

**University of St. Francis Master of Social Work (MSW) Program**  
Professional Educators License (PEL) School Social Work Endorsement

**Core and Required Courses with Sequence (One-year Cycle)**

<i>Fall Semester</i>		<i>Spring Semester</i>	
Course#	Title	Course#	Title
SWRK-603	Field Practicum/Integrative Seminar III – 3 c/h	SWRK-614	Field Practicum/Seminar IV
SWRK-671 In-Person	School Social Work Practice and Policy I – 3 c/h	SWRK-672 In-Person	School Social Work Practice and Policy II – 3 c/h
SWRK-604	Ethical Issues in Contemporary Social Work – 3 c/h	SWRK-605	Comparative Theories/Object Relations in Social Work Practice – 3 c/h
SWRK-615	Cross-Cultural Practice Systems – 3 c/h	SWRK-613	Advanced Research Methods 3 – c/h
MEDU-689Z	Content Area Literacy (8-weeks) – 3 c/h	SWRK-670	Social Work Practice with the Exceptional Child – 3 c/h
MSED-638Z	Supporting English Language Learners in Inclusive Classrooms (3-weeks) – 1 c/h	MEDU-646Z	General Literacy Methods (8-weeks) – 2 c/h

Note: GPA requirement and foundational courses must be complete before declaring the School Social Work Concentration. Additionally, School Social Work Practice I and II Policy courses are taken simultaneously with Field Practicum/Seminar.

**School Social Work Required Course Descriptions**

***SWRK 670: Social Work with the Exceptional Child (ISBE Requirement)***

This course examines major causes and characteristics of students in the public-school setting evidencing exceptionality. The psychology, identification, and methods of serving exceptional individuals and their families will be considered. While the focus of this course is an understanding of the various exceptionalities and how that impacts a student’s education, the course will provide a social work perspective for practice related to prevention, intervention, and evaluation.

This course will also introduce students to the work of specialized instructional support personnel (SISP), whose task is to enhance the capacity of every school child to learn to his or her capacity. Through the study of research, practice, and policy issues facing school children, especially those

with exceptionalities, students in this course will learn to promote build educational services and expand educational success for children with exceptionalities, their families, schools, and communities. Emphasis will be placed on multidisciplinary collaboration that promotes student well-being and supportive school environments. Recognizing the influence of historical and cultural contexts, diversity, and oppression as well as social and economic forces impacting education are examined within the context of educational disparities and academic outcomes.

**SWRK 671: School Social Work Practice and Policy I**

This is the first of a two-course sequence for students specializing in the School Social Work Concentration. This course focuses on practice. It prepares students to provide school social work services to individuals, groups, families, the school system, and the community. This course covers the roles of the school social worker and the skills needed to perform the various roles. Special attention is given to assessment, prevention, and intervention across systems on behalf of school children and their families. Students will complete Field III concurrently, in the public-school setting, leading to state certification as school social worker while enrolled in this course. This course will also cover the evolution of school social work as a profession and the impact of the culture and climate of the school on practice. It will examine how social diversity impacts academic achievement, and the role of the school social worker in addressing these disparities.

Students will acquire knowledge and skills to conduct assessments and implement evidence informed interventions across universal, targeted, and multitier systems, and apply an ethical decision-making framework to complex school situations. Students will acquire skills in workload management. The role of school social work professional development and active participation in professional organizations will also be examined.

**SWRK 672: School Social Work Practice and Policy II**

This is the second of a two-course sequence for students doing their internships in the public-school setting leading to state certification as school social worker. This course focuses on policy and legal issues related to providing school social work services to individuals, groups, families, the school system, and the community. This course covers state and federal special education mandates and other laws and policies related to public school children and their families. Special attention is given to ethical and legal implications of these laws and policies and their effect on the education of children. This course will also cover the roles of school social workers and the skills needed to perform various roles such as making the school social worker visible and multi-tiered system interventions to include individual students, groups, family support, and community involvement.

Students will enhance their knowledge and skills to conduct assessments and implement evidence informed interventions across universal, targeted, and multitiered systems. Students will enrich their skills in workload management.

**MEDU 689: Content Area Literacy (ISBE Requirement)**

Focuses on the relationship between the language arts and specific content area disciplines. Candidates will explore and understand the changing definitions and effects of literacy. They will also explore engaging strategies for classroom instruction that will increase reading and writing strategies for secondary learners.

**MSED 638: Supporting English Language Learners in Inclusive Classrooms (ISBE Requirement)**

This course provides a deeper understanding of how to meet the needs of English Language Learners in the regular education classroom. Foundations of language acquisition with special focus on the implementation of instructional strategies and assessments that allow for differentiation for English Language Learners will be introduced.

**MEDU 646: General Literacy Methods (ISBE Requirement)**

This course introduces traditional and contemporary theoretical perspectives on language development, literacy learning and teaching. Content includes theories, approaches and materials for teaching reading and language arts in today's diverse classrooms. Techniques for incorporating state standards and new technologies into literacy development are also studied.