

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (MSocSc)

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical Psychology; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Nonprofit Management; Psychology; Social Service Management and Social Work. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 1.1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of study in Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management and Social Work, candidates shall preferably have had a minimum of two years of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.2 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates shall hold a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.3 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates

- (a) shall hold a Bachelor's degree with honours preferably with a major in the social sciences or humanities discipline; or
 - (b) shall preferably have working experience in the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, or in other work with offenders,
- in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.4 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology, candidates

- (a) shall hold a Bachelor's degree with honours with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
- (b) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
- (c) shall preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings,

in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.5 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management, candidates shall have at least three years of relevant experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.6 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology, candidates

- (a) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the honours degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology); or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose (in a discipline other than psychology and without completion of any other programme in psychology which is designed to bring the honours degree holder up to the standard of a graduate majoring in psychology);
- (b) shall preferably have more than one year working experience; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and interview if shortlisted, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 2. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register in the fields as prescribed in the syllabuses if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Length of curriculum

MSS 5. The curriculum shall extend over not less than one or two academic year of full-time study; or two to three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work and shall include examinations of courses in the manner as prescribed in the syllabuses.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the curriculum shall extend over two academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Criminology, the curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study or not less than two and not more than four academic years

of part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Psychology, the curriculum shall normatively be one academic year for full-time study and two academic years for part-time study. The minimum and maximum periods of registration are respectively one and two academic years for full-time study, and two and three academic years for part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study.

Completion of curriculum

MSS 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
 - (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project in lieu of the specified number of paper(s) in the examination as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Dissertation and Capstone project

MSS 7. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 6(b), the title of the dissertation or capstone project shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation or capstone project shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation or capstone project represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MSS 8.

- (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation or a capstone project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS 9. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum; or
- (b) to repeat a year of the curriculum and present themselves for examination in the courses prescribed for the repeated year.

MSS 10. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 6(b), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project within a specified period.

MSS 11. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical

work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS 12. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

MSS 13. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or in field work or practical work in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners and are not permitted to repeat a year of the curriculum under Regulation MSS 9; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or field work or practical work at a second attempt; or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under the provision of Regulation MSS 10; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under the provision of Regulation MSS 10

may be required to discontinue their studies.

Assessment results

MSS 14. A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Social Sciences shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diplomas.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Behavioral Health. The programme provides systematic and comprehensive training in behavioral health with the integration of Eastern and Western holistic orientation for healthcare professionals such as medical doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, counsellors, counselling teachers, sports and fitness instructors, dieticians, Chinese medicine practitioners and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practitioners. The curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, by presentations, or by written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

Candidates are required to complete eight taught courses, of which four are compulsory courses. Each course comprises the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

Candidates may be approved to enroll up to two courses offered by other postgraduate programmes of the Faculty as substitutes of elective courses in this programme. The substitute must be relevant to behavioral health and comprise the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

In addition, candidates are required to complete a practicum or dissertation. They are expected to devote 220 hours on the practicum or dissertation and are required to present a progress report on their practicum or dissertation.

Compulsory Courses

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- MSBH6104. Spirituality in clinical practice
- MSBH7001. Introduction to behavioral health
- MSBH7005. Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health
- MSBH7008. Integrative approaches to holistic well-being

Elective Courses

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- MSBH6001. The body: health and illnesses
- MSBH6101. Counselling and psychotherapy
- MSBH6103. Chinese cultural health practices
- MSBH6106. Abnormal psychology
- MSBH6117. Working with special target populations
- MSBH6118. Selected topics
- MSBH6119. Special interventions: theories and techniques
- MSBH7007. Introduction to energy therapy methods
- EXAT7101. Fundamentals of music therapy
- EXAT7102. Fundamentals of drama therapy
- EXAT7103. Fundamentals of art therapy
- EXAT7104. Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy
- SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods
- SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach
- SOWK6206. Play Therapy
- SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement
- SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions
- SOWK6294. Use of expressive arts therapy in human services

Practicum or Dissertation

Candidates shall complete one of the following courses.

MSBH6201. Practicum

MSBH6202. Dissertation

(Note: not all courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

MSBH6104. Spirituality in clinical practice

Spirituality is usually considered as the human longing for a sense of meaning and fulfillment in life. It embraces but not limited to elements of religious beliefs and practices. It is often an expression for life perceived as higher, more complex or more integrated with one's worldview and commonly regarded as an essential part of an individual's holistic health and well-being. Proceeding from the theoretical knowledge of spirituality, this course is devoted to experiential learning through class exercises, visits, self-reflection and case reviews. Relevant topics across different religious and spiritual practices will be covered and students will be able to practice spiritual-based counseling with solid theoretical foundation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7001. Introduction to behavioral health

The course aims at orientating the students to the arts and science of behavioral health as well as the integrative body-mind-spirit approach in holistic health care. It covers the history, rationale, research, development and policy in behavioral health. Developments in both the East and the West will be briefly reviewed. This course is intended to introduce graduate students to the variety of intervention approaches and techniques in behavioral health. The theoretical framework and clinical efficacy of the approaches will be examined. Implications and practical applications for helping professionals will be deliberated.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7005. Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health

This course covers the nature and logic of scientific inquiry, and fundamental concepts like truth, reality, knowledge, and theory. Basic quantitative and qualitative research methods are covered; advanced research methods and specific approaches in behavioral health i.e. biofeedback, use of images and movement in research etc will also be introduced. Students will learn to be critical consumers of the scientific literature. Towards the end of the course, students are required to prepare a research proposal in which classroom learning can be applied to practical examples in behavioral health.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7008. Integrative approaches to holistic well-being

This course aims at cultivating the students' confidence and competence in developing holistic care practice in an integrative manner. A 3-day experiential learning workshop will provide students the direct experience of the integrative approach, as well as the chance to reflect and grow. The theoretical framework and philosophical underpinning of the intervention design will then be reviewed. Students

are expected to develop a deeper understanding and competence in developing their holistic care practice models through integrating what they have learnt in all preceding modules with their direct experience and new theoretical integration acquired in this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

MSBH6001. The body: health and illnesses

This course covers the basic biomedical aspects of health and illnesses; making the link between the physical body to the emotional and behavioral manifestations; common clinical encounters covering marriage, sexual health, family and conception, infertility, child health, adolescent period, men's and women's health, mental health, the elderly and palliative care.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6101. Counselling and psychotherapy

This course introduces the student to counselling and psychotherapy. Topics covered include foundational skills in counselling such as values, ethics and socio-cultural awareness, functional skills in counselling namely verbal and non verbal therapeutic communication, building a therapeutic alliance and use of self, understanding clinical practice issues, the stages of counselling, assessment and goal setting, major approaches in counselling and psychotherapy and professional and self-development. Students are expected to be active seekers, not passive recipients, of knowledge and to participate actively in collective learning. Emphasis is placed on the cultivation of independent, critical, and reflective thought through reading, discussion and experiential learning. It is a pre-requisite of EXAT7101, EXAT7102, EXAT7103, EXAT7104 and SOWK6206.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6103. Chinese cultural health practices

In light of increasing emphasis on cultural competence, this course examines the merits and problems of importing western therapy modalities into the local scene. Attention is drawn to psychological wisdom in ancient Chinese religions and belief systems, including Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. Basic ideas of health and illness in Traditional Chinese Medicine are also reviewed. Chinese health practices such as herbology, acupuncture, qi-gong, and health exercises are examined. The course also consists of an experiential component in which students are expected to learn the Tai Chi Qi-gong 18 Style or the Baduanjin. Students are encouraged to incorporate some of these elements into western counseling and therapy work to construct an indigenous treatment for the Chinese client.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6106. Abnormal psychology

This graduate level course will expose students to past and current research regarding concepts of "abnormal" behaviour, and the processes of clinical assessment of various types of psychological disorders – particularly the neurotic, psychotic, and mood disorders. A variety of in-class exercises – including small group discussion and video tapes are used to understand mental disorders. A number of controversial and culturally-relevant issues in abnormal psychology will also be explored and discussed in the course, such as helping seeking behavior of different cultural groups, and labeling effects of diagnosis. etc. References will be made to our Chinese local context. Case examples will be shared to enhance students' learning. The newest edition of the multi-axial Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

Mental Disorders (DSM-5, 2013) will serve as the explanatory basis for the description and analysis of these dysfunctional conditions. Although this is not a “therapy course”, we will also glance at accepted treatment strategies for particular diagnostic categories.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6117. Working with special target populations

This course covers selected topics that pertain to special populations or problems (e.g., cancer, AIDS, smoking, addictive gambling).

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6118. Selected topics

This course covers selected topics that meet acute societal needs, or are of current interest or on the cutting edge of knowledge advancement in behavioral health. Examples are prevention and coping with pandemic crises; reproductive health; gender, sexuality, and well-being; domestic violence.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6119. Special interventions: theories and techniques

This course covers intervention models that are of current interest in behavioral health. Examples are forgiveness therapy, narrative therapy, meaning-reconstruction interventions, and mindfulness-based therapy.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7007. Introduction to energy therapy methods

This course introduces a new approach in managing emotional distress that has gained wide acceptance in America and Germany. Being part of the new field of Energy Medicine, this approach focuses on the body as an energy system and addresses the bio-energetic aspects of emotional distress and offer rapid relief through dissipating the maladaptive energy configurations. Energy Therapy methods incorporate affirmative self-statements in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and concepts of energy and meridians in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The course carries a practical component and students are expected to master the basic therapeutic protocol so that it can be included in their counselling and healing work.

Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7101. Fundamentals of music therapy

Through both listening to and actively making music, the intentional application of sound and music in therapy has been used for a variety of purposes. Expressive arts therapists who wish to use music in treatment have to become aware of how the properties of rhythm, pitch, and tempo affect all levels of healing from expression to relaxation. By increasing comfort with a variety of musical instruments, genres and styles, students can identify when to offer specific interventions to advance therapy and healing. In becoming secure in the history and foundational theories of the field of music therapy, practitioners can locate their work in a larger theoretical context, while being mindful of cultural variances and considerations. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also.

Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7102. Fundamentals of drama therapy

Theatre and dramatic activity have often been used to communicate essential truths and to express particular values. Within the context of therapy, drama allows clients to recreate life experiences, imagine new ones, and experiment with alternate endings and choices. Through re-enactment or witnessing others tell one's story, acting is essential modality of healing. Understanding the history and theory of the fields of drama therapy while taking into consideration such activities as improvisation or pantomime can learn to offer drama in therapeutic and educational settings. Developing cultural sensitivity, self-awareness and critical appreciation will allow students to be competent in offering drama activities with clients. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also.

Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7103. Fundamentals of art therapy

This course is designed for helping service professionals, educators, and artists to learn about the practice and profession of art therapy. Content area covered will focus on history, theories and application of art therapy with various populations. In addition to lectures and discussions, students will participate in experiential art workshops to facilitate their understanding of the expressive nature of art making. Although this course does not qualify students to practice art therapy, students will gain awareness of art in therapeutic settings and how to ethically apply art making in their work settings. This course is based on the education standards of the American Art Therapy Association. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also.

Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7104. Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy

As one of the modalities engaged by creative and expressive arts therapists, dance and movement allow individuals to express, communicate, and engage in healing through their bodies. Engaged in a variety of clinical and educational settings, dance and movement can be engaged as effective nonverbal interventions. In order to be able to use it effectively, practitioners must be grounded in anatomy, comfortable with their own body awareness, and attuned to the artistic, social, and cultural influences that affect movement. By exploring the history of the field of dance and movement therapy and the various ways to involve the body in therapy, students will be able to use dance and/or movement as a way to help facilitate the process during interventions with clinical and non-clinical populations. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods

This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding all aspects of social life and social relations especially those who will undertake a dissertation study. Starting with the question what is reality, the course begins with an introduction to different perspectives on approaching reality, followed by an assessment of the general strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research in comparison with other conventions such as quantitative surveys. The lectures will focus on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including ethnography, grounded theory, observation, interviewing, focus groups and narrative analysis, etc. Various cases will be used to demonstrate how qualitative research helps make meaningful policy and social work practice. Seminars will be organized around practical methodological issues with the objective of helping students proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach

Students will be given the opportunity to examine various clinical issues regarding the assessment and interventions on persons with mental health problems such as Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia and Personality Disorders. Students are expected to actively participate in role plays and case discussions. A clinical case management approach will be adopted for this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6206. Play Therapy

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. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourished life, and Positive Interventions utilize the clinical applications of Positive Psychology in alleviating symptoms and distress and enhancing psychological well-being. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology and positive interventions, including the study of happiness, character strengths, wellness, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and applications to counseling and psychotherapy. Both overseas and local developments in these areas will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6294. Use of expressive arts therapy in human services

Art is a natural form of communication that offers a way to expressive feelings and thoughts in a manner that is less inhibiting than solely verbal means. Expressive arts therapy has powerful healing potentials, enabling self-discovery, expression of feelings, stimulating insight, and as a means for relaxation and communication. Expressive arts therapy can be utilized as a viable intervention in the field of social work, developing people holistically and connecting the body, mind and spirit. This course will provide an opportunity for the students to experience the use of expressive arts therapy for personal growth and inner exploration. Theory will be introduced through lectures and integrated within experiential

exercises and sharing of reflections. The integration of expressive arts therapy within the practice of individual counselling and group work will be shared through case studies, live demonstrations and video analysis. Various arts media will be introduced in this course e.g. visual art, craft work, music, dramatic exercises, and body movement giving the students firsthand experience in understanding how to use different art forms with potential clients.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Practicum or Dissertation

MSBH6201. Practicum

The practicum comprises 200 hours of prescribed work in healthcare settings under guidance by a supervisor, plus at least 20 hours of tutorials. A practicum report of not more than 10,000 words shall be submitted by not later than April 30 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6202. Dissertation

The dissertation shall demonstrate the student's ability to apply sound research methodology to investigate problems relevant to the field of study. It shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than June 30 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology. The programme aims to train competent and professional clinical psychologists and has an emphasis on science-based practices.

STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

The curriculum shall extend over two years and the intervening vacations, or its part time equivalent. The full-time curriculum consists of a total of 60 credits. Candidates are required to complete 16 compulsory courses, including 14 taught courses each given three units of credit (a total of 42 credits), a 2-year practicum course with a total of 12 credits (PSYC6001 Practicum) and a dissertation research course given 6 credits (PSYC8006 Dissertation). Nine of the taught courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five in the second year. Each credit-unit is roughly equivalent to one hour of teaching per week. Whereas the first year of the curriculum shall focus on the theoretical foundations and basis skills training in Clinical Psychology, the second year shall extend to include the application of the theories and assessment and treatment models to special populations in various clinical settings. The courses are as follows:

First year

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|-----------|---|
| PSYC6001. | Practicum |
| PSYC7002. | Assessment of personality and psychopathology |
| PSYC7003. | Individual psychotherapy I |

PSYC7004.	Individual psychotherapy II
PSYC7005.	Psychopathology I
PSYC7006.	Psychopathology II
PSYC7018.	Cognitive assessment
PSYC7019.	Research methods and statistics I
PSYC7020.	Research methods and statistics II
PSYC7009.	Clinical seminar I

Second year

PSYC6001.	Practicum
PSYC8001.	Clinical seminar II
PSYC8002.	Community and health psychology
PSYC8003.	Family and group therapy
PSYC8004.	Clinical neuropsychology
PSYC8005.	Ethics and professional issues
PSYC8006.	Dissertation

The courses listed above may be offered at a different year of study.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC6001. Practicum (12 credits)

This course consists of a minimum of 220 days of clinical placement. Students will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. They will have the opportunity to work in different settings such as hospitals, social services agencies, and various government departments. The practical training includes supervised practice in assessment techniques, case formulation, and treatment planning/procedures. Students will also learn the work culture in different settings, and how to function effectively in different teams or structures. Activities such as case conferences, workshops and seminars conducted by the placement settings also form part of the training. The practical work of students will be subjected to continuous assessment by supervisors of each placement.

Assessment: 100% practicum

PSYC7002. Assessment of personality and psychopathology (3 credits)

This course covers offers a survey of basic principles and methods of personality and psychopathology assessment. This course aims to enhance students' practical skills in psychological assessment and to foster their ability to critically evaluate commonly-used assessment techniques from a scientist-practitioner perspective. Cultural issues relating to personality and mental health assessment will be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7003. Individual psychotherapy I (3 credits)

This course introduces the common principles and skills of psychotherapies. In addition to reviewing the theoretical rationale and recent research and clinical literature, this course also focuses on the application of the empirically-supported therapeutic techniques to clinical and special populations. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7004. Individual psychotherapy II (3 credits)

The course focuses on the application of evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches to the treatment of specific psychological disorders in both adults and children. Cultural issues in the practice of psychotherapy will be discussed when appropriate. Experienced clinicians are invited to introduce common treatment approaches applied to different populations in Hong Kong. In addition, new developments and contemporary issues in psychotherapy will be critically examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7005. Psychopathology I (3 credits)

In this course, students will learn important theoretical concepts in the definition and classification of mental disorders. They will study specific disorders of childhood and adulthood. Strong emphasis is placed on the conceptualisation of psychopathology with reference to current research findings. Issues in the diagnosis and etiology of specific disorders will also be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7006. Psychopathology II (3 credits)

This course aims to enhance the diagnostic and conceptualisation skills of students through the continuous study of adult and childhood disorders. Emphasis will be placed upon the integration of theoretical conceptualisation, clinical practice and research. Attention will also be given to special issues of concern in both the Eastern and Western contexts. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7018. Cognitive assessment (3 credits)

This course provides a basic introduction to the assessment of cognitive functioning. Students learn to administer, score, and interpret a number of commonly-used cognitive tests. Students also learn to integrate test results into professional psychological reports. Basic psychometric principles, codes of professional conduct, and cultural issues relating to psychological assessment will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7019. Research methods and statistics I (3 credits)

This course covers intermediate research methods and statistics. Issues on psychological measurement and experimental designs are presented. The course uses empirical examples in psychology to illustrate various research designs and statistical methods and to ensure that students become intelligent consumers of research findings. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7020. Research methods and statistics II (3 credits)

This course covers advanced research methods and statistics. Multivariate techniques are introduced to address complex research questions in psychology. At the end of the course, students are expected to develop a viable research proposal in preparation for their theses according to the standards of the American Psychological Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7009. Clinical seminar I (3 credits)

A series of skills-training workshops is offered. Each workshop provides practical training on clinical assessment and intervention skills. The workshops are designed to prepare trainees for supervised training in clinical placements.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8001. Clinical seminar II (3 credits)

The seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussions, with a focus on case conceptualization and treatment planning for a range of complex psychological problems. Emphasis is placed on integration of psychological theories and clinical practice, as well as training on therapeutic skills and treatment strategies. Students will get the chance to learn advanced knowledge and skills in specialist areas. Experienced clinical psychologists may be invited to share their expertise on specialized topics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8002. Community and health psychology (3 credits)

This course overviews key theoretical concepts in community and health psychology. The course critically examines mainstream medical model of mental health and explores alternative ones from the lens of community and critical psychology. Another objective is to examine the role of psychologists in medical and health settings and psychological aspects of medical problems. The application of community and health psychology in the local context will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8003. Family and group therapy (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of family and group interventions. For Family Intervention, it covers fundamental concepts, theories and frameworks in working with families and couples. Students will be able to develop knowledge in the history and development of family therapy, systemic theories as early foundations of family therapy, and research in the application of family therapy. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures with case illustrations, videos and exercises.

The Group Intervention component aims to familiarize the trainees with the major theories, principles and techniques of group interventions through reading, discussion, videos and role plays. Group development, dynamics and different stages in the group processes will be examined. The empirical basis for efficacy of group interventions and group interventions for different populations and different psychological disorders will be addressed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8004. Clinical neuropsychology (3 credits)

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed.

Neuropsychological assessment approaches will be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8005. Ethics and professional issues (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the process of ethical decision making in the professional practice of clinical psychology. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by the Hong Kong Psychological Society, a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8006. Dissertation (6 credits)

While in residence, each student proposes and completes a substantive, scholarly work relevant to clinical psychology. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by June 30 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

COUNSELLING

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Counselling for professionals in the human services, such as social workers, teachers, managers, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and hearing therapists and other related professionals who are interested in counselling. The curriculum shall extend over (a) not less than two academic years for the part-time two-year study, or (b) not less than three academic years for the part-time three-year study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to two compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course(s) to replace the exempted course(s) to meet the degree requirements.

EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses and a practice-based project report as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted by ongoing coursework assignments, or by written tests, or by a combination of both.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete five compulsory courses and three elective courses. These elective courses are so designed that they can provide a focused study in one of three service settings: welfare, education, and health care. By selecting a particular combination of courses, candidates may (1) specialize in one stream from these three service settings; or (2) choose a more broad-based curriculum; or (3) choose to complete one elective course with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses) if candidates are interested in advancing their research skills. Apart from lectures, candidates are required to complete a skills training laboratory and a practicum that includes a practice-based project report.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6040. Practice research in human services
- SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development
- SOWK6159. Abnormal psychology
- SOWK6160. Assessment and testing
- SOWK6161. Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete one of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete three of the following courses.

- SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice
- SOWK6098. Spirituality in counselling
- SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions
- SOWK6162. Counselling in the welfare setting
- SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting
- SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting
- SOWK6166. Substance abuse counselling
- SOWK6168. Group counselling
- SOWK6188. The fundamentals of art therapy
- SOWK6204. Hypnotherapy
- SOWK6206. Play therapy
- SOWK6210. Family therapy
- SOWK6220. Working with the elderly in primary health care
- SOWK6224. Introduction to movement therapy
- SOWK6240. Adventure programming in therapy
- SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions
- SOWK6276. Philosophy, science and art of fostering authentic and intimate connections

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Skills training (Compulsory)*

Candidates shall complete the following course.

- SOWK6170. Skills training laboratory

(D) *Practicum (Compulsory)*

Candidates shall complete the following course.

