



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: September 15, 2004 for the meeting on September 22, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 11(k)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies proposal for the Faculty of Social Work to change the program requirements and structure of the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Program, effective September 2004.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has general responsibility for policy on, and for monitoring, minor changes within degree programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The School of Graduate Studies approved this proposal at its Council meeting on May 25, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty of Social work proposes a program change to the Master of Social Work degree in order to align the MSW course load with Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work accreditation standards and to move the program towards specializations taken in the second year.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the program change.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May 28, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Interim Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of May 25, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Social Work to change the program requirements and structure of the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Program, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2004.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of May 5, 2004.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees, for information or approval, as appropriate. Approval, if necessary, is requested under Summer Executive Authority due to the September 2004 effective date.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl. (1)
/smr

c.c.	S. Acker	J. Barber	A. Drummond (attachs)
	U. George	C. Johnston	V. Makarovska
	L. Yee	S. Zaky (attachs)	

H:Council/FollowUp/2003-2004/May 25/Social Work M.S.W. Program Requirement Change

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, May 25, 2004

Item 11.

11. Program Requirement Changes

11.9 Social Work, M.S.W.

MOTION (/) THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Social Work to change the program requirements and structure of the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) Program, as specified in the attachment, effective September 2004.

See attached.

NOTE:

Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of May 5, 2004.

With SGS Council's approval this item will go to Governing Council committees for information or approval, as appropriate.



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March 8, 2004

Professor Sandra Acker
Associate Dean, Division II
School of Graduate Studies
University of Toronto
63 St. George Street

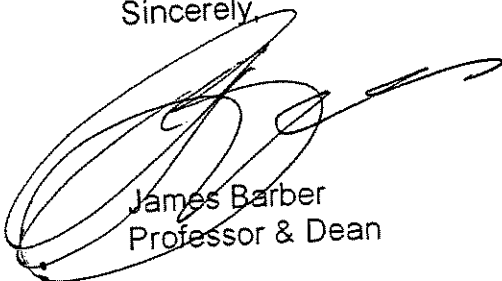
Dear Sandra:

Please find enclosed this Faculty's proposal for a program change to the Master of Social Work degree. In a nutshell, the Faculty proposes to align the MSW course load with Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work accreditation standards and to move the program towards specializations taken in the second year. Under the new curriculum, the first year of the MSW will consist of generic content taken by all students. At the end of the first year, students will elect to take one of the following four specializations: children and their families; mental health and health; social exclusion and community diversity; gerontology. The accompanying table sets out the structure of the generic year followed by the program of study for each second year specialization.

I apologize for the unconventional way in which this proposal has come to you but we were unaware until the March meeting of Division II Executive that there was a separate process for notification of program change. You will know that we brought all of the proposed course changes to the Division II Executive earlier this month and it is during this meeting that we learnt of the need for prior program approval.

The proposed new MSW curriculum is the product of considerable hard work and consultation within the Faculty and between the Faculty and human service agencies in Toronto. There is now considerable enthusiasm for the new program among faculty and our agency partners and we are very hopeful that implementation of the new first year can begin on schedule in the 2004-2005 academic year. We would be very grateful for any assistance you can provide in enabling us to achieve this objective.

Sincerely,



James Barber
Professor & Dean

Request to School of Graduate Studies on Proposed Changes to the MSW Programme

Conceptualization of the proposed changes

Human services are among the fastest growing sectors of the Canadian economy. Along with the growth is an increasing diversification of the sector, with fields of practice rising up around specific areas of need. This process will continue with or without the social work profession as employers and the country as a whole go in search of the workers they need to staff the new, more specialized service agencies of the future. While the notion of generic social work has a role to play in this increasingly complex environment, it is clear that graduates will also require more specific skills if they are to thrive in the new human service sector. To put this another way, generic social work is a necessary, but no longer sufficient preparation for practice. The overall aim of the new programme is therefore to produce graduates who are ready to enter the field of their choice after first receiving a thorough grounding in the knowledge, values and skills common to all social workers. The specializations will be built upon the expertise of core teaching faculty and have all been developed with the very active participation of partner agencies in each of the respective fields.

Resources

The proposed new curriculum does not require additional resources. The current curriculum entails a total of twenty half credit courses including practicum, which is equivalent to three half courses. The course requirement for the advanced standing program is nine half courses including two half credits of practicum. The proposed curriculum has a reduced course requirement of 17 credits, which is in line with the CASSW standards for accreditation. The teaching faculty complement currently stands at 25.5, including one potential new hire, the search for which is already under way.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

- To prepare graduates for ethical, innovative and effective social work practice in a diverse society;
- To prepare graduates for competent practice which integrates theory and research;
- To prepare graduates capable of integrating practice and policy;
- To prepare graduates who have a generic foundation of core social work knowledge, values and skills, applicable to all fields and methods of practice;
- To prepare graduates for practice in specialized areas, defined by student interest, faculty expertise and demand from the field.

