

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Master of Science in Social Work

Standard Degree Plan

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

100% ONLINE

60
CREDIT
HOURS

Admission Requirements:

- Complete the online program application accompanied by a non-refundable processing fee.
- Submit official transcripts showing earned bachelor's from a regionally accredited college or university or the equivalent.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, If undergraduate GPA is below 3.0, the GRE or MAT entrance exam may be required.
- Write a personal statement addressing your motivation for graduate studies and entering the social work profession, and reflections on the program's four themes of human rights and justice, cultural and spiritual humility, holistic practice and empowerment.
- A video conference interview with the program director may be requested.

Cost:

- Per Credit: \$650
- Per Course: \$1,950
- Total Tuition: \$39,000
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$42,360



Timeline: 2.4 Years

Job Outlook in Texas:

98,328 Jobs

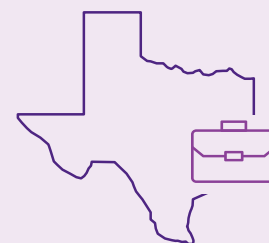
in 2025*

+2.5%

Employment Growth (2025-2026)

\$66,100 *per year*

Median Earnings



*Filtered by the proportion of the national workforce in these occupations with a Graduate degree.
Source Lightcast 2026.



Standard Program Degree Plan:

- To be accepted into the MSSW Program under the Standard degree plan, students must have a bachelor's degree in any field. Students are expected to demonstrate a broad liberal arts background, including two courses from each of the following areas: science/math, social/behavioral sciences, humanities/fine arts, and communication/language.
- Submit three letters of recommendation, two of which must represent people who can speak to the student's academic and/or professional behavior abilities, including but not limited to a faculty member, program director, internship supervisor, etc.
- Submit a writing sample in the form of a formal graded (returned with feedback highly preferred) upper-level assignment of at least five pages from the student's undergraduate work (or an acceptable alternative).

Core Curriculum:

SOCW 610: Foundations of Ethical and Professional Behavior

Students will explore ethical and professional behavior from social work's historical foundations to contemporary challenges. Students will understand how their personal ethics, evolving worldview, and personal experiences influence their professional judgment and behavior. This course also addresses essential skills like professional writing and managing complex ethical issues within social work practice.

SOCW 625: Essential Theories and Frameworks in Generalist Social Work Practice

Students will examine a variety of theories and frameworks that address the biopsychosocial and spiritual dimensions of the individual. Particular attention is given to the diversity of human experience and the impact of social, racial, environmental, and economic forces on individuals, groups, and social systems.

SOCW 635: Human Diversity, Dignity, and Justice

Students will examine the intersection of human diversity, inherent dignity, and the pursuit of justice. Students explore how identity development and structural factors can impact the well-being of marginalized populations. This course equips students to respond to diverse cultures and customs with cultural humility.

SOCW 651: Practice I: Engagement & Assessment with Individuals & Groups

Student will explore practice behaviors associated with the engagement and assessment components of the planned change process within multi-level practice settings. This course focuses on foundational communication and assessment skills needed to apply with clients including individuals, families, and groups. Perspectives on equity, inclusivity, and belonging will also be considered.

SOCW 641: Social Policy Practice & Advocacy

Students will analyze social problems systematically, gain understanding of assistance programs and government-supported services, and promote policy practice with special attention to marginalized, racialized, disadvantaged, and oppressed groups in the U.S. The role of the economy, politics, and culture in policy development and implementation are also examined.

SOCW 667: Practice-Informed Research in Social Work

Students are introduced to essential knowledge and skills needed for practitioners to understand the importance of research in practice when evaluating the impact of interventions and programs. This course focuses on providing practical, hands-on experience by critiquing empirical research articles, developing research designs, and practicing basic statistical analyses.

SOCW 653: Practice II: Intervention & Evaluation with Individuals & Groups

Students will explore practice behaviors associated with intervention and evaluation components of the planned change process within multi-level practice settings. This course emphasizes methods of identifying, analyzing, and implementing evidence-informed interventions. Students will also apply culturally responsive perspectives in evaluating outcomes.

SOCW 655: Practice III: Communities and Organizations

Students will explore concepts, theories, and empirically supported models for engaging, assessing, intervening, and evaluating organizations and communities. This course also focuses on understanding the context of direct and indirect practice, identifying evidence-informed macro interventions, community organizing, building key networks, and advocacy and planning in large scale contexts.

SOCW 681: Generalist Social Work Practicum I

Students will gain experience in an agency applying generalist knowledge, theory, and practice skills while developing competencies as a beginning level practitioner. Students complete 200 clock hours under the supervision of an agency-based supervisor and actively participate in a course facilitated by a faculty member.

SOCW 682: Generalist Social Work Practicum II

Students will gain continued experience in an agency applying generalist knowledge, theory, and practice skills while developing competencies as a beginning level practitioner. Students complete 200 clock hours under the supervision of an agency-based supervisor and actively participate in a course facilitated by a faculty member.

SOCW 725: Spirituality in Diverse Populations

Students will build the necessary knowledge, skills, and values for culturally- and spiritually sensitive practice and become attuned to the ways in which spirituality and diversity shape the lives of individuals, groups, communities, and societies. Includes an emphasis on inclusion and belonging for historically marginalized populations.



SOCW 751: Advanced Generalist Practice I: Individuals

Students will explore advanced level engagement, assessment, and intervention skills when working with individuals. Using an advanced generalist framework, the course addresses clinical components of interviewing, assessment, treatment planning, and therapeutic interventions. Cultural humility and anti-oppressive practice perspectives will also be considered.

