



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### SOCIAL WORK

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

Steeped in the tradition of public education, West Chester University provides program access to a wide spectrum of the Commonwealth's citizens and values the richness of diversity of its student body, faculty, and staff. The Department of Graduate Social Work, fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, has its mission to provide a quality, affordable, and accessible master of social work degree in preparation for a career in an evolving, complex, technological, and global society. It prepares graduates who can think critically, communicate effectively, embrace diversity, respond to the needs of the disempowered, are committed to social justice, and are competent to practice with individuals, families, and communities. Graduates and faculty alike demonstrate a dedication to life-long learning and evaluation of practice. Faculty members provide leadership in promoting social work scholarship and service.

With a concentration in direct practice with individuals, families, and communities, graduates from our program are prepared for theory-integrated practice in numerous social service settings. The education students receive at West Chester will prepare them to work in private and public social service agencies with a range of clientele, whether it be individuals in crisis struggling with critical life decisions or personal problems; families coping with losses, restructuring, or stress overload; or communities striving for autonomy.

#### THE CURRICULUM

The program consists of 54 semester hours of core courses plus six additional hours of electives that students can take within or outside the department. Students who take a full-time load of 30 semester hours

during the first and second year will be able to complete the program in two academic years.

A four-year, part-time plan is open to qualified applicants as an alternative to full-time study. Full-time and part-time program plans have a fall semester starting time only. Field placements for part-time students will be conducted during normal business hours.

An advanced-standing plan recognizes the achievement of outstanding B.S.W. graduates and regards as equivalent much of their completed course work. B.S.W. graduates from Council on Social Work Education-accredited programs within the last five years, with an overall grade point average of 3.0, a 3.25 GPA in social work courses, and the endorsement from their B.S.W. program director, are eligible for advanced standing. This is a 12-month, full-time program beginning in May with two summer sessions followed by two consecutive full-time semesters, culminating with graduation the following spring. A two-year, part-time advanced-standing program also begins in the summer session.

The first year's curriculum stresses a foundation with course work in human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy, research, practice, and a field practicum of 16 hours per week in a social service agency. In the second year there are advanced courses in research, policy, and practice with individuals, families, and communities. Additionally, students are required to complete 20 hours per week in a social service agency.

#### Required Courses

- SWG 501 Social Work Practice I (3)
- SWG 502 Social Work Practice II (3)
- SWG 503 Integrative Social Work Bridge Course (3)

Required only for advanced-standing students.

- SWG 511 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: The Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation (3)
- SWG 533 Methods of Social Work Research I (3)
- SWG 534 Advanced Research Methods (3)
- SWG 535 Applied Research Seminar (3)
- SWG 541 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)
- SWG 542 Advanced Social Welfare Policy Analysis and Change (3)
- SWG 554 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Individuals and Families (3)
- SWG 555 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Groups, Organizations, and Communities (3)
- SWG 561 Advanced Social Work Practice: Individuals (3)
- SWG 562 Advanced Social Work Practice: Families (3)
- SWG 563 Advanced Social Work Practice: Communities (3)
- SWG 564 Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Mental Health and Illness (3)
- SWG 596 Practicum I (3)
- SWG 597 Practicum II (3)
- SWG 598 Practicum III (3)
- SWG 599 Practicum IV (3)

#### PROGRAM PLANS

##### Regular, Full-Time Program

- Year I Fall: SWG 501, 511, 541, 554, and 596
- Year I Spring: SWG 502, 533, 555, 564, and 597

Year II Fall: SWG 534, 561, 562, 598, plus elective (3)  
 Year II Spring: SWG 535, 542, 563, 599, plus elective (3)

### Part-Time, Four-Year Program

Year I Fall: SWG 511 and 541  
 Year I Spring: SWG 533 and 555  
 Year II Fall: SWG 501, 554, and 596  
 Year II Spring: SWG 502, 564, and 597  
 Year III Fall: SWG 561, 562, and 598  
 Year III Spring: SWG 542, 563, and 599  
 Year IV Fall: SWG 534, plus elective (3)  
 Year IV Spring: SWG 535, plus elective (3)

### Advanced-Standing, Full-Time Program

First Summer Session (May–June): SWG 503, 511  
 Second Summer Session (June–July): SWG 564  
 Fall: SWG 534, 561, 562, 598, plus elective (3)  
 Spring: SWG 535, 542, 563, 599, plus elective (3)

### Advanced-Standing, Part-Time Program

First Summer Session (May–June): SWG 503, 511  
 Second Summer Session (June–July): SWG 564  
 Year I Fall: SWG 561, 562, 598  
 Year I Spring: SWG 542, 563, 599  
 Year II Fall: SWG 534, plus elective (3)  
 Year II Spring: SWG 535, plus elective (3)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- A three- to five-page personal statement that articulates an interest and commitment to the purpose of the social work profession, an understanding of the program's mission and fit with one's career goals, reasons for attending graduate

school, and identification of significant life events or experiences that influenced the decision to pursue social work as a profession

- Two letters of recommendation (academic references must be included). A third letter of recommendation is required for advanced standing applicants from the applicant's B.S.W. program director.
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended
- 3.0 or higher undergraduate GPA (provisional acceptance may be granted with a 2.80-3.0 GPA)
- Completion of course work in humanities, English composition, college math and science, U.S. history or political science, and social sciences

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
 McKelvie Hall  
 102 West Rosedale Avenue  
 West Chester University  
 West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcupgrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcupgrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Ann A. Abbott, M.S.W.  
 Director  
 Department of Graduate Social Work  
 Reynolds Hall  
 West Chester University  
 West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2664

Fax: 610-738-0375

E-mail: [mswprogram@wcupa.edu](mailto:mswprogram@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/gradsocialwork](http://www.wcupa.edu/gradsocialwork)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official\\_documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