Objectives

- To prepare students for professional practice according to the accreditation standards of CASSW;

- To provide a generic foundation of core social work knowledge, values and skills applicable to all fields and methods of practice;
- To prepare students for social work practice interventions based on research evidence;
- To prepare students for specialized practice in four identified areas: a) social work with children and their families; b) diversity and social justice c) social work in gerontology; d) social work in mental health and health;
- To strengthen our partnerships with social work agencies in areas of particular interest to the Faculty for the purposes of enriching our curriculum and of producing graduates with the requisite skills to function in those agencies;
- To encourage inter-disciplinary linkages through the promotion of collaborative programs that can be incorporated within the MSW.

Content

For the list of courses, please see attached tables.

Major changes are summarized below:

- Dropping the streaming of students upon admission to Individual Family Group and Policy Organization Community concentrations
- Providing a generic first year curriculum which incorporates knowledge, skills and values appropriate for all levels of practice
- Providing four specializations in the advanced year
- Reducing course credit load from 20 to 17

Implementation

The Faculty plans to implement the first year of the proposed curriculum to the incoming two year MSW class in the Fall of 2004. The second year of the new curriculum will be implemented for the year II and advanced standing students in the Fall of 2005. The MSW students currently in the programme will complete the existing curriculum.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the curriculum will be carried out through three different activities: student evaluation of courses, end of year survey of MSW year I students, and exit survey of graduating class. The results of the evaluation are summarized and distributed to all instructors. Teaching faculty, sessional instructors and teaching assistants review and discuss the results on a regular basis.

Professional contribution

The proposed curriculum strengthens the ability of our graduates to integrate policy and practice, as this is identified as an important need by the field. Graduates of the program will have the ability to design interventions based on research evidence in their areas of specialization. It is expected that the proposed curriculum will enhance the employability of our graduates as they have the knowledge and skills required for competent practice in a specific area of social work.

M.S.W. Curriculum¹

M.S.W. Year I of two-year program Current Courses 2003-2004			M.S.W. Year 1 of two-year program Proposed for 2004 - 2005		
SWK 4101H	Social Work Knowledge and Values: Diversity, Anti-oppression and Social Justice	Required for all	All students take:		
SWK 4102H	Social Policy and Social Welfare in the Canadian Context	Required for all	SWK 4107H	Foundations of Social Work: Knowledge, Theory and Values that inform Practice (combines 4101H and 4106H)	New, Required
SWK 4103H	Elements of Social Work Practice	Required for all	SWK 4102H	no change	
SWK 4105H	Social Work Practice Laboratory	Required for all	SWK 4103H	no change	
SWK 4106H	Theoretical Foundations for Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups	Required for all	SWK 4105H	no change	
SWK 4501H	Social Work Research Methods I – Qualitative Techniques SWK 4501H and SWK 4502H are not sequential but both are prerequisites for SWK 4503H	Required for all	SWK 4510H	Research for Evidence Based Social Work Practice (combines Qualitative and Quantitative Methods SWK 4501H and 4502H)	New, Required
SWK 4502H	Social Work Research Methods II – Quantitative Techniques SWK 4501H and SWK 4502H are not sequential but both are prerequisites for SWK 4503H	Required for all	SWK 4602H	Social Work Practice with Groups (currently required for IFG Yr II)	Required
SWK 4601H	Social Work Practice with Individuals	Required for IFG	SWK 4605H	Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families (combines 4601H and 4674H)	New, Required
SWK 4653H	Social Work Practice with Organizations	Required for POC	SWK 4654H	Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities (combines 4653H and 4651H)	New, Required
SWK 4670H	Social Work Practice Seminar	Required for all	SWK 4670H	Cancelled	
SWK 4701H	Social Work Practicum I	Required for all	SWK 4701H	No change	
All courses are required Total course load for year I: equivalent to 10 half-credit courses (9 half-credit courses and 1 half-credit practicum)			All courses are required. Total course load for year I: equivalent to 9 half-credit courses (8 half-credit courses and 1 half-credit practicum)		

IFG – Individual, Family, Group , POC – Policy, Organization & Community

¹ CASSW Standard – A foundation component of at least 24 credit hours of course work, and a field practicum of at least 450 hours such as to achieve a level of preparation sufficient to equip the student to engage in MSW studies at a level equivalent to their counterparts with the BSW. 1 credit hr = 1 contact hr.