SOCW 753: Advanced Generalist Practice II: Families & Groups

Students will explore advanced level engagement, assessment, and intervention skills for working with families and groups. Using an advanced generalist framework, this course addresses collaborative problem-solving skills and facilitation strategies that foster positive outcomes in both clinical and community contexts. Cultural humility and anti-oppressive practice perspectives will also be considered.

SOCW 767: Assessment & Evaluation of Social Work Practice

Students will examine strategies and methods for evaluating social work practice at the personal/practitioner level, the agency level, and the policy level. Emphasis is on design and implementation of methodologically sound approaches to the empirical evaluation of social work practice at the advanced level.

SOCW 748: Clinical Assessment & Differential Diagnosis

Students will build general knowledge of the major mental disorders through diagnostic classification, criteria, and etiologies. This course aims to develop the student's diagnostic assessment skills in clinical settings. Students will learn to accurately use the DSM-5 to interpret the symptoms in a person presenting with a potential mental disorder.

SOCW 755: Advanced Generalist Practice III: Communities & Organizations

Students will learn theory and application of intervention models applicable to communities and organizations, preparing them for assessment, intervention, and leadership at the macro practice level. Attention is given to the social justice and global implications of social work practice and to skills applicable to influencing policies at all levels.

SOCW 781: Advanced Practicum I

Students will gain experience in an agency applying knowledge, theory, and practice skills while developing competencies as an advanced generalist practitioner. Students complete 250 clock hours under the supervision of an agency-based supervisor and actively participate in a course facilitated by a faculty member.

SOCW 782: Advanced Practicum II

Students will gain continued experience in an agency applying knowledge, theory, and practice skills while developing competencies as an advanced generalist practitioner. Students complete 250 clock hours under the supervision of an agency-based supervisor and actively participate in a course facilitated by a faculty member.

SOCW 744: Nonprofit Management

Students will examine the differences between leadership and management from a social justice lens, explore frameworks of supervision, and introduce common components of nonprofit management including problem-solving, governance, fiscal responsibility, accountability, and the evaluation of organizational and program effectiveness.

Or

SOCW 742: Integrated Health & Behavioral Health

Students will examine essential components of social work's role in integrated health and behavioral health care. The importance of social workers as leaders in interprofessional education and culturally responsive practice will also be explored.

Or

Other Elective

(must be approved in advance by MSSW Program Director)

Elective

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Advanced Standing Degree Plan

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Cost:

- Per Credit: \$650
- Per Course: \$1,950
- Total Tuition: \$21,450
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$24,810



Timeline: 1.4 Years

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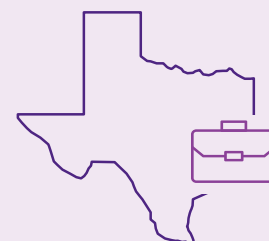
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Employment Growth (2025-2026)

\$66,100 *per year*

Median Earnings

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Source Lightcast 2026.





Advanced Standing Degree Plan:

- Students must have a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited institution. Applicants who completed the BSW more than five years ago are eligible for Advanced Standing only if they are employed in the field of social services or hold a current social work licensure.
- Submit three letters of recommendation, two of which must represent people who can speak to the student's abilities as an emerging social worker. Of the two academic references, at least one must be a program director, practicum director, or practicum instructor/supervisor.
- Submit a final BSW/BSSW practicum evaluation (mid-term evaluation can be reviewed for conditional admission).

Core Curriculum:

SOCW 702: Advanced Standing Seminar

Students will review generalist competencies developed in their undergraduate program with an emphasis on engagement skills, biopsychosocial assessments, evidence-informed interventions, and the evaluation of practice. This course serves as a leveling course preparing students for graduate level expectations and as a bridge from generalist to advanced generalist practice.

SOCW 725: Spirituality in Diverse Populations

Students will build the necessary knowledge, skills, and values for culturally- and spiritually sensitive practice and become attuned to the ways in which spirituality and diversity shape the lives of individuals, groups, communities, and societies. Includes an emphasis on inclusion and belonging for historically marginalized populations.

SOCW 751: Advanced Generalist Practice I: Individuals

Students will explore advanced level engagement, assessment, and intervention skills when working with individuals. Using an advanced generalist framework, the course addresses clinical components of interviewing, assessment, treatment planning, and therapeutic interventions. Cultural humility and anti-oppressive practice perspectives will also be considered.

SOCW 753: Advanced Generalist Practice II: Families & Groups

Students will explore advanced level engagement, assessment, and intervention skills for working with families and groups. Using an advanced generalist framework, this course addresses collaborative problem-solving skills and facilitation strategies that foster positive outcomes in both clinical and community contexts. Cultural humility and anti-oppressive practice perspectives will also be considered.

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SOCW 781: Advanced Practicum I

Students will gain experience in an agency applying knowledge, theory, and practice skills while developing competencies as an advanced generalist practitioner. Students complete 250 clock hours under the supervision of an agency-based supervisor and actively participate in a course facilitated by a faculty member.

SOCW 782: Advanced Practicum II

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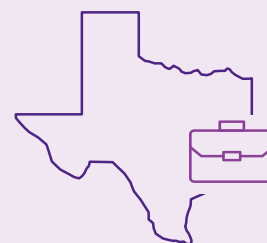
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Elective