- SOWK6171. Practicum and practice-based project report

(E) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK6264. Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6040. Practice research in human services

Social workers, teachers, nurses and counselors are guided by theories, research and practice wisdom in their work. It is important for students to be able to appraise, utilize, participate and contribute to research. In order to build evidenced and indigenous practice knowledge appropriate to local settings, this course aims to introduce students to principles and procedures of evidence-based practice. Specifically, it aims to help students in tracing research foundations in clinical practice, examining critical issues associated with evidence-based practice, accessing and evaluating new information related to practice and ultimately evaluating critically their practices. Through carrying out a mini-practice research as ongoing assignments, the students are expected to equip with hand-on experiences in planning, designing, implementing research and presenting its findings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development

This course examines factors affecting human development through an exploration of the normal patterns of growth from infancy to old age. Individual, social, and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment, with particular foci on current thinking in the field of developmental psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6159. Abnormal psychology

This course provides a broad exposure to both theory and practice in the understanding of mental disorders. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behavior from normal behavior to mental illness, issues in diagnosis and classification, and the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models of abnormal behaviour.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6160. Assessment and testing

This course surveys the major concepts and techniques in the field of psychometrics and provides students with some hands-on experience with commonly used tests. Topics covered include: the context of testing and measurement, the testing process, test standardization, reliability and validity, the nature of intelligence and its appraisal, personality assessment, special domain testing, occupational applications, and ethics in testing.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6161. Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

This course provides a theoretical foundation for the practice of counselling. Topics covered include the major approaches in counselling, counsellor dimensions, working with various clinical and non-clinical populations, professional ethics and limitations of counselling.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and psychotherapy. Commonly encountered emotions in casework and groupwork practice like anger, fear, guilt, shame, sadness and grief will be examined. Moreover, the course aims to enhance students' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6098. Spirituality in counselling

This course examines the basic foundation of the helping process in the form of exploring the impact of religious faiths and beliefs of various kinds on human behavior. It examines the question of how belief systems grow and develop, and the role they play in the understanding of one's own behavior, whether as a counsellor, or as an individual in the quest of 'knowing oneself'. In the counselling process when helper and client meet, the issue of how human interactions is seen to be influenced by different understandings of the world, and how beliefs affect the healing of disturbed behavior will be studied.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6162. Counselling in the welfare setting

This course introduces the various macro and micro intervention approaches in working with disadvantaged individuals who are users of social services in Hong Kong. Through a systems perspective, students will have the opportunity to examine various intervention approaches in helping disadvantaged groups, such as new arrivals, elderly people, at-risk youth, and mentally and physically handicapped persons to deal with their intra-personal, interpersonal and environmentally-induced difficulties. The course emphasizes the integration of micro and macro intervention approaches.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting

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

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting

This course offers an understanding of the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students in schools (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are the main foci, such that students may be helped to cope better with their school life.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6166. Substance abuse counselling

This course examines the drug scene in Hong Kong and gives an overview of the problem of substance abuse in society. The different theoretical conceptualizations of substance abuse and theories of addiction are then reviewed as a prelude to devising intervention approaches to help drug-addicted persons.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6168. Group counselling

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of group counselling approaches. Applications include working with families, children, the elderly people, and medical/psychiatric patients. Cultural issues, current research and developments in group counselling will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6188. The fundamentals of art therapy

This course introduces students to the philosophy and practice of Art Therapy, and how Art Therapy activities can be modified and used with potential clients under careful working guidelines. Students will also experience different art activities/philosophies, which are designed according to the various needs of potential clients. Lectures, participation in group workshops, and video and case presentations will form a part of this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6204. Hypnotherapy

This course gives an overview of the historical development and domain of hypnosis, as well as contemporary approaches in hypnosis. A particular emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of hypnotherapy where particular skills will be of use in the counselling process. Lecture topics include the art of hypnotizing, styles of hypnotic suggestion, clinical applications, professional ethics and limitations of hypnotherapy.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6206. Play therapy

The objective of the module is to introduce the student to the principles and practice of play therapy and its application to the counseling and psychotherapy for children, adolescents and families. At the end of the course, the students will have an introduction of the history and development of play therapy, an understanding of various theoretical models of play therapy, rationale for the use of play in therapy, and phrase of the client's progress in play therapy. Practice material will be provided including how to development therapeutic rapport, conduct a play based assessment, setting up of a playroom and the selection of therapeutic play materials. Best practice tips on engaging the client, recording keeping and

other ethical issues will be discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6210. Family therapy

This course begins with an overview of the evolution of family therapy since the 1950s, with a major focus on specific family therapy approaches in working with children, youth, couples, and the elderly, such as conduct disorders in children, eating disorders in adolescents and depression in couples. Apart from an emphasis on theoretical and conceptual integration, this course draws heavily from case and video materials for discussion. Role-play and experiential activities will be used extensively for the training of family therapy strategies and skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6220. Working with the elderly in primary health care

This course focuses on dealing with various issues in working with the elderly in primary health care. It aims at understanding the characteristics of the elderly in managing chronic health and mental health problems, and the application of preventive, assessment and intervention strategies to achieve wellness. Topics include coping with medical conditions like stroke, hypertension, and dementia, psychological conditions like depression and suicide, and caregiver stress in managing these conditions. Teaching formats include paper presentation, role-play, case or work sample illustration, and health promotion project design.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6224. Introduction to movement therapy

This intensive, practice-focused course provides an opportunity for students to experience and discover first-hand an oblique and symbolic approach to whole-person growth, healing and change. Emphasis is on the natural and spontaneous use of the imagination within the art form of body movement. The experiential learning is consolidated by discussion of related psychological principles and relevant fieldwork, enabling students to gain theoretical and practical insights into personal or client-related issues as well as the potential of movement therapy as an allied health practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6240. Adventure programming in therapy

This course introduces the concepts and skills in employing physical and psychological challenges, including the controlling of subjective and objective dangers by individuals or groups for therapeutic purposes, either in outdoor or indoor settings, given the tackling of adventurous activities and challenges facilitates resolving physical and emotional difficulties. The course will be taught through lectures and experiential exercises. Students will be required to design projects in planning adventure programmes, and the experiencing and conducting of adventure therapy themselves.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourishing life, and Positive Interventions utilize the clinical applications of Positive Psychology in alleviating symptoms and distress and enhancing psychological well-being. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology and

positive interventions, including the study of happiness, character strengths, wellness, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and applications to counseling and psychotherapy. Both overseas and local developments in these areas will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6276. Philosophy, science and art of fostering authentic and intimate connections

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 neighbors. The idea is not to have to seek psychological security behind a rigid mask, but capable to be present here and now in our strong and vulnerable, true and caring, confident and gentle selves, and capable also of 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

Skills training

SOWK6170. Skills training laboratory

This laboratory provides training on basic relationship building strategies and methods. Counselling relies on an establishment of therapeutic relationship. Characteristics and dimensions related to such counsellor-client relationship will be introduced, and strategies and methods for building rapport will be practiced in the laboratory setting. Further, the course will also cover basic skills related to case and group counselling. Teaching is done via an experiential learning approach. Students are required to participate actively in class and complete practice assignments.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Practicum

SOWK6171. Practicum and practice-based project report

All students will have to be engaged in a total of 250 hours of clinical work, and to complete a practice-based project report of no more than 10,000 words. A practicum teacher will be assigned to supervise the student's clinical work and to facilitate his/her completion of the practice-based project report. The report should essentially be an evaluation of the clinical work performed by the student. Individual and group supervision will be provided. *Students must hand in their reports not later than June 30 of the same year when the practicum is undertaken.*

Prerequisite: Students who have completed and passed the following courses

- SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development
- SOWK6159. Abnormal psychology
- SOWK6160. Assessment and testing

SOWK6161. Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics
SOWK6170. Skills training laboratory
are permitted to take the practicum and practice-based project report course.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK6264. Dissertation

The dissertation is offered to students who have proven record to show their ability to conduct research. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of sound research methodology to the investigation of problem(s) relevant to the field of counselling. The proposed topic of investigation has to be substantially different from the issues or problems covered in the practice-based project report (SOWK6171). The dissertation option is subject to approval of the Head of Department and relevant dissertation supervisor. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

CRIMINOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed for each compulsory course by way of a 3-hour written examination that accounts for 40% of total marks and 60% by coursework assignments. However, candidates are assessed for each of elective course by 100% coursework and that may include presentations, projects, essays and written tests.

CURRICULUM

The degree programme extends over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study or not less than two and not more than four academic years of part-time study. All courses are offered on both part-time and full-time basis. Classes are conducted during evenings and occasional weekends.

The compulsory courses provide candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of crime and deviance. The elective courses, building upon that foundation, introduce the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in criminology and related social policy issues.

To receive the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates must complete eight courses plus a dissertation. As a rule, full-time candidates are expected to do an individual dissertation, while part-time candidates are expected to do a group dissertation. The eight courses include four compulsory courses and four courses from the list of elective courses.

The curriculum structure is summarized as follows:

Duration of Study	Part-time	Full-time
Year 1		
Semester 1	SOCI7002 SOCI7009	SOCI7002 SOCI7009 2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation
Semester 2	SOCI7001 SOCI7004	SOCI7001 SOCI7004 2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation
Year 2		
Semester 1	2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation	
Semester 2	2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation	

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- SOCI7001. Criminal justice: process and politics
- SOCI7002. Methods of research for criminology
- SOCI7004. Theoretical criminology
- SOCI7009. Global and comparative criminology

Elective courses

Candidates shall complete 4 courses from the following list:

- SOCI8002. Economic and organized crime
- SOCI8003. Law and society
- SOCI8004. Punishment and society
- SOCI8006. Youth and delinquency
- SOCI8008. Special topics in criminology
- SOCI8011. Media and crime
- SOCI8013. Gender, crime and social control
- SOCI8015. Crime and deviance in PR China
- SOCI8017. Cultural criminology
- SOCI8018. Policing in comparative perspective
- SOCI8019. Issues in police reform
- SOCI8020. White collar and corporate crime

Dissertation (Compulsory)

Full-time candidates shall complete Individual dissertation and part-time candidates shall complete Group dissertation.

- SOCI8021. Individual dissertation
- SOCI8022. Group dissertation

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any semester. The elective courses are offered depending on student interest and staff availability.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the syllabus of this programme with

a course or courses offered by another Department in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Faculty Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the syllabus of this programme. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than one course from another Department in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates' overall course of study. Permission shall not be granted to substitute any other course for a required course in the syllabus of this programme.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOCI7001. Criminal justice: process and politics

This course critically reviews the process of law enforcement from initial contact with suspects through to prosecution and sentencing. The focus is on the ways criminal justice policies are developed and the problems and issues arising from the implementation of different approaches to crime control. Topics include: policing models (including private policing and crime prevention strategies); the effectiveness of policing; discretion and bias; due process and legal constraints in law enforcement; adjudication and sentencing; and policies toward victims.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7002. Methods of research for criminology

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of social research methods and to demonstrate how these methods can be applied to crime and criminal justice. The course aims to engage with key epistemological debates relating to the subject and object of criminological research, while equipping students with a strong practical foundation in specific research methods. The course will cover: the relationship between theory, method, and data; historical and contemporary trajectories of quantitative and qualitative research (including ethnography and participant-observation); debates on risk, ethics and reflexivity; practical guidance on developing a research project, conducting interviews for social research, and critically assessing criminological research methodologies. This course will form an important foundation for the individual or group dissertation later in the programme.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7004. Theoretical criminology

This course comprises an introduction to major historical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. The course covers: classical and positivist theories of crime; biological and psychological influences; social structural and social process theories of crime; Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations of crime and law; the emergence of neoclassic theories of crime (e.g., rational choice and routine activities); postmodern and restorative approaches to crime control.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7009. Global and comparative criminology

In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the 'global' question in criminology. As people,

money, culture and technology circulate and cross-cut the globe on a daily basis, so the traditional borders of criminology have become merged and blurred. Just as 'global' issues – human trafficking, the international drug trade, corporate harm and cyber-crime – must be understood in an international context, so too must traditionally 'local' arenas of criminological interest – youth gangs, policing, sex-work – be located within a comparative perspective, in particular those beyond traditional Anglo-American bases of power. This course discusses the concept of globalisation and its implications for the study of criminology, introducing students to key theoretical and methodological debates in the field of global and comparative criminology through analysis of both global and local case-study examples.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

