

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

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SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE CONCENTRATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The **SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE CONCENTRATION** provides a specialization in the social work program and serves as a specialized educational preparation for social workers who plan to work in the Wyoming school systems. This concentration is devised to be able support the post-graduate social worker who plans to seek certification with the Professional Teaching Standards Board of Wyoming (and possibly certified through other School Boards in the U.S.).

RATIONALE: Working in the K through 12 school environments hold great challenges and demands for social workers. Educational policies and procedures mandate extensive social service options for children and families. Social workers often are responsible for major aspects of meeting the supportive services for students and their families. Ultimately, the school provides supports to allow students to achieve their educational potential. School social workers are a vital member in the primary and secondary educational arena. These social workers must learn about the educational issues that surround this area of practice. Issues include mainstreaming, access to educational resources, “no child left behind,” and educational assessments that support the individualized educational planning for children and youth. Since 1978, the National Association of Social Work (NASW) has established guidelines for School Social Work Services. Social workers can apply to NASW for a certificate for school social work and can learn more through their official website.

The Division of Social Work at the University of Wyoming is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and within its current program offerings for matriculated graduate students has stipulated requirements to meet the preparatory requirements for school social work. This preparatory coursework has been evaluated by the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board and deemed sufficient for graduates of our program.

The goals for this concentration for school social workers are as follows: (1) prepare MSW social workers who can help children and their families overcome the barriers to learning through interventions in the home, school, and community; (2) enable graduate social work students to meet the Professional Teaching Standards Board requirements for school social work certification in Wyoming, and, (3) secondarily, encourage communities through the state to develop and maintain effective school social work services.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS: Students must successfully complete the following courses:

SOWK 5810 School Social Work	3 credits
SOWK 5850 Advanced Field Practicum (must be completed in a school setting)	10 credits
SOWK 5755 Practice Evaluation	3 credits
Or	
SOWK 5960 Thesis	4 credits

APPLICATION, ELIGIBILITY PROCESS, ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT: Persons interested in this concentration should write a letter of interest to Carolyn Haney. Admissions to the program are accepted throughout the year. Applicants must be accepted to the MSW program, have a 3.0 or better in MSW courses and have completed their BSW or MSW Foundation year. When accepted into the program, the student is assigned a faculty advisor who provides assistance in planning the student's course of study.

Students can apply for and be awarded a School Social Work preparatory certificate on their transcripts or sources of documentation for endorsement by Professional Teaching Standards Board. The University of Wyoming does **not** certify School Social Workers. Upon completion of the required course work students are eligible to apply to the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board for certification as a School Social Worker.

Students must declare the certificate program in order to have it noted on their transcripts. A certificate is awarded by the Office of the Registrar.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

SOWK 5810 School Social Work (3 credits) (Traditional grading)

This School Social Work course includes the following content: School Law, Disabilities (IEP, Transition Services, and Resources), School history, Consultation and Collaboration, Applied Child Development, School safety, Disciplinary practices, Child Welfare and Family Services and information specific to School Social Workers in Wyoming.

SOWK 5850: Supervised Practicum (10 credits) (Grading: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)

Supervised Practicum (represents a minimum of 500 hours)

Supervised Practicum (two concurrent semesters) must be in a school setting, arranged in accordance with Field Practicum policies and procedures. The placement must use the School Social Work Learning Contract

SOWK 5960 or SOWK 5755 (min. of 4/3 credits)

(Grading: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)

Graduate students in this concentration will carry out a research project that has a focus in the K-12 educational arena.