M.S.W. Curriculum

M.S.W. Year 2 / Advance Standing Courses Current Courses 2003-2004			M.S.W. Year 2 / Advance Standing Courses Proposed 2005-2006		
			Children and their Families		
SWK 4503H	Advanced Social Work Research or MSW Thesis (equivalent to SWK 4503H plus one half-credit course elective)	Required for all	SWK 4620H	Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents	Title change Required for Spec.
SWK 4602H	Social Work Practice with Groups	Required for IFG	SWK 4608H	Social Work Practice with Families	Title change
SWK 4674H	Social Work Practice with Families and Couples	Required for IFG	SWK 4625Y	Contemporary Issues in Working with Children and their Families: Research, Practice and Policy	New Required for Spec.
SWK 4901H	Advanced Theories for Direct Social Work Practice	Required for IFG	Mental Health and Health		
SWK 4651H	Community Social Work Practice	Required for POC	SWK 4412H	The Context of Mental Health and Health Practice	New, Required for spec.
SWK 4662H	Social Policy Analysis Prerequisite: SWK 4102H Social Policy and Social Welfare in the Canadian Context or equivalent)	Required for POC	SWK 4604H	Social Work Practice in Mental Health	Title change Req. for spec. (prior elective)
SWK 4902H	Advanced Practice in Policy, Organizations, and Communities	Required for POC	SWK 4622H	Social Work Practice in Health	Title change Req. for spec. (prior elective)
SWK 4501H	Social Work Research Methods I – Qualitative Techniques SWK 4501H and SWK 4502H are not sequential but both are prerequisites for SWK 4503H	Required for Adv. Standing	SWK 4511H	Practice Based Research in Mental Health and Health	New, Req. for spec
SWK 4502H	Social Work Research Methods II – Quantitative Techniques SWK 4501H and SWK 4502H are not sequential but both are prerequisites for SWK 4503H	Required for Adv. Standing	Diversity and Social Justice		
			SWK 4304H	Globalization and Transnationalization: Social Work Responses Locally and Globally	New, Req. for spec.
			SWK 4306H	Process of Social Exclusion, Marginalization and Resistance	New, Req. for spec.
			SWK 4606H	Diversity, Access and Equity in Social Work Practice	New, Req. for spec.

			SWK 4512H	Creating Knowledge to inform Critical Practice	New, Req. for spec.
			Social Work in Gerontology		
			SWK 4612Y	Social Work and Aging: Integrated Policy and Practice	New, Full course
			SWK 4513H	Knowledge Building in Social Work	New, Req. for spec.
			SWK 4618H	Special Issues in Gerontological Social Work	New, Req. for spec.
SWK 4702Y	Social Work Practicum II (equivalent to 2 half-credit courses)	Required for all	SWK 4702Y	No change	
All courses are required within specialization					
Total course load for year II: equivalent to 10 half-credit courses: 4 required half-credit courses; 4 elective half-credit courses and 1 full-credit practicum OR 3 required half-credit courses; 3 elective half-credit courses; (MSW Thesis is equivalent to SWK 4503H plus 1 half-credit course elective) and 1 full-credit practicum			Total course load for year II: Non-thesis option (8 half-credit courses) 4 required half-credit courses within specialization. 2 elective half-credit courses 1 full-credit practicum Thesis option (9 half credit courses) 4 required half-credit courses within specialization; 1 required section of Ph.D Research Methods (SWK 6308) , MSW Thesis and 1 full-credit practicum		
Total course load for Advance Standing equivalent to 9 half-credit courses: 4 required half-credit courses and 3 elective half-credit courses and 1 full-credit practicum OR 3 required half-credit courses; 2 elective half-credit courses, plus MSW Thesis and 1 full-credit practicum			Total course load for Advance standing (one year): Non-thesis option (9 half-credit courses) 4 required half-credit courses within specialization 1 required half-credit Research Methods course (SWK 4510H) 2 elective half-credit courses 1 full-credit practicum * Thesis Option (10 half credit courses) 4 required half-credit courses within specialization 2 required half-credit Research Methods courses (4510H and one section of SWK 6308Y) MSW Thesis and 1 full-credit practicum		

In closing, please note that students will also be encouraged (although not at this stage required) to take one of the growing number of collaborative programs in which FSW is participating. Collaborative programs are graduate level, interdisciplinary programs normally consisting of 3 half-credit courses. In the past, these courses were entirely subsumed within the course requirements of the MSW. In the future, 2 of the courses will be included (as electives) within the MSW, meaning that students will need to take 1 half credit in addition to those required for the MSW in order to complete a collaborative program as well as the MSW. Among the collaborative programs in which the Faculty of Social Work is currently a partner are: (a) aging and the life course, (b) addiction studies, (c) ethnic and pluralism studies, (d) women's studies, and (e) South Asian studies.

Those students choosing the thesis route in the MSW Program will be required to take the appropriate section of Ph.D. Research Methods (SWK 6308Y) as an additional requirement, typically, in the Winter or Summer Session of their first year. An MSW thesis is equivalent to two half-credits, so students choosing to pursue this option will do the thesis in lieu of the two MSW electives.