Elective Courses

SOCI8002. Economic and organized crime

The course focuses on a range of criminal activities that occur within an organizational setting or are in accordance with established organizational goals, and which harms individuals or society at large. More specifically, the course will devote attention to such topics as economic and organized crime and discuss the ways in which they are interrelated and frequently overlap with political crime. Special consideration will be given to the ways in which the state may organize crime.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8003. Law and society

This course will examine the relationship between law and society. It looks at the history and development of law in different cultures, examining the form and content of 'law' found in pre-industrial society, capitalist society and socialist society. Particular legal concepts such as the law of contract and the public/private distinction are placed in their socio-historic setting. Specific topics (e.g. law and domestic relations, rape in marriage, child abuse, homosexuality, artificial reproduction, and restrictions on pornography) are examined insofar as they are related to the application of these concepts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8004. Punishment and society

The course aims to explain punishment and society in a comparative and historical context. Popular conceptions and professional evidence about punishment will be compared. The social institution of punishment is in many ways a mirror of society and its norms. The course will look at the different functions of punishment, like retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and restoration. We will trace those functions historically and culturally, mapping vast cultural and social differences in the way in which punishment is practiced in America, Europe, the Islamic world, and in China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8006. Youth and delinquency

The problem of juvenile delinquency has influenced the formation of law and social policy in many societies. This course will use a wide variety of historical and comparative materials to analyze the response of social service agencies and the criminal justice system to juvenile delinquency. It will also examine various theoretical approaches that have been used in studying juvenile delinquency.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8008. Special topics in criminology

A lecture and seminar programme designed to provide students with a course of study in current or newly emerging topics in criminology and criminal justice. The course enables, for example, new subject or sub-specialist areas to be offered. This may *inter alia*, include:

cyber crime and e-commerce crime
crime prevention
criminal intelligence analysis
criminal justice system administration and management
computer forensics
security and terrorism studies
criminal profiling
victimology (including trafficking, stalking and “hate” crimes)

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8011. Media and crime

The media plays an extremely influential role in the public’s conceptions of crime and order. This course aims to provide students with a better understanding of theories about the media’s impact on crime, the news making process in relation to crime, and how the media shapes our ideas and responses to crime. The course also focuses on the representation of crime in popular culture, particularly in films and novels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8013. Gender, crime and social control

This course provides students with a comparative perspective of men and women’s involvement in crime and punishment. The first part of the course focuses on the differential images and realities of men and women in relation to crime. This will lead us to a critical examination of the assumptions, tenets and explanations of traditional theories about men and women in crime. These theoretical frameworks are then compared with gendered theories about crime. The second half of the course explores the differential treatment of men and women under the law from the point of policing through to imprisonment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8015. Crime and deviance in PR China

The course offers an overview and introduction to the developments of crime and deviance in China. The emphasis will be historical, comparative and contemporary. We look at Chinese definitions of deviance and crime from the past, the Communist period, and with a particular emphasis on the recent period of rapid modernization. The course will also review issues and problems in the control of crime and public order in the People’s Republic of China. The content covers theories and practices of deviance, crime, discipline, policing, and punishment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8017. Cultural criminology

Cultural criminology comes as a reaction and interpretive alternative to normative analyses of social problems. Rather than ask questions about root causes of crime, cultural criminologists seek to explore the processes through which ascriptions of crime and criminality, and reactions to these ascriptions are promulgated within particular social and cultural contexts. The course will offer a comparative perspective contrasting North American ‘cultures of control’, with other ‘welfare’ and ‘disciplinary welfare’ contexts, including Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8018. Policing in comparative perspective

This course examines policing in a broad social and cultural perspective. Our focus is the concept of the “police function”: under what sorts of historical and socio-cultural conditions does the idea of the police function make sense? With this question as our guide, we will examine the maintenance of order in stateless societies, look at various historical moments in the emergence of police as an element of modern government, and finally take a survey of the novel policing formations emerging from the processes of decolonization, globalization and neo-liberalism.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8019. Issues in police reform

When, why and how do police forces change? This course takes up these questions through case studies of exemplary events of police reform, such as: Robert Peel’s formation of the London Metropolitan Police in 1829; William Parker’s reform of the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1950s; William Bratton’s reform of the New York Police Department in the 1990s; post-apartheid policing in South Africa; and post-Maoist policing in the People’s Republic of China. Through comparative study and in-depth analysis, students will draw lessons about the general dynamics underlying police reform.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8020. White collar and corporate crime

This course examines the topic of white-collar and corporate crime. Classic theoretical works will be considered as well as more contemporary writings. To illustrate these points we will explore important international case studies that shed light on how and why these offenses occur. We will begin with a general introduction to the field, including definitions, conceptual, and theoretical issues from the social sciences, law, and criminology regarding what has become known as white-collar, occupational, organizational, and corporate crime. Following this, we will discuss various forms of white-collar crime including: consumer crime, environmental crime, governmental crime, official corruption, computer crime, health care fraud, and financial fraud. The course will guide students in studying important questions, to critically think about issues, to research the topics discussed, and to become familiar with the literature on white-collar and corporate crime, through assigned readings, presentations, class discussion, a writing assignment and an in-class exam.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOCI8021. Individual dissertation

The individual dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster independent research for full-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation not exceeding 20,000 words on an approved topic. A dissertation

topic is selected by the end of the first semester in the current academic year. The dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the same academic year and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same academic year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8022. Group dissertation

The group dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster small group research for part-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation of a reasonable length (pending on actual group size) on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the second semester in the first year. The group dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the second academic year of study and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology. The programme is designed to provide instruction and training in the theory and practice of educational psychology. To this end, emphasis will be placed on both academic studies and related practical experience in the field.

STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

The period of study extends over two years full-time or three years part-time, commencing in September and including the intervening vacations. Throughout the programme, in both its theoretical and practical aspects, special attention will be paid to the needs and issues concerning educational psychology in the local setting.

The full time curriculum consists of a total of 60 credits. The quantitative value of a credit is equivalent to 15 hours of taught course or 120 hours of practicum, under supervision of an experienced psychologist. Candidates are required to complete 18 compulsory courses, including 14 taught courses each given three units of credit (a total of 42 credits), 3 practicum courses with a total of 12 credits (PSYC6012 Practicum I, PSYC6013 Practicum II and PSYC6014 Practicum III) and a 2-year dissertation research course given 6 credits (PSYC6007 Dissertation research I & II). Nine of the taught courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five in the second year. Duration of each taught course is normally one semester and consists of three hours of weekly lectures, discussions, seminars or workshops. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

PSYC6002.	Research methods & statistics I
PSYC6003.	Research methods & statistics II
PSYC7010.	Psychoeducational assessment I
PSYC7011.	Psychoeducational assessment II
PSYC7012.	Children with special needs I
PSYC7013.	Children with special needs II
PSYC7014.	Psychoeducational intervention I
PSYC7015.	Psychoeducational intervention II

PSYC7016.	Skills training seminar I
PSYC6007.	Dissertation research I & II

Second year courses

PSYC6004.	Curriculum and instruction
PSYC6019.	Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology
PSYC7017.	Skills training seminar II
PSYC8007.	Applied developmental psychology
PSYC8008.	Motivation and learning
PSYC6007.	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6012.	Practicum I
PSYC6013.	Practicum II
PSYC6014.	Practicum III

The part-time curriculum consists of the same 14 compulsory courses, three practicum courses and a 2-year dissertation research course. Of the taught courses, seven are normally taken in the first year, four in the second and three in the third year. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

PSYC7010.	Psychoeducational assessment I
PSYC7011.	Psychoeducational assessment II
PSYC7012.	Children with special needs I
PSYC7013.	Children with special needs II
PSYC7014.	Psychoeducational intervention I
PSYC7015.	Psychoeducational intervention II
PSYC7016.	Skills training seminar I
PSYC6012.	Practicum I

Second year courses

PSYC8007.	Applied developmental psychology
PSYC8008.	Motivation and learning
PSYC6004.	Curriculum and instruction
PSYC6019.	Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology
PSYC6007.	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6013.	Practicum II

Third year courses

PSYC6002.	Research methods & statistics I
PSYC6003.	Research methods & statistics I & II
PSYC7017.	Skills training seminar II
PSYC6007.	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6014.	Practicum III

The part-time programme may not be offered. An announcement would be made whenever it is available.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of

these methods.

A candidate's performance in the programme, whether full-time or part-time, is evaluated in three parts: (1) formal courses on the basis of written examination and/or continuous assessment of all written and practical work carried out during the year; (2) dissertation research and (3) practical training as set out below. Candidates must pass all three components of the programme.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC6002. Research methods and statistics I (3 credits)

This course covers advanced concepts of measurement and psychometrics, research design, and data collection and analysis. Experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational and descriptive research methods are presented. The course uses empirical studies of educational and psychological issues based on quantitative and qualitative data to illustrate various research designs and statistical methods and to ensure that students become intelligent consumers of research results.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6003. Research methods and statistics II (3 credits)

This course covers more advanced statistical techniques, including multivariate data analysis. Communicating about research both orally and in writing is stressed. At the end of the course, students will have developed a viable research proposal in preparation for their thesis according to standards of the American Psychological Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7010. Psychoeducational assessment I (3 credits)

This course provides students with theoretical foundations of psychoeducational assessment and basic concepts in measurement. Starting with standards related to professional conduct and ethics in assessment, the course introduces students to formal and informal techniques and instruments used most frequently in the local setting. Focus will be put on the assessment of intelligence, achievement, and learning disabilities. The assessment of infants and young children is a special topic. The integration of assessment data into a comprehensive psychological report with associated recommendations for intervention is an essential component of this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7011. Psychoeducational assessment II (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the assessment of behavioural and adjustment problems in children and adolescents. Using the problem-solving and systems approach as framework, students will be introduced to important concepts, procedures and instruments associated with the assessment of behaviour, personality, and social-emotional functioning in the school context.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7012. Children with special needs I: basic concepts (3 credits)

This course will introduce students with problems and issues related to children with special needs. The course will cover the following topics: Issues, definition and historical background; provisions for

children with special needs; special education in Hong Kong; issues concerning integration of special needs children into mainstream settings; and effects of a handicapped child on family life. This course will also explore different types of special needs children including intellectually different students (the gifted and the mentally handicapped); children with learning disabilities, children with emotional and behavioural disorders, and those with communication disorders, sensory or health impairments. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7013. Children with special needs II: diagnostic and remedial procedures (3 credits)

This course will focus on diagnostic and remedial measures used with special needs students in mainstream and special educational settings. Topics include different classification systems, individualized educational programmes, general remediation strategies and specific training programmes for different types of special needs students. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7014. Psychoeducational intervention I (3 credits)

The nature and basic principles of psychoeducational intervention are introduced. The first half of the course will cover the fundamentals of counselling and guidance. It focuses on the process and stages of counselling in a pan-theoretical way. The second half of the course will cover some of the major approaches in counselling and intervention (e.g., person-centred therapy and behavior modification). It aims at equipping the students with specific and useful techniques and procedures derived from these approaches. Students are expected to master both theories and practical skills. Practical training is an indispensable component of this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7015. Psychoeducational intervention II (3 credits)

