

# Mental Health and Trauma



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
Office of Academic Services

## Program Starts Summer 2020 and After

Acting Concentration Coordinator: Stephanie George

The Mental Health and Trauma concentration focuses on clinical interventions, advanced theory, and research related to mental health, substance use and trauma. Core topics include the assessment of mental health and substance use, skills in crisis intervention and suicide risk-assessment, policy related to mental health and substance use intervention and key clinical interventions and skills.

Courses include intervention in substance use and mental health interventions from several theoretical perspectives: solution-focused, cognitive behavioral, trauma-informed, existential, interpersonal/psychodynamic and strengths/empowerment. Populations include children, adults, and older adults.

Field education placements are offered in agencies that provide psychotherapy, crisis intervention, case management and other clinical interventions related to mental health, substance use and trauma.

**81 total credits of the required courses are needed for Traditional students. 54 total credits of the required courses are needed for Advanced Standing students.**

### Required Foundation Courses for Traditional Students

- SOWK 4020 - Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice - 4 credits
- SOWK 4001 - Clinical Social Work Skills - 3 credits
- SOWK 4050 - Introduction to Graduate Internship - 1 credit
- SOWK 4132 - Power, Privilege, and Oppression - 3 credits
- SOWK 4006 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - 3 credits
- SOWK 4003 - Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice - 3 credits
- SOWK 4201 - Evidence for Practice - 3 credits
- SOWK 4007 - Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice - 4 credits
- SOWK 4120 - Social Policy Analysis - 3 credits

Internship Options: (Students select one of the below field structure options when entering the program)

Option 1 Two Agency:

- SOWK 4151, 4152 & 4153 - Foundation Seminar I, II, III - 3 credits *\*offered as a 1 credit course over 3 terms*
- SOWK 4950 - Foundation Field Internship I, II, III, IV - 9 credits

Option 2 Virtual Field Experience + One Agency:

- Virtual Field Experience SOWK 4413 I & SOWK 4414 II, SOWK 4950 III & IV = 12 credits

= 39 foundation credits

### Required Foundation Courses for Advanced Standing Students

- SOWK 4132 - Power, Privilege, and Oppression - 3 credits
- SOWK 4299 - Advanced Standing Seminar - 3 credits
- SOWK 4201 - Evidence for Practice - 3 credits

= 9 Advanced Standing foundation credits

## Required Concentration Courses

### Theory for Practice Course (3 credits required)

#### Required

- SOWK 4345 - Intersections of Mental Health, Substance Use, and Trauma

### Methods/Skills Courses (9 credits required)

#### Required

- SOWK 4338 - Assessment of Mental Health Across the Lifespan

AND

- SOWK 4700 - Solution Focused Brief Therapy
- OR
- SOWK 4730 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapies

**AND choose one of the following**

- SOWK 4340 - Leadership and Supervision Skills
- SOWK 4401 - Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice
- SOWK 4723 - Social Work Practice in Health
- SOWK 4752 - Trauma Informed Assessment and Intervention

### **Policy and Program Advocacy Course (3 credits required)**

**Required**

- SOWK 4655 - Mental Health and Health Care Policy

### **Research (3 credits required)**

**Required**

- SOWK 4900 - Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs

### **Values for Practice Course (3 credits required)**

**Required (choose one)**

- SOWK 4235 - Disproportionality & Disparity Across Systems
- OR
- SOWK 4643 - Special Topics: Digital Justice in Social Work

### **Concentration Internship (12 total credits of SOWK 4970 required; 3 total credits of SOWK 4251, 4252 & 4253 required)**

*Appropriate internships chosen in consultation with Field and Placement Teams*

**Required**

- SOWK 4970 - Concentration Field (I, II, III, IV)
- SOWK 4251, 4252 & 4253 - Concentration Field Seminar (I, II, III) *\*offered as a 1 credit course over 3 terms*

### **Elective Courses (6 credits required for Traditional Students; 9 credits required for Advanced Standing Students)**

**Qualifying Classes**

All elective options can be found on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal > Advising + Academic Planning > MSW@Denver Program](#). Navigate to the correct program and concentration.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is the student's responsibility to meet all degree requirements. Students can track their progress using the Degree Audit in PioneerWeb. Please direct questions regarding the degree audit to GSSW's Office of Academic Affairs.