective intervention with the family as well as their applicability to the local context will also be considered.
Prerequisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I or
SOWK2137. Theories in counselling
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Free Electives

Students may need to take 36 credits, including at least 24 credits at advanced level, of electives to make up the total curriculum load, and that the credits taken can be offered by any Faculty.