Major approaches and different levels of psychoeducational intervention are covered. The course emphasizes both direct and indirect intervention. Students are encouraged to go beyond the remedial model and are expected to work as an active agent with broader perspective in preventive intervention. Practical training is an indispensable component of this course. The students are expected to apply the acquired knowledge and practical skills to their work in educational settings. Topics include cognitive-behavioural intervention, systems and ecological approaches, school consultation, family work, psychodynamic approaches, alternative forms of therapy with children and adolescents, and career and vocational counselling. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7016. Skills training seminar I (3 credits)

This course provides an initial orientation programme immersing students into settings related to roles and functions of educational psychologists. Subsequently more intensive discussion and hands-on practice of assessment skills and intervention programmes are provided. Students observe and practise skills related to consultation and interviewing, observational techniques, testing procedures, reporting test results and recommending interventions. They also engage in practice related to intervention techniques such as stress management. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6004. Curriculum and instruction (3 credits)

This course helps students understand and enact the principles of curriculum design, teaching, and assessment of learning, as they apply to the contexts and issues educational psychologists are likely to meet. A systemic view of children's learning problems will be emphasized. Curriculum and instructional issues for both mainstream and special schools in Hong Kong will be reviewed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6019. Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology (3 credits)

This course prepares students for professional practice in educational psychology by examining the organizational, ethical, and legal considerations as well as current issues related to such practice in Hong Kong. Ethical and legal guidelines pertinent to the delivery of school psychological services will be introduced to enable students to make well-informed choices in resolving professional problems and ethical dilemmas when they occur. Students will also engage in discussion and analysis of contemporary issues related to educational psychology practice. Topics covered are broad and diversified and are highly relevant to the local context. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7017. Skills training seminar II (3 credits)

This course is an advanced course in practical skill training. It is run parallel with the practicum courses. It provides a platform for the students to polish the micro-skills that are required in their fieldwork placement. These are the skills in assessment, counselling, consultation, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and systems-intervention. This course also provides a forum in which experienced educational psychologists from the field can share their specialities and expertise with the students. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8007. Applied developmental psychology (3 credits)

This course focuses on an integrated study of human development across the life span with implications for educational psychology. It aims at familiarizing students with current state of knowledge and major theories of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. The interrelationship among biological, cognitive, social, and educational factors that influence human development will be examined. In particular the influence of Chinese culture and context on development during the childhood and adolescence will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8008. Motivation and learning (3 credits)

This course aims at familiarizing students with theories, research, and practices in the field of motivation and learning. It focuses on how educational psychologists can use existing knowledge in motivation and learning to enhance teachers' instruction and students' learning. Topics include theories of motivation and learning; their application in educational settings; effects of social cognitions on motivation; instructional environment that fosters motivation; and biological, cultural and contextual factors of learning. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6007. Dissertation research I & II (6 credits)

The dissertation should be a critical study within the field, normally including an empirical element, and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. Where appropriate, studies involving qualitative

methodology and other approaches may also be included. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by July 31 of the final academic year of study. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

- PSYC6012. Practicum I (4 credits)**
PSYC6013. Practicum II (4 credits)
PSYC6014. Practicum III (4 credits)

The programme considers field work placement an important and indispensable part of the training and whenever possible tries to integrate theories discussed at the University with that of fieldwork practice. All students are required to do fieldwork placement for a total of 180 days in three different settings.

PSYC6012	Practicum I (4 credits)
PSYC6013	Practicum II (4 credits)
PSYC6014	Practicum III (4 credits)

The average duration of each practicum is 60 days. Adjustment of the length will be made according to the specific requirements of the settings. Each practicum aims at providing the students with:

- (a) exposures to a broad spectrum of work of an EP working in a particular setting;
- (b) adequate hands-on experiences at different levels (such as individual casework, group work, consultations to parents and teachers, in-service training for teachers, etc.) in the development of the necessary practical knowledge and skills;
- (c) knowledge of different types of provisions and systems accessible to children with special educational needs and referral procedures; and
- (d) opportunities for collaborative work with other professionals.

Assessment: 100% practicum

GERONTOLOGY

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Gerontology. This programme is designed for professionals who are interested in developing a career specialized in working with the elderly and who engage in elderly-related policy research. Applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds may apply for the programme which is designed to meet the diverse training needs of different professional disciplines including social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in aged care policies and practices. The curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, by presentations, or by written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6193. Social gerontology
- SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing
- SOWK6258. Care management
- SOWK6265. Research methods in human service
- SOWK6282. Social work intervention with the elderly

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age
 - SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement
 - SOWK6291. Advanced gerontological seminars
 - SOWK6292. Ageing and health
 - SOWK6293. Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts
- and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK9002. Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6193. Social gerontology

This course provides a comprehensive, holistic view of ageing that considers the implications for an older person's interactions with their social and physical environments, including the immediate environment of family, friends, and home, as well as the larger social structure of community, organizations, and society. It also aims to impart knowledge to students about the most important social theories on ageing and the time dimension in the ageing process and its relation to the evolution of larger society.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing

The course is designed to examine the concepts of social policy and ageing, and the various models available for the analysis of social policy. By analyzing local and foreign services and policy regarding the elderly people, students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing public policies. This should further the understanding of the development of social services to meet the needs of the elderly in the context of economic and social change. Basic concepts of social planning, problem identification and programme implementation will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6258. Care management

Gerontological assessment is the foundation in elder care, whereas care management is one of the major practice strategies to promote effective service delivery to diverse target populations in long term care. Students will be taught to manage and to carry out needs assessment in long term care cases, with reference to the comprehensive assessments developed by international recognized bodies. On top of micro-level direct practice, the course also deals with the establishment of care management programmes in a macro-level, including programme design, development and evaluation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6282. Social work intervention with the elderly

This course focuses on intervention with older people at micro and macro levels. In macro level, it covers both administrative and community intervention strategies to engage older people in their

communities, to empower older people and their communities for independent living, to promote choices, quality of care, and quality of life in elderly services. In micro level, it covers intervention strategies for intake, comprehensive assessment, treatment and termination involved in working with older clients and their families. It equips students with skills to reach out, engage reluctant or impaired elders, and work in a multidisciplinary team in elderly settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Courses

SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age

This course explores the types of mental illnesses among the elderly in Hong Kong. Attention will be put towards the understanding of the causes and treatments of mental illness in the elderly population. A critical review of medical, psychological and social services for the elderly with mental illness will be conducted.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6291. Advanced gerontological seminars

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6292. Ageing and health

Social care in medical setting, including Medical Social Work, workers at patient resource centers, is a very important component in our health care system. It is a crucial interface between health care and social welfare sector. It is important for workers at social care settings to understand essential medical knowledge, health care values and systems. This course is designed to help non-medical students to understand the perspectives of medical practitioners and enhance their communication competence in a multi-disciplinary team.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6293. Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts

This course aims to help students understand the implications of population ageing and increasing life expectancy in both developed and developing countries although countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be our focus. Cross-national evidence-based programs will be selected from North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Specifically, we will illustrate how population ageing varies across the globe and how it affects family support, living arrangements, and intergenerational transfer and relationships. Moreover, the policy and practice implications of population ageing in social, political, and economic dimensions will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9002. Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than three months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MEDIA, CULTURE AND CREATIVE CITIES

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences degree in the field of Media, Culture and Creative Cities. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

ASSESSMENT

Candidates are assessed for each course in the first year by way of a 2-hour written examination that accounts for 40% of total marks and 60% by coursework assignments. In the second year they are assessed by 100% coursework and may include written tests.

CURRICULUM

The first year curriculum provides candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of media, culture, and creative cities. The second year, building upon that foundation, introduces the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in creative industries and related media and cultural issues.

In the first year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by written examination and coursework in each of the following compulsory courses:

SOCI7005.	Theories of media, culture and creative cities
SOCI7006.	Research methods in media, culture and creative cities
SOCI7007.	Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective
SOCI7008.	Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities

and in the second year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by coursework in four of the following elective courses:

SOCI8023.	Media and popular culture in Asian cities
SOCI8024.	New media and digital culture
SOCI8025.	Consumer cultures and everyday life
SOCI8026.	Self-identity and late-modern society
SOCI8027.	Body, intimacy and sexuality
SOCI8028.	Cultural policies and global cities
SOCI8029.	Creative industries and creative cities
SOCI8031.	Special topics in media, culture and creative cities

and to complete:

SOCI8030.	Capstone project (equivalent to two courses)
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Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any given year.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the syllabus of this programme with a course or courses offered by other departments in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the syllabus of this programme. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than two courses from other departments in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates' overall course of study.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOCI7005. Theories of media, culture and creative cities

This compulsory course introduces the key thinkers, traditions, and current debates in the sociology and cultural studies of media and culture in the world city context. It explores the centrality of the role of media, culture, and creativity in contemporary social life and its intricate relationships with the city at an advanced level. You will comprehend media and culture as an industry or institution with specific modes of production and ownership, consumption patterns and practices, and rules of control and regulation. You will examine media and cultural representations, as well as socially constructed identities. You will explore media and culture as a “way of life” comprised of social reflective practices that entail creativity and pleasure, as well as politics and resistance. In other words, this course will look into the key issues of political economy, representation, politics, and practices of media and culture, addressing the power dynamics and complexities of the city, and examining the importance of creativity in the context of globalization. This course serves as a roadmap to other courses in this programme. Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7006. Research methods in media, culture and creative cities

This course offers you the chance to look at different ways of researching media, culture, and creative cities through a range of disciplines, most notably sociology, anthropology, and media and cultural studies. It examines the whole research process, starting from research methodology, to research design,

sampling and methods used, to data collection, data analysis and report writing. In particular, various methods will be introduced such as survey, content analysis, ethnography, in-depth interview, life history, reception studies, textual analysis, and deconstruction. Key debates in research methodology such as representation, legitimation, and reflexivity will be discussed. Students will learn the methods for analyzing the media, cultural industries and their products, studying audiences and consumers, charting broader cultural trends, and examining the cultural environment of creative cities. The course helps students put theory “to work” and trains students to become independent researchers who are well-informed at both the theoretical and methodological level.

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7007. Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective

Globalization refers to the increasing flow of people, goods, commodities, economic activity, technologies, media, values, and belief systems on a global scale. People are becoming more aware of the global connectivity of economic, cultural, political, and social activities in different parts of the world. Recent studies focus on the dynamics of this global flow in shaping the emerging world order. This course aims to provide students with a broader and deeper understanding of the issues related to globalization from an Asian perspective. It takes a serious look at this emerging global map by examining the social, cultural, and creative interface of global, domestic, and trans-border cultures in Asia. The discussions are arranged under three major themes, which included (1) city and state; (2) new communities and cultural exchanges; and (3) globalization vs. regionalization. Specific Asian cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore will be investigated.

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7008. Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities

This course examines critical issues of media, culture, and creative cities, with a particular focus on Hong Kong city. The purpose is to shed light on relevant issues of modern life by drawing on some of the key concepts and findings in the related fields. While the issues to be discussed will vary from year to year, they will all touch upon important facets of media operation, cultural dynamics, city regeneration, and creative development. In particular, the course will look at media regulation and freedom of speech, heritage and urban planning, time and collective memory, post-colonial identity and nationalist imaginations, youth cultures and lifestyles, global consumption and local community, new forms of intimacy, the beauty myth and diet culture, creative industries, city branding, the West Kowloon Cultural District, and Disneyland. Selected topics will be taught by different instructors with relevant special expertise. Students will form small groups to work on the presentation of a chosen topic. Emphasis will be put on using contemporary media, cultural, and urban theories to interpret and understand social and cultural phenomena in Hong Kong, and extend discussions to other Asian cities such as Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore.

