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

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Sciences in the academic year 2016-17 and thereafter.

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; Corporate Environmental Governance; 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 and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(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;
(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
(d) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below; and
(e) 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 fields of 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 preferably have three years of relevant working 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 of 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. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3. 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.

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 the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
(b) shall complete the programme as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Period of study
MSS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study; or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Counselling, the programme shall normally extend over two or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years for the two-year part-time study or four academic years for the three-year part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Criminology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Educational Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years for both full-time and part-time study.

MSS 5.5 In the fields of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.6 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study.

MSS 5.7 In the fields of Mental Health, Social Service Management, and Social Work, the programme shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 6. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration specified in the above regulations, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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Advanced Standing

MSS 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

(a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and

(b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

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Exemption
MSS 8. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

Progression in curriculum

MSS 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

Completion of curriculum

MSS 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates
(a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
(c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and
(d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

Dissertation and Capstone project

MSS 11. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 10(c), 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 12. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MSS 13.
(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 14. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSS 15. 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 make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course; or
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSS 16. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 10(c), 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 17. 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 18. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course 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 candidate’s absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year’s examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSS 19. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MSS 20. Candidates who
(a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSS 15; or
(b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
(c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration.

may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSS 20.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates who have failed two external placements or the second attempt of either the external placement or internal practicum may be required to discontinue their studies.

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**Grading systems**

MSS 21. Individual courses shall be graded according to the one of the following grading systems:

(a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or

(b) ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’.

Courses graded according to (b) above shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

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**Classification of awards**

MSS 22. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates’ degree diploma.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**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 programme shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

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**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 programme, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the programme. 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 60 credits, including 2 compulsory courses (6 credits each) and 3-4 core courses, plus 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits). Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) Compulsory courses
Candidates shall complete the following course.
SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)

(B) Core courses
Candidates shall complete courses from one of the following streams.
Family work stream
SOWK6216. Professional supervision in human service practices (6 credits)
SOWK6219. Family policy and service planning (6 credits)
SOWK6277. Family systems and family therapy I & II (12 credits)

Integrated practice with young people stream
SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting (6 credits)
SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health (6 credits)
SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth (6 credits)
SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies (6 credits)

(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 (6 credits)
SOWK6062. The Satir model and family reconstruction (6 credits)
SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships (6 credits)
SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions (6 credits)
SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)
SOWK6145. Marital counseling (6 credits)
SOWK6261. Social work in school settings (6 credits)
SOWK6269. Child maltreatment and protection (6 credits)
SOWK6274. Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)
SOWK6294. Use of expressive arts therapy in human services (6 credits)
SOWK6313. Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)
and any other courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes

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

**Capstone Experience Courses**

**(D) Compulsory courses**

Candidates opt for either dissertation or non-dissertation option shall complete the following course.

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

**(E) Dissertation (Elective)**

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

SOWK9001. Dissertation (12 credits)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Compulsory Courses**

**SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)**

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

**Core Courses**

**Family work stream**

**SOWK6216. Professional supervision in human service practices (6 credits)**

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 (6 credits)**

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 (12 credits)**
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 (6 credits)**

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 (6 credits)**

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 (6 credits)**

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 (6 credits)**

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 (6 credits)
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 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 (6 credits)
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 (6 credits)
The course introduces students to the Beck’s cognitive-behaviour therapy model in working with people with depression and anxieties. A case process approach will be adopted to provide a stage-by-stage and step-by-step understanding of the theory and practice of Beck’s CBT. Other CBT models for working with people with psychosis, OCD, pathological gambling, substance abuse and etc. will also be discussed in class. Invited speakers will share their local experiences in using CBT for working with Chinese clients in Hong Kong. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)
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 (6 credits)
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

SOWK6261. Social work in school settings (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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 (6 credits)

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

SOWK6313.  Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)

In light of increasing number of special educational needs (SEN) children in school settings, this course provides basic knowledge and intervention strategies for social workers working in family services, schools and integrated youth services settings. Attention is drawn to the assessments and the needs of these children, the needs of families, and the roles of different professionals with related multi-disciplinary collaboration. Students are expected to understand the social workers’ roles in working with SEN children. More importantly, various types of interventions, such as applied behavioral analysis, social story and learning strategies are discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses

SOWK6265.  Research methods in human service (6 credits)

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 including qualitative data collection such as case study, interviews and focus groups; and quantitative data collection such as survey and experiment will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be examined. Students will be expected to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme by attending the oral presentation by the end of the first semester of the final academic year of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK9001.  Dissertation (12 credits)

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