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

Elective Courses

SOCI8023. Media and popular culture in Asian cities

This course addresses the social, political, cultural, and creative dynamics of the modern communication media – TV, film, music, radio, the press, and other new media technologies – and their impacts on popular culture in Hong Kong and other Asian cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore. It enables you to critically examine how media and popular culture construct our identities, shape everyday life, and generate public debates. Topics include the media; sex and violence; consumption and youth cultures, romance and gender identity; regimes of body

management; desire and social identities; lifestyle distinctions and social hierarchy; on-line communication and cyber personas; media events and imagined communities; new media and technologies; and the commercialization of arts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8024. New media and digital culture

This course explores the nature and impact of new media in the era of digital culture. Special attention is paid to the interactivity of media, particularly in regard to how the internet and mobile technology has changed the visions and practices of commerce, entertainment, work, social interactions, news-making, artistic creation and distribution, group formation, the spread of knowledge, identity building, political participation, legal regulation, and global social movements. We shall examine questions such as: How do new media facilitate new creative ventures and cultural expressions? How do social media interact with political power? In what ways are activities on the Internet – social networking, bookmarking, crowdsourcing, (micro)blogging, media sharing, online journalism, and open source movements – building a new form of “social self” and “public sphere”? In what ways does “cyberspace” function as a source of knowledge and wisdom, a network of connectivity and community, a new civil society, and a form of “trans-local” “globalization from below”? And what are the implications of this new digital world in terms of individualized entertainment, segregated communication, and current and potential power centers such as the state and multi-media corporations? The related conceptual debates will be assessed with reference to empirical findings from a burgeoning body of evidence-based studies in this field. Experiences from different global cities will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8025. Consumer cultures and everyday life

Consumption is an important part of modern life. This course examines the role of consumer culture in the modern commodity economy. It offers you a chance to revisit classical theorists in the context of consumption (e.g., Marx, Weber, Campbell, Veblen, Simmel), as well as some more contemporary thinkers (e.g., Marcuse, Bourdieu, Baudrillard). It will look at the changing roles of street culture, department stores and shopping malls, theme parks, and urban and suburban ways of life in the context of recent discussions regarding the interactive media and global consumption politics. In particular, the course will show how consumption in everyday life generates a fascinating mix of homogeneity, difference, hybridity, commerce, and democratization for modern people in major creative cities.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8026. Self-identity and late-modern society

This course traces the rise of the notion of self-identity in the modern era and follows it through to contemporary times. Various notions of identity and their relationships will be discussed: personal identity, social identity, cultural identity, collective identity, national identity, etc. We will explore the changing experiences and meanings of collective and personal identities in late modern culture in domains such as work, family, religion, society, and the nation. We pay particular attention to the emergence of various contemporary identities in relation to the formation of creative class and creative culture. This will enable us to rethink the distinction between the public and the private, explore the social construction of the life course, the notion of cultural identity, the relationship between identity and creativity, and the dynamics of identity politics and new social movements in terms of age, body, class, religion, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and more. The focus is on contemporary Hong Kong and Chinese experiences as well as other cities in the Asia/Pacific region, such as Singapore, Seoul, and Tokyo.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8027. Body, intimacy and sexuality

This course aims to investigate the significant changes happening in the private sphere of intimacy in late-modern times, paying particular attention to Chinese cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and other Asian cities such as Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo, Bangkok, and Singapore. Drawn from various disciplines such as feminism, gay and lesbian studies, queer theory, and contemporary theory of body, this course critically reviews a number of key issues: the debate of biological drive/social force in shaping sexual identity, gender difference and intimate behavior; the dynamics of agency/structure in understanding sexual performances and body practices; the development of sexual politics and movements; mainstreaming of sexuality and media representation; and commercialization of desires. This course also pays more attention to the newly emerging scripts that seem to shape femininity/masculinity, romantic love, intimate relationship, and family patterns.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8028. Cultural policies and global cities

This course covers three different scopes of cultural policy, beginning with government supports for the arts, then the invention of creative industry policies and finally cultural citizenship. There has been an international trend of introducing entrepreneurialism into cultural policies in recent decades. Policies, involving both the government and civic organizations thus are formulated in order to enhance the competitiveness of nations and cities through various cultural projects. Global cities such as London, New York, Paris, Brussels, and Tokyo are seen to be capable of assuming a leading role in the cultural development and promotion of urban entrepreneurialism. This course examines comparatively how different policies evolve under different social and historical conditions, and how global cities redevelop their urban and cultural resources in order to sharpen their competitiveness in the context of the inter-city competition of a global economy, and explores how such experiences could be applied to Hong Kong. Topics to be covered in this course include entrepreneurialism, strategies of urban redevelopment, urban culture, and urban competitiveness. Students will also reflect on the problems associated with cultural, urban and creative development.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8029. Creative industries and creative cities

This course explores the structures, processes, and cultural artifacts of the creative industries (performing arts, film and television, publishing, art and antique markets, music, architecture, digital entertainment, computer software development, animation production, fashion, and product design) and how they figure in the strategic repositioning of the city. It offers students a chance to critically examine the political economy and spatial organization of these industries of culture in different creative cities of the world. It also opens up debates generated by the intersection between culture, economy, and the city, such as high and low culture, innovation and standardization, capitalist dominance and democratic pluralism, authenticity and mechanical reproduction, power and resistance, the role of the creative class in city growth and regeneration, engineering and imagineering creative cities, cultural planning, and the city as a marketplace, sustaining the livable city.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8031. Special topics in media, culture and creative cities

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of current or newly emerging topics in media, culture and creative city. The course enables new subject or sub-specialist areas to be offered. It also facilitates innovative modes of teaching and learning. Subjects may inter alia, include:

Visual sociology and anthropology
Sensory cultures
Emotion and affect
Posthumanities and ethics
Biomedicine and biotechnology
New media, subjectivity and performativity
New thinkers in cultural studies
Risk, reflexivity and sustainable development
Critical pedagogy in media and culture
Body, place and flow – new directions in cultural studies
Private self and public sphere
Workshops in presenting and representing culture

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Project

SOCI8030. Capstone project

This course aims to teach students how to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme. Students will conduct a research project in close collaboration with community partners in the field of media, culture, and creative cities. Students select a topic from the list suggested by community partners and work on it over two semesters. The topics will relate to a variety of analytical, practical, and policy issues in the field. Sample topics may include: assessing the use of the web platform for preserving local history, the role of public engagement in cultural conservation projects, funding an international film festival, independent film making in the age of media convergence, radio broadcast after digitalization, gender identity and consumer culture in South China, the application of new media art in commercial settings, cultural clusters and art districts in Asia, a proposal for setting up a crafts museum in Hong Kong, and cultural policy after the West Kowloon Cultural District.

Students will work under the guidance of a manager in the community, as well as a designated academic supervisor from the Department. Students can work individually or in groups, depending on the nature and scale of the project. Assessment will be based on a final written report and an oral presentation. The capstone project shall be submitted and presented not later than July 31 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Mental Health for social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in mental health issues and practices. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, or by presentations, or written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6084. Intervention in health care settings
- SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6186. Community mental health: policies and practices
- SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach
- SOWK6265. Research methods in human service
- SOWK6283. Social work with persons with mental illness

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice
 - SOWK6119. Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health
 - SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions
 - SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age
 - SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health
 - SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement
- and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK9003. Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)
-

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6084. Intervention in health care settings

Social intervention approaches used in health care such as crisis intervention, grief work, self-help group, art therapy, community education skills, hospice, and home care will be examined. Candidates will be provided with experiential training on skills/techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6186. Community mental health: policies and practices

Community care is a widely accepted principle and practice of care for persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems. This course will critically examine the theoretical, practice and policy issues relating to mental health care. Concepts and issues such as psychiatric rehabilitation, prevention in mental health and empowerment will be explored. The course will also review the strengths and limitations of some of the major community mental health services in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach

Students will be given the opportunity to examine various clinical issues regarding the assessment and interventions on persons with mental health problems such as Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia and Personality Disorders. Students are expected to actively participate in role plays and case discussions. A clinical case management approach will be adopted for this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6283. Social work with persons with mental illness

The course covers different theoretical orientations towards mental illness in relation to its definition, classification, etiology, treatment, management and rehabilitation; the relationships between mental illness and individual and environmental factors; the relevance of cultural factors in mental health practice; prevailing models of service provision for persons with mental illness; multidisciplinary teamwork approach in mental health service; and the professional roles and core competences of mental health social workers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and psychotherapy. Commonly encountered emotions in casework and groupwork practice like anger, fear, guilt, shame, sadness and grief will be examined. Moreover, the course aims to enhance students' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6119. Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health

This course covers the various bio-medical models on the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. It will also critically examine the strengths and limitations of the bio-medical models in accounting for the causes and treatments of persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age

This course explores the types of mental illnesses among the elderly in Hong Kong. Attention will be put towards the understanding of the causes and treatments of mental illness in the elderly population. A critical review of medical, psychological and social services for the elderly with mental illness will be conducted.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health

This course focuses on an understanding of the mental health issues found among children and youth in Hong Kong. While it will introduce the developmental perspectives on child and adolescent

development, it will also provide an overview of the prevalence and general features of different childhood and adolescent mental health problems. The course will also bear a practice focus and introduce to students the assessment, treatment and skills in engaging children and youth suffering from various mental health problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9003. Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.

Assessment: 100% coursework

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

This curriculum provides an opportunity for leaders in the nonprofit sector in the Greater China and the world to develop enhanced capacity to lead the future development in civil society and the nonprofits sector. Our comprehensive and rigorous curriculum situates nonprofit management in a broader arena to include social, political and economic dimensions that will enable graduates to act as agents of change through policy advocacy, innovation, and other strategic actions as well as allow graduates to take on leadership positions in the sector. Through this curriculum, we will:

- extend students' knowledge of current critical issues in governance and leadership in the nonprofit sector, across sectors, as well as within relevant social services and public policy areas;
- enhance the capacity of the students in navigating the complex and dynamic social-economic-policy context to create positive changes in the sector;
- empower students with the state of art of innovations in the government, private and the nonprofits sectors, and create innovative competence in the sector;
- prepare students to integrate academic and professional knowledge to enhance their intellectual abilities and professional practice in order to achieve more effective and efficient leadership in the nonprofit sector; and
- create value for organisations as their staff members who join this programme can reflect

on challenges and issues facing their organisations as well as apply newly developed competencies to mobilize resources and build new networks to transform their organisation.

ASSESSMENT

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessments of courses. Candidates may be assessed by continual coursework assessment, written examinations, or a combination of both. The grading system with fine grades (i.e. A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C- ,D+, D and F) will be adopted for this curriculum.

CURRICULUM

Candidates must complete 8 courses and one capstone project (equivalent to 2 courses) in order to receive the Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management degree. Of the 8 courses needed to complete this degree, candidates are required to take 4 core courses then may choose the remaining four courses from a list of pre-approved electives.

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- MNPM7001. Public governance, structure and dynamics of the nonprofit sector in Greater China
- MNPM7002. Foundations of the nonprofit sector in comparative perspective
- MNPM7003. Managing nonprofit organisations: issues, tools and challenges
- MNPM7004. Performance measurement, assessment and programme evaluation
- MNPM7013. Capstone in nonprofit management

Elective courses

Candidates shall complete four courses from the following list.

- MNPM7005. Strategic management of nonprofit organisations
 - MNPM7006. The law, nonprofit and philanthropy
 - MNPM7007. Talent management and strategic leadership for nonprofit organisations
 - MNPM7008. NGO Board governance and development
 - MNPM7009. Contemporary issues in effective philanthropy
 - MNPM7010. Fund development and financial management for nonprofit organisations
 - MNPM7011. Social entrepreneurship and innovation
 - MNPM7012. Brand building and social marketing
-

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

MNPM7001. Public governance, structure and dynamics of the nonprofit Sector in Greater China

This course provides an overview of the major issues in public governance, structure and dynamics of civil society and nonprofit sector in Greater China. The different modes of public governance and public-private interface through the development of civil society in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan will be reviewed. The existence, functions and contributions of nonprofit organisations to public governance will be examined. Students will gain a broader understanding of the nature of current social issues in Greater China, such as the widening income disparity gap, aging, poverty and migrant

workers, in the context of recent reforms. The course also provides an analysis of how civil society and nonprofit organisations shape the social and public policy agenda under different regimes.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7002. Foundations of the nonprofit sector in comparative perspective

This course examines the roles and development of nonprofit organisations, voluntary associations, philanthropic organisations and social enterprises in Hong Kong, Greater China and elsewhere from an historical, political, social and economic perspective. It also examines the distinct scope, theories and functions of such organisations, and how they operate and impact on society, to equip students with a deep understanding of the complexity of the sector and its relationship to public governance.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7003. Managing nonprofit organisations: issues, tools and challenges

A major challenge facing the nonprofit sector today is to attain effective management in a complex, rapidly changing environment. This course provides an overview of the broad range of management tools, principles and practices on which nonprofit organisations rely as they seek to meet mission objectives, frame messages to attract public support, motivate volunteers, plan effectively, develop strong board leadership, connect with the other sectors, and set and meet performance objectives. The course also looks toward future trends and developments in the management of nonprofit organisations. Topics covered range from developing organisational capacity to leveraging stakeholder and community engagement.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7004. Performance measurement, assessment and programme evaluation

This course is a methods course on data collection, assessment, impact and performance appraisal systems that nonprofit can implement to measure and assess efficacy of policies and programmes. Social impact assessment (SIA) process, models and social variables for measuring social returns or social outputs especially in the fields of impact investing and social entrepreneurship will be examined. Performance measurement and programme evaluation are critical to improving the overall quality of programmes and services, gaining credibility with donors and demonstrating accountability and transparency to stakeholders. Topics also include: setting key performance indicators (KPIs); performance evaluation from a human capital perspective; and developing appropriate methods for communicating assessment results.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

MNPM7005. Strategic management of nonprofit organisations

This course focuses on leadership and management of nonprofit organisations in the current context of resource scarcity and the blurring of boundaries between the private, public and nonprofit sectors. As there is increasing emphasis on corporate social responsibilities and collective share holding in for-profit businesses, case studies of effective businesses and witnessing transformation of corporations will empower students to appreciate Change Management in an ever changing socio-economic environment. The course aims to provide the necessary perspectives and tools for executing high-impact strategy, including the conceptual frameworks for understanding high-impact

organisations and the role of strategic leadership; analytical tools for developing and evaluating strategy; issues around succession planning; risk assessment; systems thinking and sustainability; approaches to working with stakeholders to mobilise commitment; and methods for leading change and achieving goals.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7006. The law, nonprofit and philanthropy

This course covers the range of legal issues affecting civic engagement, volunteerism, human rights, international standards, nonprofit organisations and philanthropy. It examines and compares the evolution of the legal systems pertaining to those underlying policies and regulatory issues contained in constitutional, tax, contract, and trust laws that affect the set up and operation of charities, foundations, social enterprises and other philanthropic endeavours in Greater China with a comparison to Western legal frameworks. International best practices in policies, legal framework and systems on civil society, philanthropy, fund management, impact investing and NPOs will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7007. Talent management and strategic leadership for nonprofit organisations

Talent management has emerged in the field of human resources as a key strategy for improving how an organisation functions. It is a set of processes designed to manage, recruit, develop, motivate and retain a workforce with the goal of creating a sustainable, highly responsive and performance driven organisation. Topics covered include identifying a competency-based, integrated talent management system, volunteer recruitment and management, and promoting organisational values-based behavioral themes. Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7008. NGO Board governance and development

This course presents an overview of nonprofit governance and issues of accountability that affect organisational performance from the structure, functions and composition of Boards to the individual fiduciary responsibility of each member. Topics covered include best practices on Board selection based on competency modelling; Board training and development, including working with cross-sectoral partners; collaboration and consensus building, how to assess Board performance and transformation of Boards.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7009. Contemporary issues in effective philanthropy

With international trends of establishing individual, corporate, family and community foundations, nonprofit and philanthropic organisations mushroom, especially in the Asia-Pacific area which share a culture of communal altruism and enjoy a steady economic development. The core values of modern philanthropy are examined along with the effects of ecological, historical, and social processes that influence traditions of giving in contemporary societies. The course delves into current issues and tensions around accountability, legitimacy, and the effectiveness of philanthropic institutions with consideration towards future trends. Effective philanthropy looks for impactful investments with a desire for genuine social change. This course examines the ways in which donors can distribute money through the analysis of different strategies, concepts and frameworks, along with implications for grantees and ultimately those funding recipients. Topics covered include high-impact philanthropy; developing metrics for measuring impact; strategic philanthropy; and the ethics of giving.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7010. Fund development and financial management for nonprofit organisations

A major priority for nonprofit organisations is securing funds in support of noble goals and programmes. This course covers the fundamentals of fund development and diversifying sources of income as part of an organisation's strategy to build up capacity for sustainable, long-term growth. The use of financial information in organisational planning, implementation, control, reporting, and analysis are essential to the smooth operation of nonprofit organisations. Topics to be covered include techniques for developing successful fundraising strategies and campaigns; examination of donor behaviour and giving methodologies; assessing various potential sources and types of support; prospecting and building relationships; ethics and fund stewardship; and understanding external issues with potential to impact fund development and organisational performance; as well as accounting, budgeting, preparing and analysing financial statements, and using analytical tools in financial-decision making to improve organisational performance.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7011. Social entrepreneurship and innovation

Social entrepreneurship is about advancing long-term social change through technological innovative solutions and is a rapidly developing and changing field that constitutes different activities and goals depending on whether one is from the private, nonprofit or public sector. This course analyses the strengths and limitations of social entrepreneurship and social businesses, from a comparative perspective, as a tool for achieving significant lasting social change within nonprofit organisations. It explores the different theories, concepts, frameworks, and guidelines for effective social entrepreneurship and innovation with an eye towards sustainability of such solutions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

MNPM7012. Brand building and social marketing

Nonprofit organisations rely heavily on community good-will and public engagement to attain desirable social goals. Brand building and public relations can attract financial support, consumer and organisation loyalty, as well as credibility and talents. Social marketing is the application of marketing concepts and techniques to influence specific behaviors for social good. This course covers the concepts and tools for nonprofit to design, implement and manage marketing strategies consistent with the social values and positioning of the organisation and supporting brand building. Students will learn how to conduct competitive analyses and market segmentation; understand target audience needs; develop and launch new offerings; explore opportunities for social entrepreneurship and product development; and understand and adapt marketing philosophies to threats and opportunities in the current environment.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Project

MNPM7013. Capstone in nonprofit management

The capstone project enables students to integrate what they have learned from the programme and demonstrate their ability to analyse critical issues, mobilise resources and build creative synergy in strategic nonprofit management. Students will attend a workshop as part of capstone and through active participation with distinguished academics, entrepreneurs and practitioners in the field, will develop expertise in those skills, tools and competencies essential to leading effective and efficient nonprofit

organisations. Topics covered in the workshop include managing interpersonal and group conflicts; advocating for social change; information strategy in the digital age; and the art of networking and forming strategic alliances. Students will then work in small groups and complete a research project. A topic is selected in consultation with relevant teaching staff by the end of the first month of the final academic year of study. The project is then researched, written and submitted for examination by the end of the final academic year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology. The curriculum is primarily designed for candidates with an honours degree in a discipline other than psychology.

CURRICULUM

1. Candidates are required to complete seven courses and a dissertation as listed below:

Research methods and core psychology courses (6 credits each)

PSYC7301. Introduction to research methods in psychology

PSYC7302. Research and quantitative methods in psychology

PSYC7303. Biological psychology

PSYC7304. Cognitive psychology

PSYC7305. Developmental psychology

PSYC7306. Personality psychology

PSYC7307. Social psychology

Research dissertation (18 credits)

PSYC7308. Dissertation in psychology

2. Full-time candidates are required to take four courses in the 1st semester, and three courses in the 2nd semester, in addition to a full-year dissertation course. Part-time candidates are required to take five courses in the 1st year and, in addition to the dissertation course, two courses in the 2nd year of study. Any variations from this pattern are subject to the approval of the Programme Director.
 3. For the research methods and core psychology courses, candidates are required to participate in the problem-based inquiry for each course. In preparation, they should complete the required assigned readings and are encouraged to engage in self-directed learning by reading additional self-selected relevant materials.
 4. In addition to the seven courses, each candidate is required to write a dissertation on an approved topic under the supervision of a faculty member in his/her final year of study. The dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the final academic year of study.
-

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

PSYC7301. Introduction to research methods in psychology (6 credits)

This course adopts a practical approach to teaching the analytical aspects of research techniques in psychology. It is designed to provide students with the basic background in research design and data analysis. The logic of statistical inference and scientific explanation, the merits and limitations of quantitative approaches to the study of psychological phenomena, and research ethics will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC7302. Research and quantitative methods in psychology (6 credits)

This course is designed to extend students' quantitative and research skills so that they are prepared to conduct their own independent empirical research. It will build on what students already learned in PSYC7301 to cover more advanced quantitative methods commonly used in Psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC7301.

PSYC7303. Biological psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to biological aspects of behaviour. The topics include: biological bases of behaviour, development, learning, memory, and abnormal psychology; the nervous system; processes of brain maturation; psychophysiology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC7304. Cognitive psychology (6 credits)

This course covers how humans learn to deal with information from the environment in everyday life. Topics include various aspects of perception, memory, concept structure and learning, and thinking. Students will be involved in conducting experiments on cognitive functioning as part of the coursework.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC7305. Developmental psychology (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to developmental psychology and its applied implications. The topics include: basic concepts and theories of human development; research methodology and issues in developmental change; biological, environmental and social influences on development; physical development over the life-span; attachment and emotional development; development of perception, language, cognition and morality; development of personality and social relationships.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC7306. Personality psychology (6 credits)

This course will critically examine a number of theories. The relationship of specific theories to practical applications, personality assessment and psychotherapeutic techniques may be included. The major aims of the course are to provide a survey of the breadth and complexity of this field and to provide a perspective from which to examine assumptions about human nature and the evaluation of behaviour.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

PSYC7307. Social psychology (6 credits)

This course gives an overview of the field which studies the behaviour of individuals in social contexts. It covers social perception, social cognition, social motivation, attitudes and attitude change,

relationship between attitude and behaviour, aggression, helping, interpersonal attraction, social influence on individual behaviour and group dynamics. The impact of Chinese culture on various social behaviours, as well as how social psychology applies in everyday life, will form part of the discussion. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Dissertation

PSYC7308. Dissertation in psychology (18 credits)

A candidate should conduct an independent empirical investigation of a psychological problem under the supervision of a faculty member. A successful dissertation should represent the result of the candidate's research which displays some originality and demonstrates a sound understanding of the field of study and the appropriate research methods. The dissertation should not exceed 20,000 words in length (excluding tables, figures, bibliographies, and appendices). The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCIAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Service Management. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, or by presentation, or written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Work)

programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6087. Managing people in human services
- SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for social service organizations
- SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues
- SOWK6265. Research methods in human service
- SOWK6289. Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management

(B) *Elective courses*

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare
 - SOWK6150. Information and communication technology for human service organizations
 - SOWK6154. Marketing social welfare programmes and promoting community relations
 - SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods
 - SOWK6218. Fund raising and proposal development
 - SOWK6221. Information technology and society
 - SOWK6263. Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis
 - SOWK6290. Social innovation and enterprise
- and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK9004. Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6087. Managing people in human services

This course introduces concepts for the understanding of organization behaviour and emphasizes on the application of these concepts and the skills in managing people in non-profit making organizations. This course is particularly suitable for candidates 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 will include basic concepts on management functions, purposes of a managerial position and the roles of a manager; and skills in managing subordinates including motivation, morale, leadership, coaching, performance management and disciplinary actions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practice comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the

philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for human service organizations

The course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial planning and management. The objective is to enable students to learn skills and strategies for budgeting. Emphasis will be given to the understanding of the financial activities and reports essential to management, as well as analysis and use of financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current social welfare policy issues including social welfare planning mechanisms, welfare blue print, strategic framework for social welfare, district planning, and other relevant issues will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6289. Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management

This course aims at helping managers of human service organizations to be equipped with the knowledge in strategic management to deal with the current challenges arising from the rapidly changing public and social service scene. Topics may include strategic planning, quality management, risk management, change management, business process re-engineering, etc.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare

This course aims to help students examine the use of concepts and theories from the economics discipline in analyzing social policies. As working knowledge of economic concepts and theories is essential for most professional roles in social administration, this course seeks both to convey the framework and concepts with which economists approach issues and to increase the likelihood that students will incorporate these in their own thinking about policy. Topics discussed will include the relationship between economic growth and social development, the role of the public sector in human service, the financing of social services, and the economic effects of social spending. Current topics such as the economics of ageing will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6150. Information and communication technology for human service organizations

Information and communication technology is becoming an indispensable machinery in any organization. This course examines the utilization of information technology and computers in social service agencies. Major areas of study include (1) a review of the trends in the human service agencies' use of computerized information; (2) an exploration of software frequently used in the human services; and (3) the ethics of using information technology and computers in the human services.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6154. Marketing social welfare programmes and promoting community relations

As social welfare organizations increasingly adopt the business model of practice, they have to significantly promote their relationship and communication with their "customers" or service users through marketing their "products" and improving the community relations. This course provides students with some basic techniques in marketing and community relations with special emphasis on the social service sector.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods

This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding all aspects of social life and social relations especially those who will undertake a dissertation study. Starting with the question what is reality, the course begins with an introduction to different perspectives on approaching reality, followed by an assessment of the general strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research in comparison with other conventions such as quantitative surveys. The lectures will focus on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including ethnography, grounded theory, observation, interviewing, focus groups and narrative analysis, etc. Various cases will be used to demonstrate how qualitative research helps make meaningful policy and social work practice. Seminars will be organized around practical methodological issues with the objective of helping students proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6218. Fund raising and proposal development

Securing funds for social services have become more and more competitive. Reducing reliance on any single source of income, NGOs have attempted to diversify sources of funding. Raising funds and writing proposals have been regular activities of NGOs. This course covers topics such as the concepts of philanthropy, the understanding of giving behavior (including annual giving and capital giving), cost-effectiveness of various fund raising activities, use of volunteers, building prospect relationships, stewardship (accountability and reporting), ethical issues of fund raising, making a business case for new initiatives, obtaining grant and project support, etc.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6221. Information technology and society

This course examines the various issues related to the impact of the development of information and communication technology on modern society. Such issues range from family and interpersonal

relationship, organizational changes, social organization, digital divide and politics. Relevant theories, researches, social interventions and social policy will be covered in this semester course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6263. Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis

This course covers various statistical analyses include single variable, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. Appropriate analyses for different types of data will be discussed and various techniques in scale development including reliability and factor analysis will be introduced. Apart from various multivariate linear modeling and path analysis, non-parametric analyses will also be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6290. Social innovation and enterprise

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 to accordingly devise timely and appropriate intervention to address these issues. This course aims at introducing the concept of social entrepreneurship and how it creates social change. We will examine the current global development of social entrepreneurship as well as local development and its development in Greater China and South East Asian countries. We will inspire our students to become an active agent in addressing the pressing social issues and making social change.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9004. Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Work. The programme offers two specialist streams, namely: Family work; and Integrated practice with young people. Candidates shall take relevant core courses under the stream. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory/core courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are

required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory/core course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, or by presentations, or written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: two compulsory courses, four core courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service

(B) *Core courses*

Candidates shall complete courses from one of the following streams.

Family work stream

SOWK6216. Professional supervision in human service practices

SOWK6219. Family policy and service planning

SOWK6277. Family systems and family therapy I & II (equivalent to two courses)

Integrated practice with young people stream

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting

SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health

SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth

SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies

(C) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option:

Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option:

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

SOWK6062. The Satir model and family reconstruction

SOWK6078. Family as a resource: an intellectual and a personal examination

SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships

SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions

SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice

SOWK6145. Marital counseling

SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting

SOWK6261. Social work in school settings

SOWK6269. Child maltreatment and protection

SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

SOWK6294. Use of expressive arts therapy in human services and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(D) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for a dissertation option shall complete one of the following course.

SOWK9001. Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Core Courses

Family work stream

SOWK6216. Professional supervision in human service practices

This course offers to students the knowledge and skills for practicing supervision in human services to meet the need of the beginning professionals in developing their knowledge and skills. This course focuses on the supporting and training functions of supervision. Students are expected to participate actively in class using their own experience to integrate the knowledge and skills in class.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6219. Family policy and service planning

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current issues of family policies and the planning of family services will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6277. Family systems and family therapy I & II

The practice of family therapy grew out of diverse influences within mental health, marital counseling and social sciences. The movement criticized "traditional mental health as placing too much emphasis on the individual as the site of the problem, too much emphasis on history to explain causality, too much emphasis on pathology to construct treatment strategies, and too much emphasis on objectivity." The history and classic family therapy models will be introduced in the first semester of this course. In addition to the general system theory, the postmodern movement continues to gain momentum within family therapy in early 90s. Solution-oriented brief family therapy and narrative therapy are the two major family therapy approaches deprived from the postmodern shift. In the second part of this course, the assumptions, concepts and hallmark techniques of these social constructionist family therapies will be intensively examined and drilled. The application and conceptual underpinnings of different family therapy approaches relevant to Hong Kong will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Integrated practice with young people stream

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting

This course offers an understanding of the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students in schools (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are the main foci, such that students may be helped to cope better with their school life.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health

This course focuses on an understanding of the mental health issues found among children and youth in Hong Kong. While developmental perspectives on child and adolescent development will be introduced, the course will also provide an overview of the prevalence and general features of different childhood and adolescent mental health problems. The course will also bear a practice focus and introduce to students the assessment, treatment and skills in engaging children and youth suffering from various mental health problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with young people experiencing different issues in their development. To facilitate the skill development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated services, games and role-play. Advanced social work practice includes motivational interviewing, debriefing, youth development intervention protocol design, and multi-disciplinary cooperation for various youth problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies

This course will begin with a critical review of the current state of theory and cutting edge research on child development, youth development and delinquency. It will then go on to evaluate existing policies

and services directed at child, youth and youth at risk. Finally it will explore current issues in the field of youth policy. Special emphasis will be given to the relevance of these issues and programmes within the Hong Kong context.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and psychotherapy. Commonly encountered emotions in casework and groupwork practice like anger, fear, guilt, shame, sadness and grief will be examined. Moreover, the course aims to enhance students' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6062. The Satir model and family reconstruction

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

SOWK6078. Family as a resource: an intellectual and a personal examination

Socrates said "know thyself", we say "know thy family". Based on theories of family systems and social studies on family roles and gender politics, this course examines the powerful forces of family and society in shaping our personality, values orientations, life goals, expectations about interpersonal relationships, and aspirations about future families. Through intellectual understanding of these dynamics and personal reflections, students will reexamine the impact of their families on them, to shape and reshape their current and future family life to their greater satisfaction, and to unlock the treasure of this great resource, which has become the first and last emotional refuge in modern living.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships

The issue of violence in intimate relationships (e.g. domestic violence & violence in dating) is examined through multi-lenses. The course introduces the nature of the different kinds of violence in intimate relationships. The knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of violent behavior are taught. How to assess violence, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies, and how to apply such related skills are examined. A particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions

The course adopts a “case-study” format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice

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 aims to introduce the basic theories and practices of ABC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of ABC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions will be introduced. Last, but not least, the quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for candidates to participate and experience the process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6145. Marital counseling

This course will examine the various issues brought up by couples as they work towards conciliation or reconciliation in their marriage. The psychodynamic, social learning and system approaches will provide the basic foundation concepts. These will be examined for their assessment and intervention focus and strategies, for their contribution in work with marriage difficulties whether they arise from personal vulnerabilities, reciprocal and intergenerational concerns and clashes, communication impasses or intimacy issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6163. Counselling in the health care setting

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

SOWK6261. Social work in school settings

The objective of school counselling is to enhance students' whole person development through the provision of remedial, preventive and developmental services in school settings. Phenomena 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 will examine: 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 programmes. By participating in this course, social work students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be a competent school counsellor.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6269. Child maltreatment and protection

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. The prevalence and risk factors of child maltreatment will be examined in the course. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Traditionally counseling psychology and psychotherapy have focused on the assessment and intervention of problems and disorders. The recent development of positive psychology and strength-based interventions led by prominent psychologists such as Martin Seligman have revoked this prevalent pattern and made a revolutionary turn. Positive psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential, and strength-based interventions focus on positive goal setting and development of strengths such as resilience, hope, optimism, engagement, gratitude and positive emotions. This course will critically review the theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions including the constructs of happiness, wellness, optimism, resilience, flow, and hope, etc. Cultural factors in positive psychology and strength-based interventions in the local settings will be examined. Students will have the chance to develop an indigenous project of positive psychology in this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6294. Use of expressive arts therapy in human services

Art is a natural form of communication that offers a way to expressive feelings and thoughts in a manner that is less inhibiting than solely verbal means. Expressive arts therapy has powerful healing potentials, enabling self-discovery, expression of feelings, stimulating insight, and as a means for relaxation and communication. Expressive arts therapy can be utilized as a viable intervention in the field of social work, developing people holistically and connecting the body, mind and spirit. This course will provide an opportunity for the students to experience the use of expressive arts therapy for personal growth and inner exploration. Theory will be introduced through lectures and integrated within experiential exercises and sharing of reflections. The integration of expressive arts therapy within the practice of individual counselling and group work will be shared through case studies, life demonstrations and video analysis. Various arts media will be introduced in this course e.g. visual art, craft work, music, dramatic exercises, and body movement giving the students firsthand experience in understanding how to use different art forms with potential clients.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9001. Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.

Assessment: 100% coursework
